

Kimpton Parish Magazine

Summer 2023

Number 274



Photo: Andy Wright

Primary School students street dancing on The Green.

More May Festival news and pictures on pages 11, 12, 13 & 14



The Long Hard Goodbye

One of the most difficult tasks I've had during my time here in Kimpton and Ayot St Lawrence---well, actually, I have been blessed indeed, that it is almost the only difficult task I have had---was to tell you lovely people that I was going to retire in 2023.

Having struggled for all of 2022 with standing and sciatic pain. Having been told by clever people who know these things, it's one of those 'getting old' things; that my spinal column was furring up like an old kettle. Having become a state pensioner a year ago, I decided it might be time to stop working. Then there was a period of 'shall I? shan't I?' shilly-shallying.

Finally, I prayed about it to the Big Boss who seemed ok with it. I gave my notice to my other boss, the Bishop of St Albans and he said ok.

That was the easy bit. I agonized over breaking the news to the Church Wardens and people of God at Ayot St Lawrence and Kimpton. It was a very sad day in March when I told all them with very mixed feelings on my part. You see there's a protocol about these things that governs who tells who. Isn't the Church of England a marvel—I shall miss it!

My last Sunday service at Ayot St Lawrence will be on 20th August at 11.30am and at Kimpton on 3rd September at 9.30am. Afterwards we'll celebrate the four and almost a half years that God saw fit to send me to serve you. Please come and celebrate with us. Save the dates!

And it has been an honour to serve here as well as a delight! I well remember the first evening we moved here and thirstily headed to the Boot—incognito without dog collar. We were so warmly welcomed, asked who we were. I took a deep breath and replied I was the new vicar. Usually, the temperature would drop a few degrees and the conversation be killed by such an announcement. Not a bit of it – everyone either introduced themselves as 'my flock' or were the baptism party still celebrating after the earlier event! Not for nothing was I later formally welcomed at my installation on behalf of both villages by the landlords of the Boot and the Bocket pubs and of course the Corner Stores! All three establishments have been endlessly and generously supportive of our churches here and I am so very grateful for their love and kindness.

My time here has been one of being embraced by the villages, villagers, congregations, groups, committees and of working with so many of you. And it didn't matter whether you are churchgoer or not; it is all about loving your neighbour and finding out what God has in store for you. If you join in, take part, are active in these villages we live in, then the rewards are great. Even as we all struggled together with the awful time of Covid-19 we came together in Kimpton Cares, with the Corner Stores deliveries, with Kimpton church as open as we dared for prayer, books, puzzles and food table –all because we care for one another. And you care for your village churches, your two big public spaces, with fund raising at the May Festival and Ayot St Lawrence Art Show Festival Fund. Thank you to all of you who have supported us in so many myriad ways. These are a wonderful couple of places to be.

So, the long hard goodbye has started for me. Someone said to me that saying good bye here is like the Eagles band's hit 'Hotel California'—the refrain-'you can check out but you can never leave!' I'm beginning to suspect that is true. Nigel and me will go with heavy but very grateful hearts for all we have enjoyed here. We shall miss all of you very much, but you will remain in my prayers.

God bless you, now and always.

*Rev'd Lind Williams, Rector, Kimpton with Ayot St Lawrence
Trinity 11th June 2023*



BLAST (Bible learning and sharing together) Childrens Church meet two Sundays each month during term time in Church House at 9.30am. We welcome EVERYONE but most of our Crew are aged between 3 – 16 years.

BLAST have had some fun filled and packed sessions over the last few months. We have especially enjoyed learning about Moses and his incredible journey!

The children have really engaged in this topic and have especially enjoyed making an array of different crafts from constructing bread baskets to making marshmallow flies to sand art! What will our next topic be??? Come along and find out!!!

We will soon be breaking up for Summer and look forward to seeing all our Church family back again in September.

If you would like some more information about BLAST, please do message Carly on 07740552643 or carly.tindle@sky.com



To see this magazine in full **colour visit kimptonpc.org.uk**

From 10th September and the beginning of our vacancy period before a new rector is found and appointed, the pattern of church services will remain largely unchanged as follows

Kimpton

1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays in the month
9.30am Holy Communion

2nd Sunday 8am Holy Communion, 9.30
Worship

4th Sunday 9.30 Worship

Ayot St Lawrence

3rd Sunday only 11.30am Holy
Communion or Worship

**Rev'd Linda Williams (...Linda,
you're not allowed to read this
bit!)**

As you may have heard, Rev'd Linda and her husband Nigel are moving on. Rev'd Linda will conduct her last service on Sunday 3rd September and this will be an opportunity for both the Church and the wider village community to formally wish her and Nigel a fond farewell.

At this service we intend to present Rev'd Linda with a token of our appreciation – something for her to remember Kimpton by. Knowing how many groups in the village that Rev'd Linda and Nigel have been associated with, if you would like to contribute towards their leaving present, please feel free to contact me and I will be able to ensure your donation gets to the right place!

Lynda Harvey

Churchwarden

07487 413901

Lynda.a.harvey@hotmail.com

From the Registers

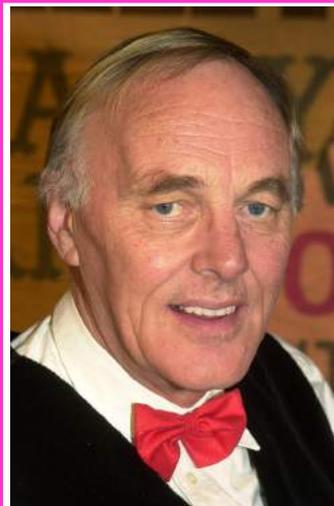
Charlotte Manning sadly passed away after a battle with cancer on 31st March aged just 35. After a private funeral service at Harwood Park crematorium, a memorial service was held in a packed, 'standing room only' Kimpton church on 5th May. Charlotte was well known to Kimpton for her sterling work with the Kimpton Horse Show which she organised and ran superbly. Horses were her passion along with her husband Nick. It was only a year ago Charlotte married Nick Manning in her home village church of St James Thorley near Bishop's Stortford and began their married life on the High Street Kimpton.

Anne Marsh, of Church Lane, Kimpton, passed away after a very long struggle with ill health. Her private family funeral took place on 20th May in Kimpton Church.

Maureen Archer's cremated remains were interred in Kimpton churchyard last May 3rd. Maureen was a member of the wider Barnes family. For many years she lived on the Green, but she had lived in Sandridge since 1974. She now rests back in her home village of Kimpton alongside two of her sisters; Lilian Saunders and Margaret Barnes.

The ashes of **Mary Pearson White, widow of Peter White** was also laid to rest in Kimpton churchyard on 25th May alongside her husband.

The late **Molly Cox's** cremated remains were interred on June 11th. Molly's son Richard and daughter Sue and their spouses--and Mike attended. Molly passed away last November 11th 2022 and her obituary was in the Winter Parish magazine.



We have also learnt of the passing of John Leeson. John was very active in the village often seen onstage in Kimpton Players shows. He was involved with the Memorial Hall and Parish Council among others.



Kimpton Autumn Show 2023

Do you like sewing (or sowing), growing, painting or creating? If the answer is “yes” to any or all of these, then the Kimpton Autumn Show is for you! Last year’s Show was a really happy celebration of all that is best about Kimpton. We had lots of entries, many visitors, fun stalls and, of course, much tea was drunk and cake was eaten. This year will be the 45th Kimpton Autumn Show and we would like to make sure that everyone is welcome. So, hopefully, here are a few answers to some of the questions you may have about the Show...

When is it?

Saturday 9th September, 2023

Where is it?

Kimpton Memorial Hall

What happens on the day?

You bring your entries along between 9am and 10am. From 10am and 2pm, there will be no access as judging will be taking place and then, at 2pm, everyone is welcome to come and view the exhibits, enjoy the stalls, activities and refreshments. Finally, there is a sale of produce from 3.30-4pm.

Who can enter?

Anyone. Any age. There are special categories for Under-18s too – which are perfect for getting stuck into over the Summer holidays. The beautiful cover for the 2023 Autumn Show schedule was designed by Evie and there will be a competition again this year to design next year’s front cover.

How much does it cost to enter?

Entry fees are 50p per class, except the Novelty Vegetables class and all the Under-18 classes which are FREE.

Is there a closing date for entries?

Yes. Entries need to be completed by Wednesday 6 September, although late entries (with double fees) will be accepted on 7 and 8 September.



How do I find out more about the different categories?

You can pick up a free Autumn Show schedule with details of all the different classes. Whether you love baking, preserving, growing, flower arranging, arts and crafts or photography, there is a class for you – including some new classes to look out for this year too.

Schedules will be available from several places around Kimpton, such as Budgens of Kimpton, The Boot, the Church and the Dacre Rooms. They should be available from early July.

How many items can I enter?

As many as you like, although only one entry per class.

Do I need to be an expert?

Absolutely not! You will certainly be better than me with the current state of my broad beans. (With not-so-grateful acknowledgement to our local muntjac.)



An Update from Cllr Ralph Muncer

It's been over a year since you gave me the incredible privilege to serve as your District Councillor and I'm delighted to say that I've been making progress to deliver on the pledges I made to you in May 2022.

I have delivered on my promise to protect the Green Belt and Prevent Inappropriate Development from taking place in Kimpton, Peters Green and Blackmore End by voting to enhance and strengthen protections for the Green Belt Land which safeguards the countryside surrounding our rural community, and in order to prevent the Luton Airport Expansion I have taken a number of steps including lobbying both the Transport Secretary and the Aviation Minister to make them aware of the wholly negative impact any expansion would have on our community.

However, the issue of fly-tipping is one that is raised with me frequently and I want to make you aware of recent developments on an issue that disproportionately impacts rural communities such as ours in North Hertfordshire. Sadly, fly-tipping across North Herts is a record levels and between April 2022 and March 2023, 54 incidents were recorded in Kimpton. Yet the official figure from NHDC is a drop in the ocean when compared to the realities that both you and I witness as we walk and drive in our local area.

Unfortunately, it is highly likely we will see a further increase in fly-tipping as a result of the impending cuts to our bin collections, and this is a concern I have and will continue to highlight in the Council Chamber.

I welcome the decision by the Government to increase the maximum fixed penalty notice for fly-tipping from £400 to £1000, as well as publishing council league tables for fly-tipping which will increase transparency and improve accountability. It remains the case that individuals who are guilty of fly-tipping and prosecuted are liable to an unlimited fine and up

to 12 months in custody.

Farmers often find themselves victims of Fly-tipping and therefore I would like to draw attention to the Fly-tipping fund run by Hertfordshire Police and Crime Commissioner David Lloyd. This fund uses income from seizures under the Proceeds of Crime Act to clear and dispose of waste left on private land as well as providing advice and help to improve security.

If you would like assistance to access this fund or need help with anything else, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Best wishes,

Ralph

Cllr Ralph Muncer

*Member of North Hertfordshire District Council
for Kimpton*



**Kimpton
Christmas
Market
Saturday 25th
November from
12noon to 4pm**

Bookings are being taken for craft stalls in Kimpton Parish Church or The Green. Please contact Carina Helmn, Parish Clerk for a booking form
clerk@kimptonpc.org.uk

Change of Councillors

Enormous and heartfelt thanks to our long serving parish councillors David Reavell and Jon Marsh who both came onto the parish council in May 2006 and

resigned from the council this year. David served as Chairman for a number of years and was also our representative on Kimpton Primary School Governing Board. Jon Marsh worked on a large number and variety of community projects including being a member of the Bench Working Party.

We would like to welcome Sarah Amexheta and David Brockwell to the council.

Annual Report

To find out about the activities of the parish council last financial year, please have a look at the Annual Report year ending 31 March 2023 on our website

<https://kimptonpc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/Annual-Report-2023-.pdf>

Action Plans

During this financial year 2023/24 the Parish Council will be focusing on

1. Councillor Training and Clerk training and development to be offered.
2. Complete Kimpton Pavilion Refurbishment Project.
3. Generate a plan for additional recreational/sporting facilities at Parkfield Sports Ground.
4. Liaise with Hertfordshire County Council on the implementation of a 20mph speed restriction in Kimpton.
5. Regularly maintain Kimpton PC website and ensure that it complies with GDPR requirements.
6. Continue to have a presence on social media platforms to help increase communication with the community.
7. Complete hedgerow planting scheme around car park at Parkfield Sports Ground.
8. Encourage the community to get involved with climate change initiatives.
9. Review the organisation for Kimpton Christmas Market 2023
10. Review the condition of the access roads to Parkfield Sports Ground and Recreation Ground and instigate remedial works.
11. Review the condition of the roadway around The Green and instigate remedial works.
12. Support Kimpton Primary School and Kimpton Pre-School to ensure high quality education establishments are serving the children of the parish.
13. Liaise with developers on the construction of affordable housing for use by local people and key workers.

Community Events

Our vibrant community is made possible by the continued enthusiasm and sheer hard work from a sizable number of volunteers organising events. Congratulations to the Kimpton May Festival and Kimpton Art Show who recently created a wonderful weekend of fun and exciting activities for all to enjoy.

We look forward to Kimpton Folk Festival, Kimpton Horse Show, Kimpton Autumn Show and Kimpton Winter Festival later this year plus productions from Kimpton Players. Kimpton Parish Council is always pleased to support and participate in these fabulous community events where it can.

Village Clubs, Organisations and Societies

As we know Kimpton may be small with around 2,000 residents, but it is bursting with vitality and has a strong community spirit. There is a plethora of Sports Clubs, Scouting Groups, Church Groups, societies and organisations to suit all ages and interests as seen on <https://kimptonpc.org.uk/clubs-societies/>. We are indebted to all the leaders and volunteers who contribute to our thriving and intergenerational connected community.

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Kimpton Art Show 2023

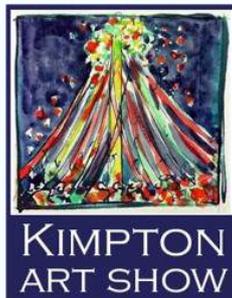
- We sought out new Artists and the Artists came!
- We went onto Instagram and even more Artists came!
- We had an abundance of Art and the **Bench Working Party** came! ...and solved our problem! – Thank you for everything, and the Marquee!
- We had IT issues and Nigel Dowse of **Spectrum IT Support** came!
- We had an overflowing of wine – thank you to our Sponsor, **MyWord Communications** – and the sun shone, and the people came!
- We would like to thank all our other supporters: our Stewards and Musicians, our Church members and the May Festival Committee.

**Kimpton Art Show 2023 raised funds of £9,500 split between
Kimpton Parish Church Restoration Trust – donation £4,750**

Kimpton May Festival Good Causes – donation £4,750

Sue Burns, on behalf of the The Kimpton Art Show Committee

www.kimptonartshow.co.uk



from page 7 Please drop a note to the Parish Clerk if any of the contact details on the website need to be updated.

We should also remember all the regular acts of kindnesses shown by residents to one another every day. It's no wonder that visitors often comment on the caring nature of our community in Kimpton.



KIMPTON FRIENDLY BRIDGE CLUB



Nestled quietly by St Peter and St Pauls is Church House where we play bridge on Thursday evenings at 7.30pm. We are looking for more local residents to join our club. We are a friendly crew as the name suggests and there may well be faces you already know.

What do we want

Mainly people who have learnt to play bridge and want to develop their standard. No, you don't have to be brilliant just enthusiastic.

What do you do

If you are interested in joining us or would like more information, please contact our secretary James Finlay. bjfnly@gmail.com

Kimpton Primary – a community school with the village at its heart

The school is very much of the community for the community and is lucky to occupy a large and well-resourced site. Visitors are often surprised at the size of our grounds hidden behind the High Street frontage.

Never one to stand still, the school is restless in its drive to constantly improve the school environment for the benefit of current and future pupils and others who may use the school site. We do our utmost to ensure that Kimpton Primary is the school of choice for those in the village and surrounding areas. If you know families who are looking for a local school, do make sure they know about us!

Educational funding continues to be a hot topic and the funds from government are sufficient (just!) to cover day-to-day operational expenditure but no more, so community plays an important part in enabling the projects the school has on its wish list. Projects completed in 2023 so far include:

- A new sandpit for the Early Years courtesy of the Bench Working Party.
- New playground equipment for the early years and a paint station for KS1, funded by North Herts Council, Kimpton Parish Council, May festival committee and a local business Switchshop
- Security fencing for the Early Years (using DfE capital grant)
- LED lighting throughout the school thanks to Switchshop



The governors of Kimpton Primary School are undoubtedly significant players in the school community and they have an important strategic role. We were especially proud of our Co-Chair of Governors, Josie Nicholson, who recently won the accolade of Governor of the Year from the Hertfordshire Association of School Governors. The achievement came with an award of £2,500 for the school which, along with the remaining money from Switchshop, is being put to good use to refurbish the former kiln room as a space for 1:1 speech and language interventions.

The PTA is a fantastic collaboration between parents and school and we are so fortunate to have a dedicated team of volunteers who organise a variety of social and fundraising events throughout the year. This year, a substantial donation from the PTA will be used to renovate and upgrade the outdoor play equipment for our older pupils in KS2. Through our links fostered with the wider community, the PTA funds have been bolstered by a donation from the local Kimpton Rugby group that will go towards a new playing surface on the playground and a new paths, making both areas safer for our children and ensuring we can proudly host home matches next season.

And, finally, of course, with the village at its heart, the school is delighted to participate each year in the Kimpton Festival and grateful to be a beneficiary of a portion of the proceeds.

We welcome opportunities for further interactions with our fellow villagers, so if you have skills, experiences or stories to share with us, we would love to hear from you. Or, if the school can help you, do get in touch – we have a spacious hall and playing field, both of which are available for hire outside school hours. Contact details are on the back page.

Kimpton History Group

Wednesday 19th July

Members Social & Quiz at 'Tallents'

To celebrate Tallents Farm House, built 1523 and it's 500 year history. Details will be emailed to members a few days before the event.

**Wednesday 20th September, at 8 pm
in the Green Room**

Members Evening: 'Show us an object, tell us the story'

We invite you to bring an object of historical interest (including photographs), but with some sort of story to tell about it.

**Wednesday 18th October, at 8 pm in
the Green Room**

"John of Wheathampstead"

Ann Banham will give a talk about our local man, John of Wheathampstead, twice Abbot of the medieval Abbey of St Albans.

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.

Kimpton Garden Club

We have had some interesting talks recently. In May the talk about growing Lavender was really informative.

Our June meeting was a visit to Luton Hoo Walled garden. Future events are the outing to RHS Hyde Hall on July 15th and the Garden Party in August. In September we will be meeting in the Green room at the Memorial Hall.

New members are welcome to join us in September on the first Wednesday at 7.30pm.



A Cry for Help!

Kimpton WI is currently struggling. We are having difficulties forming a full committee and filling the vacancy of Secretary. Also we now have an acting President, since Gloria, our President, is still recuperating after a recent spell in hospital. Due to all this uncertainty, we invited Pam Kershaw, one of our County Advisors, to our recent Annual meeting to help us find a way forward. Pam told us that unless we can fill these vacancies, we face suspension .

Kimpton WI has been a strong and active Institute for 104 years, serving the village community in many ways and we would all be very sad to see it close. However, we are an ageing membership and although many of our members have, in the past, served either on the committee or in one or more of the Officer posts, most of us now feel unable to undertake these duties long term, due either to failing health or to other commitments.

SO - this is a rallying cry to all the women of Kimpton (young and not so young!) Join our ranks; perhaps come along with a group of friends, take over the reins and bring your energy and new ideas to ensure the WI remains on the Kimpton map for decades to come. We are no longer just "jam and Jerusalem " so come and give us a try!

We meet on the second Wednesday of the month, 2 pm - 4pm, in the Memorial Hall Lounge. Despite our problems, we have a full programme of Speakers arranged and aim to continue for as long as possible.

Visitors and prospective new members will receive a warm welcome, along with tea and biscuits, or you can find out more by contacting one of the numbers below.

Remember - it could be "use us or lose us" time! Please help us avoid the latter option.

Chris Bichener (832745) or Carol Bennett (832818)



What a fabulous weekend we had over the first of the three Bank Holiday weekends in May when the wonderful community that makes this

village so special came together and did us all proud.

Even the weather behaved and despite the rain before and after the weekend, it was dry when it mattered. Thanks especially to our May Queen, Mia and her attendants Ellie & Emily who attended the majority of events and kept smiling even when they were tired.

Whilst we are still reconciling the accounts, it looks as though there will be a profit in excess of £12,500 to be distributed in the Autumn. At this stage, that is an increase on last year but we are still waiting for some money to come in and for a few invoices to settle. A full summary of the accounts will be published in the next edition of the Parish Magazine.

It would be wrong of us to assume that we know which groups or organisations would benefit from financial support from the Kimpton May Festival Trust and therefore, if your village group or organisation would like to be considered for a grant, please complete a Grant Application form. The deadline for form submissions is 1st September 2023. Please request a form by emailing me at barbara.kazwini@btinternet.com or using the Contact Us form on our website.

We would like to thank everyone who contributed in any way to the success of the festival. It is a huge team effort from the very hard working core committee to all the volunteers who helped in any way with the events and those who came along and supported them. From hanging bunting and marshalling the procession to washing up at the Cream Teas & helping on the bar, every little bit helps and is appreciated; whatever your contribution – thank you.

If you would like to find out more about what we do and where the money goes and perhaps get involved with helping next year, then come along to our annual “Kick-off” meeting in the Autumn.

The meeting date will be advertised on posters and via social media.

It would be lovely to see some more new faces who could eventually take on the baton from those of us who’ve been involved for more years than we care to

think about!!

The next Kimpton May Festival will run from **Friday 3rd – Mon 6th May 2024.**



Well done Kimpton

Barbara Kazwini

www.kimptonmayfestival.co.uk

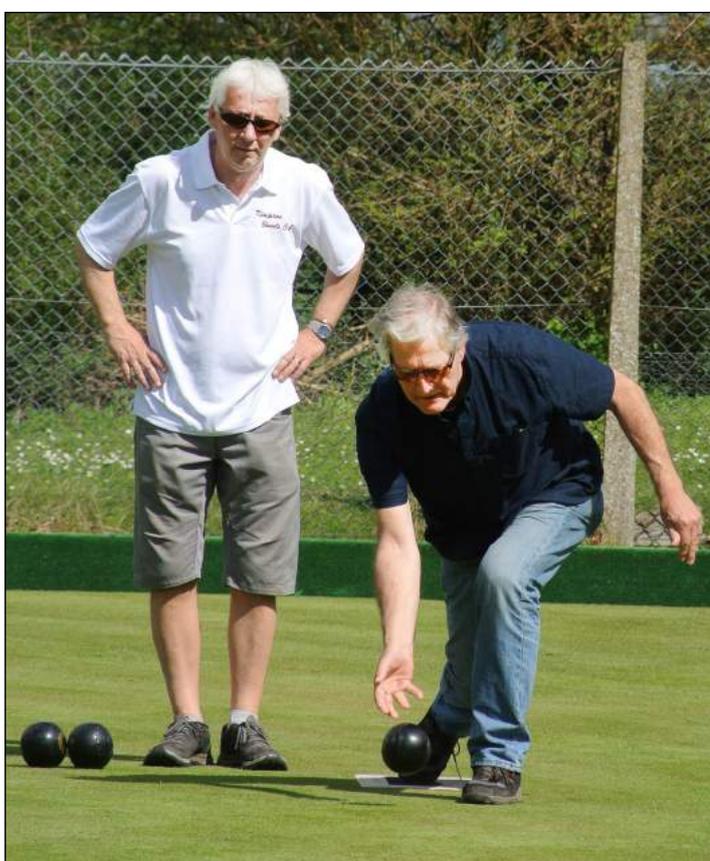
07484 355914

*Your 2023 May Festival
committee*

May Festival 2023



Fun in the sun! Our 2023 May Queen and attendants enjoy their photocall with a heavy police presence! Dad gives this young lady a better view of two trainee drummers.



*A would-be Freddie Mercury on the school float.
Mrs Gill Vine receives a bouquet from the
Primary School children.
Warren Phillips keeps a watchful eye on novice
bowler Bill Redway and The Boot burger team
prepare to feed the village.*

Community Awards

These are presented for outstanding contribution to the Kimpton community
Pictured receiving their awards are Robin Riley, Warren Phillips, Audrey Hill and the
Bench Working Party



Photos: Andy Wright

Many heartfelt and grateful thanks to all who took part in the May Festival events to raise money for our village May Festival Fund.

A special super thank you to Carly Tindle and Amanda Corcoran for their hard work and superb organization of the **Church Cream Teas** on two whole afternoons of the festival. Never have I seen so many scones and cakes and bakes arriving on the Vicarage doorstep. Thank you to all who supplied the goodies—couldn't do it without you.

A huge vote of thanks to the **Art Show Committee** for delivering yet another fabulous event at Kimpton Church venue all during the May Festival. You may not know that with the help of the Bench Working Party and many other vital volunteers, Sue Burns and her group spend the best part of two weeks setting up and curating the art show exhibits, selling them and then dismantling the whole show. We owe them a great debt of gratitude for all the fund raising they do for the Restoration Trust and May Festival Fund. Thank you all very much.

Rev'd Linda Williams, Rector



My grateful thanks to the Parish Council for coming to our rescue. We had been informed by RBL National that we were never meant to be organising the Remembrance Parade. We – and many other branches across the country - have been doing it wrong all these years! We had also previously had the support of the police who attended to assist with road closures, but they are no longer able to make that commitment. Apparently, it should be the Civic Authority that organises it as they have the necessary Public Liability Insurance. In addition, there must be an accredited company to deal with the necessary road closures. The Branch of the RBL must not be involved with applying for, or assisting with, a road closure. However, they are able to assist with the organising of the actual parade.

As you can imagine, this caused great disquiet within the Branch and much research into the problem to try to find a solution. However, after a lengthy meeting with the committee and attended by Andy Morton, Carina Helmn, and Ralph Muncer, the decision was taken to approach the Parish Council for help.

I attended their meeting on 24th May 2023 and explained our situation. Without their help, the parade could not and would not go ahead again. The Councilors agreed to underwrite the cost of the road closure, meaning that the Parade as we know it can go ahead. For this year, we have offered to try and provide some of the money ourselves- but it cannot be taken (quite rightly) from any monies raised for the Poppy Appeal. We will have a coffee morning in the Dacre Rooms on AUGUST 25th. The proceeds will go towards the cost of the road closure, thereby meaning the Parish Council are not required to pay the full amount.

We feel it is vital that our war dead are honoured and that the youngsters of the parish are involved in the service and parade so that the meaning of Remembrance lives on: -

***When you go home
Tell them of us and say
For your tomorrow
We gave our today***

With that in mind, our membership is dwindling. Remember -you do not have to have served in the forces to join. We intend to organise social events but need enthusiastic people to join us. We meet alternate months in the Boot. Please phone me if you would like a chat about joining.

Have a good summer!

Kim Hills, Chairman, Kimpton Branch RBL, 07901 605383

A huge thank you from The Village to anyone and everyone who was involved in organising anything which helped to make the May Festival such a great success. You all know who you are and we know how hard you worked.

THANK YOU!





Standing Up for Residents on Bin Collections

Bin collections are one of the most important services that North Herts Council provides. We all rely on a good bin collection service so that we can adequately manage our domestic

waste and to ensure that our area remains a clean, tidy place to live – somewhere we can all be proud of.

In my six years as your local Member of Parliament, that is the thing you have told me above all else – we are all incredibly proud to call the beautiful towns, villages and countryside that make up our corner of Hertfordshire home. It is a core tenet of my conservatism, that we should protect and enhance the communities where we live, so that we can continue to be proud of our area.

It is what motivates my campaign to protect our area from the threat of Luton Airport expansion. So that our villages and rural roads remain quiet, unpolluted, idyllic places to live and spend time.

It is what motivates my plan to expand the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty across North Hertfordshire. So that we can unlock new powers to protect and enhance our beautiful countryside, historic communities, ancient woodlands, rare chalk streams and rural way of life.

Conservatism isn't about conserving things just for the sake of standing still. It is about ensuring that progress is made in a way that captures the essence of our communities and that makes us *prouder* of the places where we live.

North Herts Council's plans to reduce general domestic waste collections from two to three weeks would not make North Hertfordshire into a better place to live. They would leave us with the worst bin collection rota in our region.

In the Council's own consultation, just 24% of

North Hertfordshire residents agreed that they would be able to manage their waste effectively with three weekly collections. Reducing bin collections would lead to overflowing bins and bin bags on the street. It would lead to public health concerns and vermin on our streets. And it would cause increased littering and fly-tipping.

All for a relatively minor cost saving – amounting to just over 2% of the money the Council receives from local people and businesses each year.

Working alongside your local Councillor Ralph Muncer, I want to make sure that our villages remain somewhere that we can be proud to call home. That's why, alongside the hundreds of residents who have backed our campaign, I'm calling on the Council to bin this cut, not cut the bins.

Bim Afolami, MP

Kimpton Apple Juice



Apples picked around
Kimpton;
pressed & pasteurised by
Apple Cottage Cider,
Baldock. Nothing is
added. Sold by Kimpton
Environmentalists with
profits donated to local &
environmental causes.

£3.50 a bottle



Kimpton Preschool enjoyed our musical 'Trolls' float at the May Festival 2023, with Beth, Michelle and Rebecca leading our cute little trolls on the (hot) day. Well done on an excellent result for float/fancy dress and for everyone's help, we appreciate it so much. Such a fun day!

September enrolment now open

We currently have places available for for 2-4yr olds. We accept 15-30 hrs, funded and self-funded. Immediate start available. Pease get in touch for a tour or to book a place:

manager@kimptonpreschool.co.uk or 01438 833936.

Welcome to the team

Following our April AGM, we are delighted to welcome our new Trustee Director to the Management Committee. Thank you for joining us Sharon.

As a volunteer-run village Preschool, we are always looking for more people to join our friendly team - so please get in touch for more information.

chairman@kimptonpreschool.co.uk *Best wishes from the Preschool team.*



kimptonpreschool.co.uk
 01438 833936
manager@kimptonpreschool.co.uk
 Facebook: @KimptonPreschool
 Twitter: @KimptonPre_Sch



On Sunday June 11th a special service was held in the Parish Churchyard where Rector, Linda, blessed our pets and spoke of the importance of animals in our lives.

She said that her cat had helped in the preparation of her talk by walking over the computer keyboard!!!





Movies at the Memorial Hall

Dear People of Kimpton and those close by,

We are very fortunate to have so many wonderful community organisations and assets in Kimpton. Of course none of it would be possible without the army of volunteers who regularly give up their time to ensure everything runs smoothly and keep our amenities open. I am sure I speak for us all when I say how grateful we are for everyone's hard work and ongoing commitment.

The Memorial Hall is one of our greatest assets; it is the home to so many of the village's organisations and societies: the Kimpton Players,

the Village Choir, Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Guides, Brownies, Rainbows, the History Group, Probus, the WI (& WI Tennis), The Garden Club, Fit and Fantastic, Tai Chi classes and the Winter Indoor Bowls. People also use the hall for conferences, talks, concerts, comedy nights, parties, fundraisers and wedding receptions and the Parish Council has an office there. Wow. That's a lot of use!

What would we do without it?

Perhaps we should be asking another question - What *else* can we do with it?

This is where YOU come in!

We would LOVE you to get involved. You could get involved simply by sharing your ideas for how you think the hall might be used, right the way through to volunteering to join the hall committee (you can come and sit in on any meeting without any commitment!). We always welcome new members and we will need people to help run any new initiatives.

For example: We are currently researching the possibility of having a cinema system installed in the hall so that we can have our own village cinema. Imagine that? It would be wonderful not having to leave the village to go and see a film. We will have our own *Odyssey* right in the middle of the village, with a bar open before, during and after the film. We could also have matinee screenings and people could book the cinema for parties.

Of course none of this, or any other initiatives, can happen without YOU! The more people that get involved the merrier! Remember the old proverb: 'Many hands make light work'. In the case of a village cinema this is even more true.

So, If you would like to get involved in any way, or simply have an idea for how the hall may be put to further use, please contact me by email: KMH@armstrong-taylor.co.uk

Thank you for reading!

Tim Armstrong-Taylor

Vice-chairman

Kimpton Memorial Hall Committee



Fortunately, the rain held off when the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts took part in the St George's Day Parade on Sunday 23rd April. The following week was beautiful sunshine for the Kimpton May Festival parade. The Beavers dressed up as beetles (The Beatles) and were proud of their second place. The Executive Committee and leaders would like to thank everyone that supported the book stall either by donating or buying books.

During the summer term the Beavers enjoy being outdoors as much as possible and are really looking forward to going on a hike and building a Beaver dam.

The Cubs have an exciting program planned with den building, river games and Lego car racing. The Cubs will also experience what Scouts get up to when the Scouts organise a mini 'Green Beret Challenge.' The Scouts have returned from a very successful camp at Paccar Scout Camp where they did rock climbing, Laser Tag and crate stacking. Scouts are looking forward to an evening bike ride and water games. If you are aged between 6 to 14 years old and interested in joining Beavers, Cubs or Scouts please check out our new website at kimptonscouts.org.uk, or email Roisin at secretary@kimptonscouts.org.uk. 1st Kimpton Scout Group is the Best Group in the district and that is down to our fantastic adult volunteers.

If you are interested in volunteering, please get in touch.

Kate James GSL 1st Kimpton Scout Group

Events at Ayot St Lawrence Summer 2023

Saturday 1 July, 18.00: Lea Singers

Harpenden's leading chamber choir continue their revelatory new series of one-hour choral discoveries concerts with Rachmaninov's profoundly beautiful Liturgy of *St John Chrysostom* in the atmospheric setting of the Palladian Church, Ayot St Lawrence.

If you're a first-timer, this concert will take you straight to the heart of Russian Orthodox choral music. If you're a lover of Rachmaninov's famous *Vespers*, then why not celebrate his 150th anniversary with this lesser-known masterpiece, inspired by his idol Tchaikovsky. And if you're a fan of quirky English churches, then come and hear us sing in this copy of a temple to Apollo where George Bernard Shaw played the organ, and let the deeply moving music just wash over you.

Strawberries and drinks served under the portico 6pm. Concert 6.30-7.30pm, without interval.

Tickets here: www/leasingers.co.uk

Saturday 29 July, 19.30: League of Harmony

2023 marks 300 years since the birth of Carl Friedrich Abel, a German composer and viola da gamba player who lived from 1723 to 1787. He was a prominent figure in the classical music scene of his time and his music continues to be celebrated today. Together with J C Bach, he was responsible for introducing a public subscription scheme for concerts, effectively opening the performance of music to the public rather than private elites.

We're excited to welcome back the League of Harmony, playing original eighteenth century harp and cello, to perform Abel's works and other classical pieces. The concert will explore the theme of democracy in concert-going.

The Ayot St Lawrence Church is a beautiful and historic venue that provides the perfect setting for an evening of music and celebration. Located on a track leading from Bibbs Hall Lane, Ayot St Lawrence, AL6 9BZ, parking is on grass behind the church. If the evening is nice, why not bring a picnic to enjoy beforehand?

Don't miss out on this unique and inspiring event! Reserve your spot today and join us for an evening of beautiful music and celebration. Tickets here: <https://bit.ly/CarlFriedrichAbel>

Saturday 9 September, 1800: Fayrfax Singers

We have yet to announce the programme, but please make a note in your diaries to hear this well-established local group with a short and varied programme. Contact Christine for more details and a link to tickets.

Special Church services at Ayot St Lawrence

2 July at 11.30: Thanksgiving for Creation. Pets particularly welcomed at the church!

20 August: 11.30. Heritage Day, including history hunts around the church and other activities. Very family friendly!

Thank you! Christine

Ayot St Lawrence Festival Fund Art Show

Thank you to Kate Morrissey and her team for all their hard work making the Ayot Art Show such a success. This another major event in the benefice calendar in June and takes over two weeks to set up, deliver and clear. Again this year the venue was St Lawrence Church, Ayot St Lawrence from 17th – 19th June. Refreshments not to be missed—with lots of home made cakes to accompany your tea. The Brocket pub held it's annual beer festival over the same weekend complimenting the Art Show perfectly!

Rev'd Linda Williams, Rector

WHERE CAN YOU FIND A HOG AMBULANCE, A HOGSPITAL AND A HOG B&B?

Photo: Andy Wright



The Hornbeam Wood Hedgehog Sanctuary is a family run charity looking after wild British hedgehogs in Hertfordshire. The beautiful 10-acre property is perched on the hill above Harpenden and is dedicated to the care and rehabilitation of injured hedgehogs and orphaned baby hoglets found sick, injured or underweight.

Since its inception in 2013, founder Martin Maylin has rescued an astounding 1,500 hogs in his well known red hog

This little chap was underweight when we saw him in our garden and so we sought advice and he was taken away by an expert and restored to full health.

ambulance. In addition to continuously working on developing and improving the space for these prickly creatures, Martin hosts visitors to the sanctuary for education and awareness talks; offers popular corporate “giving back” days for teams, and is often seen at local market and fairs.

Martin’s mum, co-founder Harriet manages the team of volunteers who create beautiful items for the onsite shop, help set up and man stalls at local fairs and markets, foster recovering hedgehogs, fundraise and help out at the sanctuary. “We are a fun group of hog-lovers and welcome any new volunteers to the team. You can help apply for grants, arrange events, take part in our arts and crafts making group, or give Martin a hand with some of his list of things to do,” says Harriet.

Martin has recently built a shed for over wintering hedgehogs, installed toilet facilities for visitors, as well as set up a new improved shop for visitors. All of this work is achieved with help from the community. If you are interested in supporting the work of this wonderful charity, you can:

- Volunteer
- Make a donation
- Book a visit or corporate "giving back" day

All the information you need is on the website <https://www.hornbeamwood.org.uk/>

kimptonchurch.co.uk
kimptonpc.org.uk



With summer here we need to be vigilant when leaving doors and windows open. Please always look out for your neighbours.

Here are some recent events reported :

- 30 May 23 Holiday fraud with online booking - £15m lost with 6,500 reported scams
- 30 May 23 Whitwell victim of online ransomware fortunately rectified at a police surgery
- 28 May 23 Lloyd Way attempted theft of vehicle
- 02 May 23 After phone cold call, elderly resident saved from £1,600 Coronation coins scam whilst at library to complete payment fortunately while crime prevention session in progress.

Hertfordshire OWL membership is currently 162,000 which includes Kimpton with 410 (47% of village households) but we want to improve on that. Please tell your friends and neighbours about it and urge them to join. Joining is simple by visiting www.owl.co.uk, or contacting your Ward Coordinators (details below), or our Watch Liaison Officer Verity Soued on wlo@herts.pnn.police.uk.

Also, 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: www.herts.police.uk/report/report

If you see a crime in progress then call 999 immediately. Remember to use 101 for non-emergencies or, if you prefer, you can go online to: 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*

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.

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.

The Church in Kimpton

Parish Church

Rector

Rev'd Linda Williams

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

Lay Reader

Andy Morton

01438 832427
adewm@aol.com

Church Wardens

Anne Hems

anniehems@gmail.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

Branch Leader

Miss Pam Greener

01582 604771

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 Autumn 2023 edition must be in by
Sunday September 17th

Parish Council

Cllr Alex Firth (Chairman)

Cllr Graham Durrant

Cllr Nicky Jackman

Cllr Sue O'Brien

Cllr Ian Pegrum

Cllr Carly Procter

Cllr Sarah Amexheta

Cllr David Brockwell

Parish Clerk

Carina Helm

clerk@kimptonpc.org.uk
01438 832573

North Herts District Councillor

Cllr Ralph Muncer ralph.muncer@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 'Good' 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. 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

Kimpton Primary School

We are an OFSTED Good Provider and offer nursery and primary education for children aged 3-11. Places available for September 2023.

For information:



01438 832 394



admin@kimpton.herts.sch.uk



www.kimpton.herts.sch.uk



@Kimpton_Primary