

Kimpton Parish Magazine

*Winter 2017
Number 252*



The Parish Magazine Team wishes everyone a very
happy and peaceful Christmas



Sunday

9.30am

Parish Church

Family Communion
B.L.A.S.T.

2nd Sunday

11.30am

Ayot St Lawrence

Holy Communion

3rd Sunday

9.30am

Parish Church

Informal worship
followed by Parish Breakfast

Sunday

6pm

Perry Green Chapel

Evening Service

Tuesday

9am

Parish Church

Morning Prayer

Wednesday

9am

Parish Church

Morning Prayer

Thursday

9am

Parish Church

Morning Prayer

4.30pm

Parish Church

Evening Prayer

For special services please see Sunday pew sheet

Prayer Corner

If you would like to have a few moments of prayer or contemplation, please feel free to come to our new 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.

Cover Image

Detail from Dana Mallon's painting of the Palladian Church at Ayot St Lawrence. This picture has been specially commissioned for this year's Ayot village Christmas card.



Finding hope - Vicar Bonnie's Christmas message

Frosty mornings, stacks of firewood and the nights drawing in signal yet another turning of the season. A golden Harvest has come and gone. And in the Remembrance Sunday parade and service, held in dignified solemnity, the village once again demonstrated its long history and connection with soldiers of the past and respect for those serving in armed forces today. We have entered that calm before the festivities leading up to Christmas, with events happening every weekend. Carols and decorations are in the shops already.

It is said we are as a society moving away from consumerism and in search of something that gives meaning, a sense of the holy, of being a part of something bigger. Surveys have shown that the favourite television show amongst the under 35s is the Great British Bake-Off – a show that celebrates ordinary people, not behaving badly as in the show Big Brother, but in showing off their baking skills and the regard and care they have for one another. It is said there is a growing search for re-enchantment, a search for the spiritual, by those previously rejecting traditional religion, and a search for holiness in the world by those previously confined in religious silos.

It is said that churches have a habit of sticking to themselves, of keeping themselves separate from the world. And that unworldliness can be interpreted as a lack of concern for those around us – but our youth group is holding us to account in their concern not only for the good of the village, but for society in general. They have raised money for charity, helped out at a food bank and, this month, are raising money for Azalea, a Luton-based organisation helping homeless women. Again this year they are making a film to be shown alongside the children's Nativity play to be held on Christmas Eve afternoon. It feels important to mention that wonderful collection of snuggle packs for refugee children by Megan too.

Christmas is a time when the birth of a child brings a message of hope to humanity, a child born in a stable to parents seeking refuge from oppression. It comes at a time in the year when the season turns yet again – days start to lengthen and we await the warmth of Spring and new life. In the passion for justice amongst the young, and that childlike sense for sharing, we foresee a better world on the horizon, or even a world made better in the here and now because there are such generous hearts among us. In the depths of seasonal darkness, we find hope.

With Christmas blessings, Bonnie

BLAST is busy preparing for its annual nativity play and would love to welcome more children to take part. We are looking for shepherds, wise men (or women), sheep and any other species who would like to join the stable. We have great fun rehearsing on Sunday mornings at Church house from 9.30 and the children (and parents) also get involved in creating the set. Do come along if you would like to take part.... no experience necessary!



We are also looking forward to taking part in this year's Carol Service, a big thank you to Maggie Pike for preparing our voices!

Separately we have been looking at the use of Parables in the bible and how they are used to bring messages and values to life. They highlight the importance of sharing, thinking of others before oneself and forgiveness. All pertinent themes as we run in to crazy time. "Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear" (Mark 4:9, 23).

BLAST wishes you all a very happy and peaceful festive season and looks forward to welcoming you to our nativity on Christmas Eve.



December Services

- 2 Village Christmas Market**
- 3 8:00 BCP Holy Communion
9:30 Parish Eucharist**
- 2:30 making Christingles
at Church House
4:30 – Christingle Service**
- 10 8:00 Holy Communion
9:30 Parish Eucharist
11:30 Ayot St Lawrence**
- 7:00 Winter Concert –
Kimpton Community Choir**
- 17 8:00 Holy Communion
9:30 Morning Prayer in Advent**
- 4:00 Ayot St Lawrence
Carol Service
6:30 Kimpton Carol Service**
- 24 no morning services
3:00 Crib service – Nativity play
11:30 Midnight Holy Communion**
- 25 10:00 Christmas
All-Age Holy Communion**



Santa comes to Kimpton and Blackmore End

Rotary in Harpenden
the charity arm of Harpenden Village Rotary Club
will escort Santa between 5.30pm and 8.30pm on ...
Thursday 14th December in Blackmore End
Friday 15th December around Kimpton

For the roads to be visited, see our website www.hvrc.net

*Also, see Santa on Thursday evening, 30th November at 6.00pm
at the switching on of the Wheathampstead Christmas Lights
Join him in the grounds of the MacIntyre Home, at the rear of Charlie's Coffee Shop.*

**Rotary in
Harpenden**

*Proceeds from our collections will go to
Wheathampstead Community Group,
Wheathampstead Thursday Club,
and other charities and good causes supported by Rotary.*

Rotary in Harpenden CIO is a charitable incorporated organisation, Registered Charity No.1163420, and the charity arm of Harpenden Village Rotary Club Website: www.hvrc.net

From the Registers

Burials, Interments and Cremations

2nd November Alan John Campin Smith
3rd November Geoff Swain

Community Food Box

**Kimpton Church has recently set up a
Community Food Box for the benefit of
the village.**

Please feel free to make use of it during the day, either by contributing non-perishable items, or by taking any of the items for your own use, as appropriate.

The box is situated on the tables at the back of the Church.

Auction of Promises

We, at Kimpton Church, would like to express sincere thanks to everyone who contributed in any way to the fundraising success of the Auction of Promises held in early October.

Just under £3,500 was raised for the day to day running of the church and 10% of that has been allocated to The Guide Dogs charity for the blind.

Thank you all for your support.

Liz Jamieson

Kimpton Church Youth Group

The Kimpton Church Youth Group meet on the first Sunday of each month usually between 10.45 and 12.15pm at Church House.

So far this term, the Youth Group have really enjoyed it's first movie night in the Church. We watched 'A street Cat Named Bob,' the film and the setting was quite amazing! In November we are hosted a Parish Breakfast to help raise funds for Azalea, a local charity that supports homeless women in Luton.

Continuing on the theme of homelessness, we have created our own video that will be shown as part of the Crib Service on Christmas Eve.

On the 3rd December we will be meeting at Church House from 2.30pm to help make the Christingles.

If you are aged between 10 and 15 years old and would like to join the Kimpton Church Youth Group please contact Kate James at katherinejames@gmail.com.

Grateful thanks

The Editor & Production Team would like to acknowledge with thanks, a donation received from Perry Green Baptist Chapel

Kimpton Christmas cards have arrived!



The card was designed by Tim Edwards on behalf of the Church Restoration Committee.

They come in packs of 5, in full colour, and cost £3 a pack.

If you are interested they will be on sale at the Christmas market on December 2nd or contact Carina Helmn (01438 832573) or Juliet Morton (01438 832427) to avoid disappointment.

Rainbows and Guides Christmas Tea Rooms

The Rainbows and Guides are taking over the Dacre Rooms on Saturday 2nd December from 2.00pm till 8.00pm.

We will be providing hot drinks - tea, coffee and a selection of speciality hot chocolate, tasty hot food to keep everyone warm, while you wander round Kimpton's first Christmas Market on our beautiful village green.

We will also be selling Christmas cakes, that we have made at Guides, and many other Christmas treats.

Pop in and support our wonderful groups, whether you want to sit down in the warm and have tea and cake or a grab and go snack, we will be happy to serve you. We will also be offering a take away service for the stall holders on The Green.

Wendy, Donna and Kelly will be waiting and ready to serve you with a Christmas smile, more details will be on our FB village page. *1st Kimpton Rainbows and Guides*

The Urban Folk Quartet will be in town!



I hope you enjoyed last year's Kimpton Folk Festival. As I said in a recent post on the village Facebook group, the members of our Artists' committee go and watch a lot of performers (a tough job, but someone's got to do it) and they deliberate long and hard about who they think you'll enjoy most. Then they do the hard negotiating to ensure we can actually afford them.

These people do a fantastic job - I'm sure you agree - but this year they've outdone themselves. As I write this, the full line-up is still being finalised, but I can tell you about our headline act 'The Urban Folk Quartet'. This is one of the most in-demand acts on the national folk scene for good reason; they're musicians of the highest calibre and they're incredibly dynamic and energetic, in a 'blow your socks off' Sam Kelly & The Lost Boys kind of way. Check out the video on our website www.kimptonfolk.uk. Tickets will sell quickly, so if you're interested, make sure you hop in as soon as these go on sale – we'll keep you posted via our social media updates.

In my last report here I mentioned that Kimpton Folk Events is a registered charity, with a broader remit than just staging a folk festival.

We have one group, for example, that is working with schools and community groups to nurture young musical talent and we have started running a series of 50-minute 'popup' concerts in The Dacre Rooms. In the new year, after the restorations, you can expect to see us presenting some very exciting young musicians at these events.

Ahead of Kimpton Folk Fest 2018 we'll be running two fundraisers - the Kimpton Barn Dance on March 24, and a very special concert featuring an act many of you already know and love. This event hasn't been finalised yet, but we're looking at a date in May and we'll keep you updated. The Barn Dance band this year will be made up of young people from the village - and we're very excited about that!

The festival is on Saturday July 7th.

So that's all out folk news for now. You can stay up to date via our Facebook page ([kimptonfolkevents](https://www.facebook.com/kimptonfolkevents)), Twitter ([@kimptonfolk](https://twitter.com/kimptonfolk)) and website (www.kimptonfolk.uk)

*Doug Jenner
Chair, Kimpton Folk Events*



We are still working (in between the preparations for the Christmas Market - between 14:00 and 20:00 on Saturday 2nd December on The Green!) to ensure that the village websites are up to date, specifically in terms of the businesses listed. We want to get as many local businesses showing as possible, and would ask any resident looking for goods or services to make it a matter of habit to check what's on offer before going elsewhere! The sites can be found at **kimptonvillage.com** and **kimptondirectory.com**

Please contact the Parish Clerk (clerk@kimptonpc.org.uk) with any updates or additions.

Once again, let me remind organisers of local events, large and small, that a "coordination meeting" is taking place on 22nd January 2018 at 19:00 in the Memorial Hall Green Room. This helps our local organisations to plan and pool resources.

May 2018 brings Parish Council elections around again – these run on a three year cycle, and we would like to encourage some more participants in what is an enjoyable (and not onerous) way in which you can support the community.

Locally sourced handmade gifts, festive food and drink, and wonderful live music

Saturday 2 December, 2-8pm, The Green

Sponsored by Kimpton Parish Council www.kimptonvillage.com

Although it doesn't seem like it, I have been the Chair for six years, so in effect two terms. Although the terms are not strict boundaries to service, it makes sense for me to step down at this stage, and give someone else a chance! I think that six years is quite long enough for one person to be Chair, so I am giving plenty of notice so that we can find a willing volunteer to take over from May 2018!

The role is not onerous, as we have a Clerk who is so effective that she spends a lot of time training other clerks, so if you would like to get involved please let us know.

As ever, keep an eye on our website at www.kimptonpc.org.uk for any items of urgent information or interest. If you are one of the few not on there already, you should also check out the Kimpton Village Group on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/kimptonvillage/> where there is plenty of (sometimes lively) discussion on local issues and concerns.

Finally, we have a couple of vacant allotments, so if you fancy starting of 2018 with a bit of digging, then contact the Clerk as above.

Best wishes for a Happy Christmas and a peaceful and prosperous New Year! *David Hardstaff*

It's party time!



The Boot Christmas Party

The Boot will once again be hosting the annual over 65s Christmas party at the Memorial Hall, on Sunday 14th January 12 for 12.30pm

We will be serving a 3 course meal with refreshments and our entertainment this year will be a 1940s swing jazz and vintage singer Jayne Darling.

If you would like to come please pop into the pub or call us on 01438 832438 to secure your place.

Transport can be arranged.
We look forward to seeing you.

*Come along and sing carols on
Tuesday December 12th from 7.30pm
Seasonal refreshments will be
available.*

**DON'T FORGET THE MUSIC
NIGHT AT THE MEMORIAL HALL ON
DECEMBER 23RD
SEE PAGE 16 FOR DETAILS**

Kimpton History Group

Wednesday 20th December, in the Green Room

Christmas Party

Details will be emailed to members nearer the time.

Wednesday 17th January 2018, at 8 pm in the Green Room

Old Hitchin Film Evening

Wednesday 21st February 2018, at 8 pm in the Green Room

"The Luton Hat Industry and use of local plaiters" by Ian Wright

Wednesday 21st March 2018, at 8 pm in the Green Room

History Group Annual General Meeting for the first 15 minutes

followed by an illustrated talk by John Pollington about some of the information in the Kimpton Archives.

Visitors are extremely welcome to attend any of the talks, for which we charge £3 per visit including tea/coffee and biscuits.

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

Cards for Good Causes

The festive season gets under way in Harpenden as the Cards for Good Causes pop-up charity Christmas card shop is open in the United Reformed Church, Vaughan Road AL5 4ED.

Staffed by a team of local volunteers, the Harpenden pop-up shop is part of a network of more than 300 temporary shops run by Cards for Good Causes, the UK's largest multi-charity Christmas card organisation. It represents more than 250 charities including Cancer Research UK, Barnardo's, NSPCC, Alzheimer's Society and RNLI.

Look for the Father Christmas sign, come and find us in Vaughan Road and get ahead in your Christmas preparations by getting your cards early.

Shop Opening Hours

9.30 – 4.30 Monday-Friday

9.30 - 3.30 Saturday



Winter Concert

*Kimpton Village Choir
plus guests*

ADULTS £10
(INCLUDES MULLED WINE
AND A MINCE PIE)

AVAILABLE ONLINE
from
[http://buytickets.at/
kimptonvillagechoir/
126099](http://buytickets.at/kimptonvillagechoir/126099)

CHILDREN FREE

**SUNDAY
10
DECEMBER
7PM**

ST PETER AND ST PAUL
CHURCH, KIMPTON

CONDUCTOR
TIM ARMSTRONG-TAYLOR
PIANIST
CHARLOTTE
VICKERSTAFF

FOR TICKETS PLEASE CONTACT

Yve Harper 01582 834208 / yharper@progress-projects.com

or Gill Vine 07797 895546 / vinegill@yahoo.co.uk

(limited tickets available on the door)

Lots of news from Kimpton Primary School

A new academic year

No year goes faster than that of someone who works within education! I can't believe that I am already in my second year of being the headteacher within our village and continue to be amazed by all of the wonderful opportunities this community offers our young children. The summer holidays seem a blink of an eye ago and already I can hear Christmas carols being sung around school.

If you follow us on twitter (@Kimpton_Primary) you will have noticed over the summer holidays how our children engaged in The National Trust's 50 Things to do before you're 11 3/4. A list



which reminds me of my childhood. I recommend everyone to revisit their childhood and carry out some of the activities on the list – you could even tweet the school with your pictures!

At the school we are continuing to strive to be better, to improve in all areas and build upon the success of the previous year. I can't emphasise enough how lucky I am to be working with staff

who hold the children at the centre of all they do and support all the initiatives and ideas to make our school the best it can possibly be.

Early Years Quality Gold Mark

One such success from last year is one from our Early Years Team. For the whole of the last academic year the Early Years team (our Nursery and Reception teachers), along with the SLT focussed on improving writing outcomes for our youngest learners. We improved the provision



both indoors and outdoors; the team provided workshops for parents and incorporated further opportunities for mark making and writing in all areas of their day. The Herts for Learning team commented that: "The real strength of the school is the commitment to teamwork and the focus of the leader in seizing opportunities to improve the provision for the children in their care. The team have created a stimulating and exciting

learning environment, embracing the independent learner. The provision they have created has had a positive impact on the outcomes for children."

Both Mrs Hairon and Mrs Dunk worked extremely hard to achieve this wonderful award and I know that they have left this legacy in our early years to build upon this year.

HLTA of the Year

As I'm sure everyone in Kimpton knows, we are extremely fortunate to have a wonderful staff team at the Primary School who are dedicated to ensuring that our pupils receive the best possible education whilst they are with us and that they are then ready for the challenges which lay ahead in secondary school.

Some of our staff go above and beyond in their roles to support their colleagues and pupils; making our school a rich and vibrant place because of them. One such person is our very own Mrs Matthews. She has been at the school now for over 20 years, supporting over 400 children in that time and it is really nice to see that all of her hard work is being recognised.

On Thursday 14th September we were honoured to welcome our local MP for Hitchin and Harpenden: Bim Ofalami for an extremely special occasion. We had nominated our very own Mrs Matthews for the National HLTA of the Year Award and were thrilled to find out over the summer holidays that she had won the Eastern region. The award; the reason for a special



assembly and why Mr Ofalami was visiting was kept a secret from the whole school. Everyone was present in the hall when Bim Ofalami arrived in school and he talked about why he had been invited – to have a special role in presenting an award to a member of our staff for their continued hard work, commitment, continuously positive outlook and always looking at how she can support our children more. He told the children at Kimpton about the hundreds of

entries that there had been in each region and how special this award was. To see Mrs Matthews face when she realised that we were talking about her, was priceless. She didn't recognise how much we all appreciate her and was speechless. It was such a lovely moment in school.

Once Mrs Matthews had recovered from the shock and surprise of receiving her award she wanted to share the following message with everyone in school and the community: "I have been totally overwhelmed by all the kind words and messages from parents and children both past and present on receiving my recent award. I am still in shock, proud and totally humbled."

On Monday 20th November Mrs Matthews will be attending the award ceremony to find out who is the national winner of the HLTA of the Year award. We wish her good luck and hope she enjoys being in the spot light – she deserves it! We know that no matter what the outcome; we are a very lucky school to have such an amazing member of staff and she will always be a star in our eyes!

As Christmas draws near, I look forward to seeing many of the local villagers at our carol concert on Thursday 14th December as well as at the Kimpton Village Christmas Market at the beginning of December. Have a lovely Christmas and I look forward to sharing many more exciting developments in the next parish magazine.

*Mrs T Clements
Headteacher*

Remembrance Sunday in Kimpton

“I guess the highlight of the year for the Royal British Legion is the Remembrance weekend, the Poppy Appeal, and all that goes with it”

This year has been quite challenging to prepare and plan, but the outcome has been pretty encouraging. At both services there was an excellent turn out, and for the most part, the weather was kind to us on both days, albeit a little fresh.

We would like to express our thanks to all the young people's organisations, their parents and leaders for their contribution on Parade and the Church service.

Our thanks also to the Parish Council, the Police and North Herts DC.

At the War Memorial on the 11th there were about 50 people, and thanks to Vicar Bonnie for officiating at the short service and laying a Wreath on behalf of the Church.

On Remembrance Sunday at the War Memorial, Wreaths were laid by the Ladies and Mens Branches of the Royal British Legion, the Parish Council, the Police and the School who were represented by two young pupils and Mark followed by very young boys and girls from various organisations, who laid 44 Poppy crosses on the Memorial, in memory of the 44 Kimpton men who lost their lives in the two great wars.

The Parade on Remembrance Sunday morning started off with a prayer from Archdeacon Jonathan Smith. The Church service went very well, and a big thank you to the Churchwardens and all the sides persons for organising and seating the large congregation, and their help in other areas of the service.

Our thanks to Vicar Bonnie for officiating, and many thanks to Archdeacon Jonathan for his contribution to the service, and especially his most interesting sermon which included a very personal account of his



Grandfather who lost his life in the first World War.

Also, many thanks to our organist Andy Wright and the Choir, for their vocal support, and not forgetting our bugler John Blackshaw for his part in the service.

We hope you enjoyed the service, and also we hope our new Remembrance Sunday Service booklets were a success.

We had a good turnout at our AGM on Monday evening 13th November. Our Secretary Dave Gibbs has managed to recruit two new members, so if you feel you would like to become a member of the Branch, you do not have to be ex military, please contact Dave on 01438 832236.

We wish everyone a very happy and peaceful Christmas. *Robin Wells, Chairman.*





Robin Wells, the event organiser is pictured in the procession. Archdeacon Jonathan with Vicar Bonnie have a chat with a villager. A solemn and thoughtful moment at the War Memorial. Members of the village Guides, Brownies, Scouts and Cubs took part in the procession and church service.

Photos by Juliet Morton.



Kimpton WI

October saw our speaker cancel his talk on 'Radio Children' at the last minute. The

Committee managed to contact Joan McCann who gave an excellent talk with some amusing anecdotes on the Royal National Lifeboat Institute. She recalled how they had first started. It was basically the old men of the seaside towns who no longer worked but were more than happy to go to sea to save the fishing men and their boats when they got into trouble. Now, a hundred years later, we rely on younger men and women who are in regular employ but have trained in their spare time to become members of the Lifeboat Service

A group of members went to see the Harpenden Operatic Society's fantastic production of "Sister Act" which they all thoroughly enjoyed.

Two of our members attended the HFWI International Evening on Cuba when they learnt about life in Cuba and how everyone there loves to dance. A very dashing young Cuban man demonstrated some Cuban dances and got people up on the floor swinging and swaying to great music.

November had members enjoying Carl Jones talk and demonstration on Christmas Cookery. We learned 34 different ways of making mince pies!

Our first meeting in the New Year will be on Wednesday, 10th January, when John Pickett, CBE, of Rothamstead Research, will be talking on "Feed the World: From Companion Planting to GM". This should be an interesting and entertaining meeting.

We are a friendly W.I. and a warm welcome awaits you in the Lounge of the Memorial Hall on the second Wednesday of the month at 7.45 pm.

If you would like more information please contact our President, Sue Newman (01438 832560) or Secretary, Liz Haynes (01438 832500).

Janet Holmes-Walker

The Bowls Club

We are now in our closed season, but work continues on the green and clubhouse throughout the winter. Our AGM takes place in November so I will up-date you in the following edition of any significant changes etc.

Members will be enjoying a Christmas lunch and get-together at The Boot In December.

The Club would like to wish all our regular visitors and supporters a very Happy Christmas and Healthy New Year.

Dud Ginn

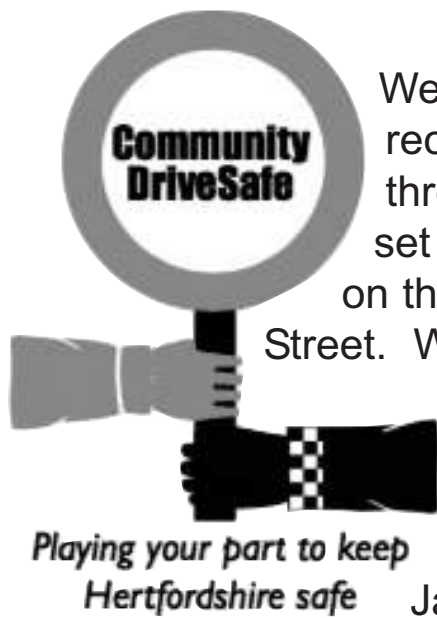
Kimpton Public Rights of Way

Thanks for your suggestions for routes for our planned walking maps. They should emerge some time in the new year. We are aiming at just a selection for the (quite small) paper version, but we plan to back them up with more walks and information online. So I'll be happy to continue to hear of your favourite walks.

The new County Council maintenance contractors again did a pretty good job in the summer and autumn. But I am aware that it took quite a while to reinstate some crossfield paths after the recent ploughing, harrowing, drilling and so on. The 'rules' are that farmers have 2 weeks after ploughing to reinstate paths - and just 24 hours after other processes. We know that they are often operating under considerable pressure and we would rather be friendly and co-operative, so we try to be flexible. But it might be just an oversight sometimes, so please let me (or Tom, see below) know of any that have dragged on way beyond these times.

Please continue to let me or Tom Goldsmith, (tom.goldsmith@hertfordshire.gov.uk), Countryside Access Officer at Herts. County Council, know of any problems like overgrowth, damaged gates, obscure or damaged signs or waymarks, obstructions and so on.

Bob Malcolm
01438-832309
bobm@ideo.co.uk



We have now begun the DriveSafe initiative recording cars speeding in the village. We have three points where the monitoring equipment will be set up. Opposite Bury Farm, outside the school and on the corner of the Ron Hyde gap opposite 147 High Street. We will be running monitoring sessions regularly when the conditions are dry, light and enough volunteers are available. If you would like to volunteer to assist on these sessions which usually run for 30 - 60 mins please contact me, Jackie Worboys. jax_51a@hotmail.com

Kimpton Garden Club

We are a very friendly club that welcomes new members and we are particularly keen to attract younger members who will benefit from the wide pool of knowledge readily available from more senior members. You would be most welcome to join us for our first 2018 meeting on 23 January.

Normally we meet on the first Wednesday in every month in the Memorial Hall Green Room and our programme covers a wide range of interesting speakers usually supported with colour projection and plants for sale. The November talk was on "Winter Colour in the Garden" by Anne Godfery, Gold Medal Winner at the Chelsea Show. Refreshments are provided. Visitors are also most welcome.

We organise visits to lovely gardens and this year we enjoyed Waterperry (Oxford) and Ascott (the de Rothschild home at Wing). In addition there are social events including Summer Garden and Christmas Parties and Quizzes.

If you like plants, vegetables and gardens you will find a wealth of interest so do come along to any meeting and join in the fun with fellow minded folk and hopefully improve your knowledge of this fascinating subject. You don't need to be an expert to enjoy the experience.

Look out for our forthcoming events advertised on numerous sites throughout the village.

Meetings are free to members, visitors £2, Annual Subscription only £12.

Phone Mary (01582 832110) or Myra (01438 832776) for more information.

A boost for childhood well-being in Kimpton

The benefits of yoga to adult well-being have long been known and recognised. Apart from the physical improvements that the practice brings, yoga offers the opportunity to support mental health in a number of ways.

Parents are also realising that yoga can help children as a great antidote to the many stresses that they face in the modern age. Important personal qualities such as self-confidence and a positive body image can also be developed with children's yoga classes. These among many characteristics are so vital, especially as they enter the teenage years.

To that end, local Yoga teacher, Tilly Beau (Tilly's Dance Factory) is going to be offering a new fun and dynamic afterschool class at the Primary school starting in January. She looks forward to meeting the children and families at Kimpton Primary in the new year. The class is open to children across the Infant and Junior age groups (Years 1-6) and will have something to appeal to all!





***Get your
tickets
now!***

Saturday December 23 will see the first Kimpton Christmas Music Night and everyone is invited to start the festivities on a musical note.

With the ever-talented Sam Lewis compering the evening and performing a festive acoustic set, the night will move up a gear when the Bee Stung Lips see out Christmas Eve Eve with a sensational set.

So if you are a member of a Kimpton business, club or

organisation and are looking for a good value, local night to enjoy a festive party, the Kimpton Christmas Music Night is for you.

Tickets are just £10 each in advance or £80 for 10 and can be purchased from The Boot or by logging online to eventbrite

There will be a fun selfie picture booth, a bar and everything you need to stay local and get the festive season off with a real swing - don't forget you'll still have plenty of time to prep the parsnips.

It has been another amazing year for Kimpton May Festival with the 2017 event seeing the largest amount of money ever raised and a universal thumbs up from those in the village and visitors from further afield.

With a film night added for the first time, the weekend saw even more activities across the four days - all of which contributed to the amazing surplus of £16,668, more than £1,000 up on last year.

Commenting on the weekend KMF chairman John Hills said: "We may have been fortunate with some helpful weather but it certainly wasn't luck that this was one of the best festivals yet. I am proud of the team which organised such a great series of events and we are delighted to have added the film night on the Friday evening, showing that we are always looking to improve the festival".

Many people are unaware that after the festival KMF is able to donate a large amount of money to good causes, most of them within the village. This year was no exception with money going to more than 30 groups or individuals including Preschool, the Dacre Rooms, Kimpton Horse Show, Kimpton Rainbows and a number of young people completing the World Challenge.

The 2018 theme is due to be revealed shortly but the first task will be to interview potential candidates for the role of May Queen.

The May Queen selection will be on Friday 26th January at 6pm in the memorial hall. It is open to girls in years 6.7.8 and 9. They must be resident in Kimpton parish or attend a club on the village or the school. For further information contact Mandy Purvis 07787 787671 or Kim Hills 07901 605383.

Watch out for the Kimpton May Festival Facebook page for further updates of the 2018 weekend.

Welcome to Kimpton

You may be interested to know that 23 new families were welcomed to Kimpton in 2016 and, up to mid-November, 18 new families have been welcomed in 2017.

Thank you everyone who has given me fliers and useful information to put in the Welcome Packs. Everyone who has received one has been enormously appreciative and, judging by their responses, all the new families will all be great assets to the village.

I would also like to mention the Kimpton Village Group Facebook page, which has been a fantastic success. Things are being recycled and people are connecting in a brilliant way.

If YOU know of anyone who has recently moved into the village (including Peters Green and Blackmore End), please let me know so that I can deliver a Welcome Pack to them.

Andy Morton 01438 832427

Come along and sing

Dear Villagers (and beyond) you may or may not know that the village choir meets about 30 times a year, term time on a Monday evening in the school hall at 8pm and we sing for an hour and a half. Everyone is welcome. You do not need to audition or read music, though some musical ability helps it is not a pre-requisite for joining the choir. All ages and abilities are welcome. It is a very informal evening of music making and fun. Singing is incredibly good for mind and body - especially singing in a social setting, such as a choir. I love taking the village choir and although my approach to music making is serious, you won't find the same approach with regards to the formality of each rehearsal. We have a lot of fun. If you fancy a go please get in touch with the membership secretary (margaret4smith@gmail.com), come along and if you don't like it at least you've tried!

Our wonderful cockles warming Winter concert is fast approaching - 10th December at 7pm in the Church. Mulled wine and merriment aplenty. There will be performances by the choir, the Birds of a Feather and a host of local talent from young to not.

To book online visit

buytickets.at/kimptonvillagechoir/126099

For a taste of what's to come at Christmas we are singing for 15 minutes at 5pm on the 2nd December at the Christmas Fair.

Also to look out for is the Vocal Workshop 'Love to Sing' on January 13th at 10am in the Memorial Hall.

To book online visit

buytickets.at/kimptonvillagechoir/126115.

It was hugely successful last year and sold out - be certain to book early to guarantee a place. If you'd rather book by phone for any event please call Yve on 01582 834208 or Gill on 07797 895546 or visit our Facebook page.

If you would like further info on anything please get in touch!

Happy Christmas! Tim

Find the **power** in your voice...

Kimpton Village Choir
presents a half-day workshop

Love to Sing.

COME AND JOIN US!

ONCE AGAIN, WE ARE VERY EXCITED TO BE ABLE TO OFFER YOU AN ENTERTAINING AND INSPIRING MORNING WORKSHOP LED BY KIMPTON MUSICAL MAESTROS

TIM ARMSTRONG-TAYLOR AND ROLY TAYLOR
(AKA VICTOR AND ALBERT) WHO LEAD CHOIRS IN HERTFORDSHIRE AND ENTERTAIN AUDIENCES AROUND THE COUNTRY.

TICKETS £10
(PLUS BOOKING FEE)
AVAILABLE ONLINE
from
<http://buytickets.at/kimptonvillagechoir/126115>
or
£12 ON THE DOOR

SATURDAY
13
JANUARY
10AM-1PM
KIMPTON MEMORIAL HALL,
KIMPTON SG4 8RD
FULLY ACCESSIBLE ♿

ALL AGES AND ABILITIES WELCOME
NO NEED TO READ MUSIC AND NO MUSICAL EXPERIENCE NECESSARY!

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT
Yve Harper 01582 834208 / yharper@progress-projects.com

Magazine deadlines 2018

Spring March 23rd
Summer June 15th
Autumn September 21st
Winter November 23rd

Your National Trust at 'Shaw's Corner' NEEDS YOU!



Within our combined parishes of Kimpton with Ayot St Lawrence, Shaw's Corner is the only National Trust house in Hertfordshire. There is always a need for volunteers to help with visitors to this amazing Edwardian home which George Bernard Shaw owned for 46 years.

The house is open from March to October from Wednesday to Sunday and you can choose the days you would like to volunteer, but about once a fortnight is the average. No previous knowledge is required as training will be given and these sessions will begin in the New Year so that there will be a full team ready to go when the house reopens in March.

You can attend the initial sessions to hear what is involved without fully committing. All ages are welcome; we sometimes have students who find the experience helpful on their CV. It's also a great place for the week-ends if you find yourself with spare time. If you are retired and enjoy meeting people there is ample opportunity at 'Shaw's Corner'.

Currently there are just two volunteers from Kimpton but room for more! The House Steward, Rebecca Whitmore is currently recruiting.

Contact her on: rebecca.whitmore@nationaltrust.org.uk

Aston Bell & Handbell Ringers

Aston Church Bellringers have been ringing their set of handbells since 1894 when the Aston Rector bought the handbells for them. The band have for some years had an interactive show ranging between 30 and 60 minutes, according to demand. This is seasonal entertainment which is performed between November and January in the evenings and weekends.

The show includes handbell tune ringing, including Christmas tunes, plus demonstrations of English Church Bell Ringing together with stories about the lore of English bell, audience participation and is put over in a light hearted and amusing way. The band can also provide a 'ringing workshop' to groups wanting to try it out.

The show is suitable entertainment for Christmas Socials and events, youth groups,

entertainment after a meeting, Senior Citizen Groups, and Care Homes. The group are often at WI meetings, University of the 3rd age and Church Groups. The team is usually about 10 strong and aged between 12 and 81 - with the majority often teenagers. A donation to Aston Church funds is optional but the band do ask for petrol expenses and are happy to go all over Hertfordshire.

If interested in making a booking please email astonpcclerk@gmail.com or telephone 01438 352505.

Kimpton Friendly Bridge Club

meets every Thursday evening in
Church House
for a 19:30 start



A Busy time for the Bench Boys

Another busy few months. Among many other jobs we have been raising up buried grave surrounds in the Church Yard, we often find buried grave inscriptions, and seeing a previously hidden grave restored to its 100 year old position is very rewarding. Here is a

photograph of us doing just that. Over the summer we painted the outside of Church House, both the cladding and the white windows. We have repaired footpath sign posts and kissing gates, mended fences around Parkfield Recreation area. Notice in these photographs how many are working and how many "supervising". Our jobs include day to day maintenance of the Memorial Hall – replacing duff lamps, mending the vacuum cleaner, for instance, and tidying the outside. Have you noticed the new shrubs in pots at the front of the hall?

It is not all maintenance type work, at the Horse Show we manned the gate and organised the horse box and car parking, at the Autumn Show we helped set out the tables and ran children's games in the garden during the show. At the school we made and fitted seats under the gazebo on the playing field. There is a large container on the main recreation ground that had become leaky, we have repaired the roof, laid



some new flooring, cleared out all the rubbish, installed some shelving, so it can now be used by village organisations such as the May Festival, the Folk Weekend, and so on to store their tables, chairs, marquees etc and still leave room for the football posts and nets.

And, of course, spent all summer cleaning and painting the benches scattered around the parish. Grateful thanks to the Horse show, and to Andy O'Brien and the Vet's football event for their donations to our funds. If you want to join us, we normally meet Wednesday mornings, then do get in touch



*Bob Finch 01438 832497
Bench Working Party Coordinator*

benchworkingpartykimpton.weebly.com

Let's all go to the Music Hall!



As soon as the winter production of "The Christmas Carol" by Shaun Sutton, from the story by Charles Dickens, (30th November to 2nd December at the Memorial Hall) is completed, rehearsals will begin for the first production in 2018, the Old Time Music Hall.

Now in its 54th Year this perennial favourite is a riotous evening of laughter and singing with drinks and a pie and pickle supper served at your table. Audience are encouraged to join in the singing and don't worry if you don't know the songs as songsheets are provided.

Performances will be on the 2nd, 3rd, 8th, 9th and 10th of March at the Memorial Hall which is transformed for the occasion into a Victorian Song and Supper Room.

Tickets go on sale on 20th January at 9am For details, go to the website www.thekimptonplayers.co.uk or watch out for the posters around the village.



photos: Andy Wright

Kimpton Probus Club

The Kimpton Probus Club meets once a month, on a Tuesday morning in the Green Room at the Memorial Hall. Each month the attendance is about 30, from a membership of about 40, all male. After socialising over coffee we listen to a speaker, and then most of us repair to The Boot for a one course lunch. The talks are varied and invariably very interesting, recent ones have included the following - Admiral Fitzroy (of barometer fame), the Demise of Bedford Lorries, the Dacre and Baxendale families (The Men Who Owned Kimpton) and Farming in Kimpton – by Andrew Manning which was later followed by a farm visit. In September we had a superb tour of some of the Cambridge Colleges followed by a pub lunch.

The programme in the near future includes talks on Scott of the Antarctic, Trent Park WW2 interrogation centre for captured German generals, the training and use of Police Dogs, and Capability Brown with reference to his affect on Hertfordshire landscapes.

If you are interested in joining us, or have any questions, do get in touch with me or our secretary – Victor Maller (victor.maller@the-coppice.com)

Bob Finch Chairman (bobfinch108@gmail.com)

Magazine deadlines 2018

Spring March 23rd
Summer June 15th
Autumn September 21st
Winter November 23rd

It is important that all copy and photographs, as JPEGs, are in by those dates or before the deadline.

The magazine is distributed 2 to 3 weeks after the deadline.

kimpton.editor@btinternet.com

Memorial Hall News

Firstly let me start by adding my thanks, on behalf of the new trustees and members of the Memorial Hall Committee, to those of Barbara in the last edition of the magazine to Roger Nash for his marathon stint as Chairman. We have inherited the custody of an amenity which is in rude health and our mission is to ensure it continues to flourish.

Roger has previously noted a number of refurbishment projects under consideration and I'm delighted to be able to report good progress on a number of fronts. Regular users of the hall, particular those who have attended an evening event, may have noticed not only the replacement of the ageing ceiling lights but, under the guidance of our new Vice-Chair Tim Armstrong-Taylor, the addition of a new, multi-coloured, state of the art 'wall washing' lighting system.

We have also taken the opportunity of having electrical contractors on site to carry out a full electrical inspection of the premises and are currently looking into how best to provide a Wi-Fi facility that could be made available to any and all users of the Hall.

We will keep you posted with developments and look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the Kimpton Christmas Event in the Hall on Saturday 23rd December.

Simon Thompson

To book Kimpton Memorial Hall please contact Mrs Barbara Kazwini, 01438 832620.
barbara.kazwini@btinternet.com

Thinking of organising an event in the village?

Check out the village calendar to see if there's something already going on to avoid a clash.

To view the calendar visit
kimptonvillage.com/events-calendar

Firearm Amnesty

You are probably aware of the Government sponsored Firearm Amnesty and if you have weapon that you would like to hand in please contact Herts Constabulary on 01707 806126



Community Policing

Our Safer Neighbourhood Team, ward constable PC David Hine or our PCSO Heather Burrows can be contacted on the automated system at Herts Police HQ **01707 354192**

For a quicker response you can e-mail

David.Hine@herts.pnn.police.uk or

Heather.Burrows@herts.pnn.police.uk Other useful contact numbers are inside the back cover of this magazine.

John Hammond, NHW Co-ordinator for Baldock has kindly agreed to fill the vacancy as North Herts District Co-ordinator, following the death of Michael Holden.

OWL (On line Watch Link)

The increasing number of residents already attached to OWL are receiving police messages direct and I would ask them to pass on any useful information to neighbours not registered with OWL. You can be speedily be enrolled by contacting our Watch Liaison Officer, Katy Garcia, **katy.garcia@herts.pnn.police.uk**.

OWL continues to expand and now is linked to approx.11,000 properties who receive crime alerts direct from the police throughout the County and North Herts.

Local Crime

We continue to be a relatively low crime area which is most reassuring although there have been reports of shed and garage break ins.

Latest Alerts

The police advise that the current threat is from gangs of Pickpockets and Dippers in the run up to Christmas. You are most vulnerable whilst shopping.

Keep zipped, don't get dipped!

A new scam involves an illegal immigrant claiming to have won a substantial Lottery prize which, due to their status, they can't claim. They ask you to claim it on their behalf for a share of the winnings providing you put up surety such as money or jewellery. Guess what happens next!

General Alerts

There are continuing threats from the international problem of Cyber Crime so be especially mindful of the dangers and how to combat such as fraud and identity theft scams. Do note the police advice on the OWL website and in particular the September update from the Herts Constabulary Crime Reduction & Community Safety Dept. which can be accessed via Herts.police.uk/Protect_your_Money.

Subjects covered include

Missed delivery cards from Royal Mail

Student Loans Fraud

Most commonly reported scams on over 60's

Do you sell items on line and/or use Paypal?

Protect your Pension

Safety Tips for Students

Don't get involved with 'computer experts' claiming to have diagnosed a fault on your machine if you give them certain personal details.

Nuisance Phone Calls

Still ongoing unfortunately so if your blocker isn't working or you haven't got one and you don't recognise the caller or the number just put the phone down.

Distraction Burglaries

Please keep an eye on the elderly and those living alone and advise them to be extremely wary of and challenge unexpected callers, if they can't provide identity evidence don't open the door.

Always ring the police on 101 to report your suspicions.

If the caller is persistent and/or aggressive ring 999 immediately.

Caring Neighbours

Please check on elderly, vulnerable and neighbours living alone and in particular remind them not to engage in conversation with any dubious phone caller or doorstep visitor. If in any doubt tell them to put the phone down and then call the Police immediately on 101.

Night Security and Absence

With the onset of the festive season in mind if you intend to leave your property unoccupied please secure all windows, doors, garages and sheds. Your property will look 'lived' in by parking a vehicle on the drive and installing security lights. Give a neighbour your contact details.

Don't leave any keys within sight of an open letter box.

Our free Letter Box Deflectors prevent 'peeping toms' having a quick look and a poke. Please let me know if you would like one.

Making life more bearable

Don't forget that you can report, anonymously if you wish, any incidents of abuse, dog fouling, unruly behaviour, excessive noise and nuisance neighbours on Crime Stoppers 0800 555 111. You can use 101 for non-emergencies or you can join the new online web chat facility: herts.police.uk/contact_us/contacting_us.aspx

Remember don't drink and drive!

*Alan Smith, Kimpton Village NHW Co-ordinator
01438 832749 margaret.smith5@talktalk.net*

The Church in Kimpton

Parish Church

Vicar

Revd Bonnie Evans-Hills
The Vicarage
11 High Street
Kimpton SG4 8RA
07548 687504
kimptonchurch@hotmail.com

Church Wardens

Jenny Kelly
07818 613143
genkel@btinternet.com

Juliet Morton
01438 832427
julietmorton@aol.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
01582 604771

The Parish Magazine Team is trying to help the environment

The Parish Magazine is now
printed on recycled paper.

The production team
acknowledge with thanks a
donation received from
Kimpton Environmentalists

Police Telephone Numbers

Urgent 999 Non Urgent 101

Ward Constable David Hine
Community Support Officer PCSO Heather Burrows
01707 354192 (automated system)

Hitchin Safer Neighbourhood Team
Sergeant Steve Oliphant
01438 757604 (usually voicemail)

Police and Crime Commissioner
David Lloyd
commissioner@herts.pnn.police.uk 01992 556600

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

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Parish Council

Cllr Ian Corbett
Cllr David Hardstaff
Cllr Lewis Hawke
Cllr Jon Marsh
Cllr Sue O'Brien
Cllr Jon Palmer
Cllr Donatella Pirola
Cllr David Reavell

*Parish Councillors can be
contacted at
clerk@kimptonpc.org.uk*

Parish Clerk

Carina Helmn, 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

CANCER ADVISORY SERVICE

BACUP Link Line. Freephone 181199

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

HITCHIN CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU

To contact the CAB phone 01462 622999 Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday afternoon between 1pm and 5.30pm

CARERS IN HERTFORDSHIRE

Support and guidance offered for all carers, including support groups, a telephone link line and a regular newsletter. Carers can contact the centre on 01462 456660

KIMPTON MONKEYS TODDLERS' GROUP

Come and meet local, friendly faces and enjoy general play, craft, ride-on toys, baby corner, singing, etc for pre-school children and babies.

Entrance is £2.00 plus 50p for each additional child and includes tea/coffee/juice and snacks for all. Held at Kimpton Memorial Hall on Tuesdays from 09:30 to 11:30 during term time.

Contact us at kimptonmonkeystoddler@gmail.com www.facebook.com/KimptonMonkeys

KIMPTON PRESCHOOL

Our friendly team, based at Linden Lodge in the grounds of Kimpton Primary School, offers sessional care for children aged two to four years old.

We are open during term time, Monday to Friday, with morning sessions from 8.50am to 11.50am and Lunch Clubs from 11.50am to 1.20pm. For more details, please contact Lesley O'Brien, Preschool Manager, on 01438 833936.

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

kimptonchurchherts.wordpress.com



Kimpton Church Hertfordshire