

Kimpton Parish Magazine

*Autumn 2020
Number 263*

Photo: Andy Wright





Six months into our national battle against Covid-19 and it seems to me we're in a sort of halfway place where everything is still confused or cancelled. It's tough keeping our spirits up and finding something to look forward to. I'm sure you like me have either had holiday plans wrecked or things you were planning, go 'out of the window' during this very different year.

That said, I'd like to share with you all a wonderful event that, despite everything, went ahead this year. June and David Alee of Commons Lane, Kimpton, celebrated their Diamond wedding on 3rd September. They were wondering how to celebrate. Little did they know that their daughter Suzanne had been in touch with me to arrange for them to renew their marriage vows—and she had sworn me to secrecy. On the day, June and David were told they were going for a photo-shoot. Not until they were walking up the aisle of Kimpton Church did June realise what was



Photo: Suzanne Waterman

really happening. After a whole year or more of planning, June and David Alee, sitting on thrones as King and Queen for the day, renewed their wedding vows after 60 years together. A 'grown up' ring bearer supplied two giant rose red and barbie pink plastic rings for June and David to exchange as symbols of their renewed vows. He flicked a switch and the rings went into fluorescent flashing light-show mode! David and June processed out of church to loud recorded bells and oodles of biodegradable confetti (which they missed out on first time around). David had wondered if he was going to meet the Queen, but wasn't disappointed it was only the Vicar—this was just what he had wanted he told me. The whole event was carefully planned around corona virus restrictions to be safe. It was a delightful day filled with laughter as well as a few tears of joy. It proved how vital it is to find time for fun and to continue to mark important milestones in our lives.

Continuing to mark milestones is presently 'allowed' by central government. As we move deeper into Autumn days, we will celebrate Harvest, Remembrance Sunday, Christingle and Christmas events (& Christenings, Funerals and Weddings), within the government rules at Kimpton and at Ayot St Lawrence Churches. It is my responsibility to manage the church as an indoor space following covid-19 secure guidelines.

Come what may, for Remembrance Sunday it remains important to honour those who suffered and gave their lives in war-time. Christmas too is not to be missed. For 2020 this will look very different and much curtailed as the church can only hold 50-70 persons socially distanced. So, if some events and services become ticketed or by invitation, please bear with us.

Church remains open. It is simply delightful that we can meet with others on Sundays to worship God. Twice a month we can look forward to Holy Communion and twice a month we enjoy a simple, shorter worship service (with no Communion). All our services are projected, so no books or papers are required. Indeed, we are growing in numbers and we discovered we have an even bigger online 'following.' Do come along and join us – wear a mask—on Sundays. Or find us at www.kimptonchurch.co.uk.

Most important of all—stay safe and keep well. God bless you. Rev'd Linda Williams

Book of Remembrance in Church

A book bearing names of those buried in Kimpton Churchyard and those whose burial services were held at the Parish Church has been for many years in the North Aisle. Recently the cabinet containing the book has been put near the Dacre Chapel screen in the South Aisle. Each month the names of those commemorated in that month over the last 50 or more years are available to view. Robin Wells has made this task his own and we are grateful to him for the work he has put in to keep the Book of Remembrance up-to-date. Now that the cabinet is in a more prominent position we hope more people will become aware of Kimpton's Book of Remembrance.

Grateful Thanks

The Editor and Production Team would like to acknowledge, with thanks, a donation for the printing of the magazine from Perry Green Baptist Chapel.

Keeping you in touch with Kimpton Church by email

For some time I have been keeping Kimptonians, and some beyond our borders, in touch with what is going on in the village and your church, via weekly e mails. This has been especially useful when we were in 'lock-down' and I know that there are some of you who just like to be kept up-to-date with local events.

BUT, recent changes to my email system mean that I have lost quite a few from the original list so if you still wish to receive my Church emails and you have not received any since mid-September, please contact me on jandv@pollington10.plus.com and I will reinstate you on the list.

Needless to say, if you wish to be removed from the list, please let me know.

I also send out messages from Rev. Linda but NOT the sermon and hymn for each Sunday as these can easily be located on kimptonchurch.co.uk under NEWS.

Valerie Pollington

From the Registers

Baptisms

19th July Rory Ryan (at Ayot St Lawrence)

Renewal of Wedding Vows

12th September June and David Alee (on Diamond Wedding Anniversary)

Burials, Cremations & Interments

6th July Dr Robby Ahmad Bacchus
3rd September Jean Lawrence
28th September Rita Smith

We have also learnt that the following died recently
David Dawes in Scotland
Mike Benson in New Zealand

Church news from the Vicar.....

St George's School, Harpenden-Clergy references

If you are thinking of applying to St George's School Harpenden for a place for your child in September 2021, you may need a clergy reference. Please remember St George's requires you and your child to have attended church services for 2 years prior to making any application. Please contact the Vicar for further information.

Thanksgiving of Talents

I'm really sorry that this exhibition event, scheduled to be held in church in November, to showcase village artists and crafts persons, hobbies and children's work had to be cancelled. The introduction of the rule of 6 meant we could not go ahead.

Recycling with Terra-cycle

Robin Riley advised me that we can now collect blister packs for recycling. Blister packs are the plastic and metallic packs individual tablets, such as prescription drugs or paracetamol, are packed in. When empty, save your blister packs and bring them along to church and place them in the bin at the back of church. Thank-you.

Services at St Peter & St Paul Church

From November 2020, services will be:

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.

Harvest Festival at Kimpton Church was on 4th October. We were thinking about bees. So most of the congregation came dressed in yellow and black as bees—some of us had antennae (deely bobber black and yellow) and bee masks. Thank you to BLAST, Carly and Josie for my present of antennae and mask and to Eileen for my knitted bumble bee. BLAST Sunday Childrens Group wrote prayers about bees and the good work they do in creation. Did you know that without bees 80% of crops would not be pollinated and a third of food would not grow?! Thank you to everyone all for their generosity as masses of tinned and dried foodstuffs are going to St Albans Trussell Trust foodbank this year. The foodbank included the village in its area from March 2020-start of lockdown—so that we would be able to seek referrals for those needing to use a foodbank at any time. What better way to repay them, but help them re-stock when we know that their services will be increasingly in demand as lockdown goes on.

We also had retiring collection and the cash goes to the Bishop of St Albans Harvest Appeal. Every year this appeal focuses on a small project somewhere in the world—a project that will make a big difference to local people's lives. This never involves a big international charity, so all the cash goes to the project. For 2020 the project is bee-keeping in Nepal. Why? Because Nepal lost thousand of people and all its infrastructure in several massive earthquakes in 2015. When it was taking a long time to get farming and businesses up and running, bee-keeping was an easy win:win way of making money to live on. The bees provide honey, honey comb, wax to sell—and they pollinate everything that grows! The ollection will go direct to buy hives for people in Nepal. So thank to all for raising a £100+ for the appeal.

A final huge thank you to the Flower Team and all who gave their time and flower-arranging talent to make your church look absolutely fabulous! It's magnificent! Do go and have a look around (socially-distanced of course) at the wonderful floral displays. Thank you so much everyone for a fabulous Harvest Festival.

Rev'd Linda Williams



The Bellringers in March 2017

Kimpton Bellringers

One delight of village life is the sound of bells drifting melodiously through the air. Kimpton has been fortunate in having a very active band of ringers for many years, something that many ringerless villages would envy. Yet, for the first time since the Second World War, a national ban on ringing has been imposed since March. Many villagers have told us how much they miss their bells.

The partial lifting of the ban in August made it possible to ring only four of the eight bells for services because of social distancing rules. This sound has been welcomed by many, but it is a poor substitute for what would normally be expected.

It takes years to build up a good band of ringers, but it needs sustained practice and the injection of new blood to maintain a band. However, practices and teaching are not possible under the present Covid restrictions. Meanwhile the ringers go rusty and lose muscle tone, but retain the hope that soon it may be possible to restore to the village one of those quintessentially village sounds which we know many of you love.

Keith Lewin

News from our BLAST busy bees

Joshua 1:9 "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."



BLAST (Bible Learning and Studying Together) has not been together since March but the joys of technology mean we have stayed connected and we were recently delighted to join the Harvest Festival in Church. In true BLAST style we made our presence felt by embracing the ask from Reverend Linda to dress-up as buzzy bees (complete with bee face masks and deely boppers). We also shared our passion for all things crafty by decorating the Church with our

own buzzy bee works of art complete with prayers to celebrate Harvest.

It is these opportunities that showcase how wonderful, caring and resilient our BLAST children are. They thanked God for the sunshine, the light and the bees; and asked him to look after our farmers, to help stop global warming and to simply help everybody smile every day. As someone once said 'a smile is happiness right under your nose' and I am sure we could all take comfort from that right now.

BLAST hopes to be together again soon but in the meantime we are thinking about how we might create our annual nativity production in a new format. We would also love to get children from around the village involved so we will keep you posted.

For now our BLAST community wishes everybody good health, strength and love.

Carly Tindle and Charlotte Knight



Harvest Festival photos on pages 6 and 7

Our talented team of flower arrangers prepare the church for Harvest Festival



To bee or not to bee.....!!!!



Linda spoke about the importance of bees, at the Harvest Festival service, and invited everyone to dress appropriately.

Obviously the members of BLAST *beehived* themselves and there was a great *buzz* in the church!



The children and families were keeping to the correct guidelines distance during the service, including a safe distance and sitting completely separate from all other members of the congregation.

Green Homes

We are pleased to see the Government's initiative of grants of up to £5,000 (£10,000 for incomes below a set figure) to improve the energy efficiency of households. This scheme offers the joint benefit of annual savings and the opportunity to reduce our impact upon the environment. If interested apply quickly while funding is available. <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/apply-for-the-green-homes-grant-scheme>

Local Authority Changes

As part of a drive for £25million+ per year efficiency improvements, the Government has asked that Hertfordshire consider transforming from its three-level authority (Parish/District/County) to a two-level system. This would result in the dissolving of North Herts District Council. Whilst there may or may not be operational merits in such changes, we are concerned that implementing a significant upheaval in the middle of the Coronavirus epidemic is not timely. We believe that local authorities need to focus their efforts upon the current more pressing issues.

National Planning Changes

A second initiative by Government is the near future change to existing planning laws and the medium-term total replacement of the current planning laws. The objectives of these changes are: to build more new homes each year, reduce the time to deliver housing from inception, and improve the affordability of housing.

A summary of the proposal :-

- National housing numbers to increase on average by 1.25% per year. (300,000 per year)
- In areas of high unaffordability this would be enhanced based upon a ratio of average salary to average house price.
- A focus would be placed upon homes of key workers (First homes) offered at 30%+ discounts to market prices.

Requirement for developers to have to build affordable housing or first homes would be drastically reduced (only on sites of more than 40 dwellings)

Kimpton Parish is an area of relatively high unaffordability and looked at in isolation the outcome would likely mean the need to build 10 to 20 new dwellings each year.

The challenge to make additional homes available to meet defined needs and also maintain the quality of the local area is a very difficult balance to achieve.

Having reviewed the documents it would be correct to say that the aim is admirable but the construction of the proposed policy needs work to ensure that these objectives will actually be achieved. We would have also wished to see incentives to existing mature home owners to free up larger properties thus allowing more people to move onto and up the property ladder, and the occupying of homes being more efficient.

More detail can be found on the link https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/907956/Planning_for_the_Future_web_accessible_version.pdf where you can give your views directly.

Christmas Market

Due to safety considerations we feel it is not possible to run the Christmas Market this year. We are currently considering offering a virtual craft market on the Parish Council website. Hopefully more on this next month.

Kimpton Surgery

We have made representation to Bridge Cottage Surgery to provide flu vaccinations at the Memorial Hall. Unfortunately, the surgery felt unable to offer this facility but they have offered to visit homes of vulnerable patients.

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From page 8 We also appreciate that some members of the community may have difficulty visiting a surgery or pharmacy outside of the village to have their injection administered. 'Kimpton Cares' volunteers are offering to drive people to their appointment. If you need assistance contact 07745 903539 (8am to 8pm with answerphone outside these hour) or email kimptoncares@gmail.com. We also note concerns that the surgery has now been closed for 6 months since the start of the Covid outbreak and we are taking this matter up with the practice manager to establish the plans for future reopening.

The White Horse.

Following the request from the 'Save Our White Horse' community group, the Parish Council applied to NHDC to renew the building's status as an Asset of Community Value. After due consideration NHDC have confirmed agreement with this request and the ACV has been extended for a further 5 years. Separate discussions have taken place with the current building owner and we are led to expect a planning submission to be made this autumn.

Public Rights of Way

After 8 years leading the council and community's interests with respect to Rights of Way, Bob Malcolm is taking a step back. I would very much like to thank Bob for his diligence and determination that has helped to ensure that so many of our local footpaths and bridleways are easily accessible to the community. A great deal of effort has been placed in liaising with Hertfordshire County Council and monitoring the maintenance work of their contractors.

Bob's latest report follows below. I am glad to say that Jackie Worboys has kindly offered to support the council in helping to identify areas that need attention in the future. *Neil Burns*

Kimpton Public Rights of Way

Mostly, the HCC's maintenance contractor's 'autumn cut' was 'good enough'. I've tried to address some of the shortcomings and reported the nature of the problems to HCC so that, I hope, the contractors will do a better job in future.

I am sorry that we have not been able to fix all the problems that we know about quickly. Those we can deal with ourselves, within the parish, usually get fixed - eventually, often with the help of the BWP. Some, though, absolutely require the intervention of the county council and some of those have been around for a very long time. We can only keep pointing them out to the Rights of Way team in HCC.

After eight years, I have now left the Rights of Way Working Party. I thank all those who have helped – other members of the working party, all those who have reported concerns they have noticed as they have been out and about in the parish, the Bench Working Party for support in fixing some of the things, members of the parish council itself for their support and encouragement, and particularly Carina Helmn. I will continue to support the working party and the council as much as I can.

It seems that there is a new system for reporting faults to rights of way to HCC. The rights of way section of their web site is well-hidden so go to HCC itself (www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/) and search for 'rights of way'. Then you will see an option to report a fault. You might also try Kimpton's Access Officer, Andrew Burton (andrew.burton@hertfordshire.gov.uk). If you copy me in then I will continue to maintain a list for the working party until someone else takes it over.

Bob Malcolm
bobm@ideo.co.uk

visit the village website kimptonvillage.com

Please can you help us?

I've been at St Peter & St Paul's Church Kimpton and at St Lawrence's Ayot St Lawrence for a whole 18 months now, (btw these two churches are joined in what is called a 'joint benefice—and Rev'd Linda Williams looks after both churches), and I'd like to ask you all to take a moment to answer three questions about your particular village church.

What do you like (or value) about your village church?

What would you like to see change (or happen) at your village church?

What do you think your village church will be like in five years' time in 2025?

Feel free, don't hold back, tell us what you think—even if you don't ever go in or don't have a faith.

Your answers about your village church will help us know where we are now, help to plan to meet your needs and look forward to the future.

You can write to 11 High Street, email lindalpwilliams@hotmail.co.uk or telephone/speak to me 01438 833348.

Christmas Art Competition for young people

Christmas is a coming, and I have a competition for children and young people of all ages. There will be prizes for winners in each age category.

All you need to do is make a Christmas picture which shows your favourite part of the Nativity story—the story of Jesus Christ's coming into the world. You can choose any part of the story.

Look in the Bible stories of: Matthew, chapter 1 verses 18 to chapter 2

Luke's story, Chapter 1, verses 26 to 56 and chapter 2 verses 1 to 20.

You can draw, paint, chalk, pastel, print, lino cut, collage or something else.

Keep to A4 size. Write your name, age and address on the back of your masterpiece.

Leave your entries in my porch at 11 High Street, Kimpton.

Last date for entries to the competition is Saturday 19th December 2020.

WATCH THIS SPACE

Some things to look forward to!

Rumour has it there's going to be lots of artfully carved pumpkins to see around Kimpton this October. But watch out for Christmas stained glass windows this Advent and Christmas too. It would be great to have as many people as possible join in and decorate their front street side windows for Christmas 2020. Watch this space and the village Facebook page/church website page for further info.

Rev'd Linda Williams

The NOISE goes on!



It is a source of considerable satisfaction that, in a year when things have been cancelled here, there and everywhere, the Church was still able to put on the NOISE! Project.

It's actually the tenth anniversary of our great day of community help and

it has now grown into a fully established event. Now, nobody asks what on earth it is. Everyone knows about the NOISE!

Of course, with all the restrictions and anxieties, we had to do things a little differently. We weren't able to host any food, so no bacon butties to greet the volunteers at 8am! We couldn't even have the barbecue in the evening with the statutory water fight to finish off whatever energy was left!

Nevertheless, we had 40 volunteers, each working in their own 'bubbles' to tackle the 24 tasks that sorted out the needs of residents throughout the village. We had two (rather than three) acts of worship, to start the proceedings and to finish them off. Instead of being in the church, we were socially-distanced in the churchyard and Linda used all her powers of voice projection to ask God's blessing on our endeavours.

And He DID bless us! We had brilliant weather, we had excellent team spirit and we all came away from the day uplifted and invigorated. It'll take more than a pandemic to keep us down!

And we are already planning for next year – keep Saturday 10th July 2021 free. Maybe YOU could join in our wonderful team of volunteers!

Andy and Juliet Morton

The Corner Stores receives Heroes of Hertfordshire award

The Heroes of Hertfordshire award was actually given to Sanjay and Anita Kumar but they are accepting it on behalf of the Corner Stores and its staff: Ailsa Bossley, Sarah Pike, Sandeep and Rohan Kumar, Doreen Huddle and Marion Blake.

Photo: Juliet Morton





Community Art ALIVE! was conceived in early lockdown as a way of bringing people together with a creative project that would be appropriate for Covid times. The end result featured over 60 Kimpton artists spanning over 70 years in age! The Grand Unveiling took place on September 5th, and it has been on display at the Corner Stores throughout the month.

It's a marvellous piece of joint art! Once I had created and printed the overall design (with

necessary permissions*) I cut the A3 poster into 100 pieces and invited Kimpton to jump in!

Each participant had to scale up their tiny mini-tile (4x6cm) to the specified larger tile size (16x24cm), and then paint it, matching colours and proportions to their best ability. No-one apart



from me knew what the overall design was going to be; no-one knew even how their piece would align with their neighbour's! I love how parts of the birds, insects, flowers, and butterflies are on multiple tiles – which means they were painted by multiple contributors – and each with slightly different interpretations of colour and texture. But stand back and you see the beautiful whole.

We belong together in this

community, and for many of us in these times this seems to be true in a somehow more urgent and essential way. And perhaps it is good to recognise that to create such brightness, beauty and wholeness we simply need each other.



Everything comes alive in Kimpton: YES, that is our experience!

If you have another artsy community idea that we could exhibit using the frame, please let me know. It would be wonderful to have a new wave of creativity taking over the heart of Kimpton!

Particular thanks to Bob and Mick/ Bench Working Party for the exhibition frame, and to Artscape Harpenden for sponsoring us with paper supplies/ lamination. Thanks to the many villagers who took part and supported the project

in many ways. Thanks too to Country Life magazine for inspiring and for reporting on the project.

Anna Bosatta

(*Alan Baker, artist; Meraki Design Studios, poster design)



At this time of the year, we are normally starting to plan the next year's festival and deciding on the donations we are going to make from the this year's profits. Well some things don't change and I am pleased to say that Kimpton Pre-School, the local hospices and the Herts & Essex Air Ambulance will all benefit from the generosity of those who donated to our Virgin Money page. Thank you very much.

We have decided to postpone our AGM and kick off meeting for the 2021 festival until either the end of November or early December as ideally, we don't want to have to do it virtually. However, at the moment it's looking unlikely that we will be able to hold an actual meeting but as the rules are forever changing, who knows!

I am hopeful that we will be able to do something next year even, if it means changing the venue and format of some of the events. I'm sure everyone would enjoy getting back to some sort of normality and having some fun in the village. So keep the date in your diaries and your fingers crossed for Friday 30th April to Monday 3rd May 2021.

*Barbara Kazwini, Chairman,
Kimpton May Festival*

Memorial Hall News

Hidden beneath the flyers for socially distanced basket weaving / dogging etc that adorn the village's notice boards the eagle-eyed among you will have spotted a notice announcing the first AGM of the (relatively) recently registered Kimpton Memorial Hall CIO (Charitable Incorporated Organisation). Given the ongoing situation, which will presumably have changed several times in the period between me writing and you reading this piece, the meeting will take place at 7pm on Thursday 15th October over Zoom. It's going to be amazing, incredible in fact, we're going to make Kimpton great again and everyone is invited to join - please

bring a bottle. We are particularly keen to hear from anyone interested in getting involved in any way with the running of the hall - in which case no need to bring a bottle, Jon Marsh says he'll give you one...

It's been a funny old year but, before the lunacy began, the gnomes of the KMH committee had been hard at work with the programme of refurbishment which has been ongoing for the last three years, in which time over £45,000 has been invested in lighting systems, a sound absorption system, heating system, WiFi, curtains, redecoration, a pedestrian path and numerous other improvements - most recently to accommodate the latest regulatory edicts. Many have been involved in the various projects but particular thanks must go to Les Weeks (who worked so hard he had to emigrate to Australia to lie on a beach and recover) and Gordon Glen who has picked up the project mantle with gusto. We are also as ever indebted, frankly who isn't...?, to the Bench Working Party who, under Bob Finch's careful stewardship, simply get stuff done for no more reward than a piece of cake and a cuppa.

The C-thing has provided challenges to us all and, on behalf of the committee, I'd like to thank Barbara Kazwini for the incredible patience and diligence she's shown in liaising with the relevant authorities and wading through the ever-changing regulations to ensure the amenity provided by the hall remains as open and accessible as is possible. Sadly it appears increasingly unlikely that we'll all be partying together in the hall by Christmas but watch this space.....festive, red hazmat suits anyone.....?

Poodle Tip!

Simon Thompson

Magazine deadlines 2020

The deadline for the winter edition is
Monday November 23rd

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

Until circumstances change the magazine will only be available online at
kimptonvillage.com & kimptonchurch.co.uk

Kimpton Cricket Club



Whilst the 2020 cricket season will be remembered in the history books for all the wrong reasons for Kimpton Cricket Club it was, for all the right reasons, an incredible year. With all cricket suspended during the lockdown we held a number of virtual fundraisers over Zoom and successfully raised the money to purchase a mobile net. As the restrictions were gradually lifted the net enabled us to run weekly practice sessions before the resumption of actual matches on Sunday 12th July. Whilst ECB regulations meant the absence of communal teas, no access to the pavilion and liberal application of sanitizer at regular intervals cricket in a recognisable form did resume. Our first game resulted in a thumping win by 113 runs against a nomadic team from north London who we are looking forward to playing again next season...our next fixtures continued in similar vein and, with a formidable mix of youth and experience steering us through a couple of tricky situations, we found ourselves at the end of our penultimate fixture in the unprecedented position of having won a (magnificent) seven out of seven matches. Only Knebworth Blues, our unlikely nemesis in previous seasons, stood between us and the worthy title of the KCC Invincibles. Unbelievably, having at one stage been 26 for 4, we amassed a total of 208 runs and bowled out the defenceless opposition for 117. Please see below, for posterity, a photo of the KCC Invincibles of 2020....the impression age range of 17-77 worthy of note if nothing else...

If our on-field activity was good, off-field was even better. Thanks to the generous support of Kimpton Parish Council, the ECB and KCC members, we have been able to fund and carry out a total renovation of the square that was laid c1990 and to install an artificial wicket. This work will greatly improve our facilities, allow us to run weekly net sessions through the season and to broaden our appeal to a greater number of village residents through t20 and other cricketing formats. The club is in the process of incorporating as a company limited by guarantee and completing a development plan through which we hope, amongst other things, to be able to offer the ECB's all stars and dynamos junior programmes. With this in mind willing volunteers are incredibly welcome and encouraged to get in touch to help nurture Kimpton's next generation of cricketers.

For further details contact Simon Thompson (simon@kimptonpark.co.uk) and/or check out our website <https://kimptoncc.hitscricket.com>

Visit the church website kimptonchurch.co.uk



Royal British Legion, Kimpton Branch

Remembrance Sunday 2020

It is with great regret that I must tell you there will be no Remembrance Sunday parade through the village to church and no formal wreath laying at the War Memorial this year.

This decision has been made after guidance from RBL National and the Local Authority.

There will be a church service with wreath laying, but we are severely restricted with numbers that can attend. We can only have a maximum of 70 people in the church. **Therefore, people wishing to attend will not be able to just turn up and gain entrance to the church. Please do not turn up in the hope that you will be allowed in as it is just not possible.** Initially we are looking at representatives from the various uniformed organisations in the village. Once all these representatives have been accommodated, there will be a ballot for any other spaces.

The wreaths will be later placed at the War Memorial. Of course, anyone wishing to leave their own tribute may do so at any time.

If you wish to enter the ballot, please contact me on kimhills@btinternet.com by 31st October at the latest.

The Branch appreciate that this news will be upsetting to many. We can only hope that we can revert to our normal event next year.

Kim Hills, Chairman, Royal British Legion (Kimpton Branch). 07901 605383

The Boot Over 65's Christmas Party

Unfortunately due to the current circumstances the Boot annual over 65's Christmas party will not be going ahead in January. We hope to be able to do something as soon as we can, maybe a spring bbq if circumstances change.

We would like to say a huge heartfelt thank you to Hayley Vine for her extremely generous contribution to our funds through the masks she has been making in the last few months.

**We wish you all well and hope you stay safe.
Craig and Treena**



Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal 2020 – POP-UP POPPIES

It is with regret that I have to announce that the Poppy Appeal has determined that for understandable reasons, we will not be running a house-to-house collection this year. There will however, be a national online/media campaign which I'm sure will elicit generous funding via text and website contributions.

As in previous years, I am able to set up certain static cash collections points – in the local pubs, the Corner Stores and the Church. In addition, the School will receive its Poppy Kids' Pack so that the children can engage with their fundraising.

I will be receiving limited stock of 2020 pins and VE pins. There will be a supply of traditional poppies at each venue but again limited as I am unable to replenish stock over and above what I held over from last year; but hopefully sufficient for those who would like to buy one.

In addition to the static points, and to provide further opportunity for anyone wishing to obtain a poppy to wear, I have been asked to set up a socially distanced tabletop sale which I have entitled Pop-Up Poppies! This will be sited at the War Memorial throughout Remembrance fortnight for a predetermined hour slot, dependent on the weather and availability of volunteers. Should we not be able to staff Pop-Up Poppies, I aim to state this on Kimpton Village facebook and hang an apology on the War Memorial.

POP-UP POPPIES - AT THE WAR MEMORIAL

DATES – Saturday 24th October – Saturday 7th November

TIME – 11am for one hour



If anyone is unable to leave their home for the purchase of a poppy, please feel free to contact me and I will ensure that we reach you.

01438 832960 burns200@btinternet.com

Sue Burns, Poppy Appeal Organiser, Kimpton



As I began to write this Autumn magazine entry, the schools had just reopened and home workers were being urged to return to their offices, in the hope that the country could get back to some kind of normality.

This was also the aim for Kimpton WI ! Since then, however, the Covid situation has deteriorated, the "rule of six" has been introduced and we are once again in a state of uncertainty. But - we continue to make plans for better times ahead!

In August we did manage to hold a number of mini garden parties. Five of our members kindly hosted gatherings of five or six people for afternoon tea and cakes - initially in their gardens! Unfortunately, although it was one of the hottest days of the year, it was also the start of thunderstorms and heavy rain and so, for the third successive year, "rain stopped play" and we had to retreat indoors! However, this did not spoil the enjoyment and we all really appreciated the actual social contact.

The committee has met twice during the summer months to discuss possible ways forward during the current restrictions. It was hoped that we may be able to hold one of our monthly meetings, with a speaker, in the Memorial Hall in November and also some kind of December festive evening. Although this now seems unlikely, we'll wait and see what happens!

Our other activities have all been suspended since March, although we may be able to resume book group quite soon, albeit in a different format. But, despite the forced inactivity, members have been contacted regularly via email and telephone and birthday posies have been delivered. We have also been kept up to date with emails about local and national WI news and with the monthly news letters.

As we enter the Autumn and Winter months, we have the comfort and reassurance of living in such a supportive community and we look to the future in the hope that things will soon improve and that we can resume our normal activities and reconnect with all our friends.

If you would like to find out more about the Kimpton WI community, please contact our secretary, Liz Haynes on 01438 832500

Chris Bichener

Kimpton Garden Club

We held an informal meeting in September under the trees on the Upper Green to discuss a plan to maintain member's interest during these strange times. To start the ball rolling it was decided to organise a visit later in the month to Aylett's Nursery on the A405 and to join with Wheathampstead Horticulture Society in an October Zoom meeting with a professional speaker

We welcome new members and are particularly keen to attract younger residents who will benefit from the wide pool of knowledge willingly given by our more senior members.

When normal service is resumed we will meet on the first Wednesday in every month in the Memorial Hall Green Room at 8 pm with a programme covering a wide range of interesting speakers usually with colour projection and plants for sale.

Visitors are most welcome, so do come and enjoy convivial company and tea/coffee and biscuits. (£3 fee)

We have a social programme which includes a Garden Party, Christmas Party and Quizzes (all of which are currently on hold).

If you like plants, vegetables and gardens our meetings provide a wealth of interest to share in the company of fellow minded folk and hopefully improve your knowledge of this fascinating subject. You don't need to be a Monty Don or Charlie Dimmock to enjoy the experience!

If you wish to create or modify a garden we can help you with the most cost effective layout/selection and maintenance of plants and propagation techniques.

Meetings are free to members, visitors £3,
Annual Subscription only £15.

Tel. Mary 01582 832110 or Myra 01438 832776 for more information



Unfortunately The Kimpton Players will be unable to stage their pantomime this year and also the 2021 Old Time Music Hall has had to be postponed.

Kimpton Environmentalists: NEW Recycling Apples!

Despite not being able to use the Dacre Rooms, our recycling schemes have been going ahead via boxes in the Church or in Robin's box by her gate or direct to Davina. We continue to collect crisp packets, biscuit and cracker wrappers, and plastic tops from drinks bottles. Please don't fold your crisp packets into natty bows or triangles – we have to open them out again! We have earned about another £30 for the Church Restoration Fund this year. NEW this autumn, we are collecting empty PILL BLISTER PACKS. No pills please! As with the bottle tops, we won't get money for them, but will stop them going to landfill.

And we have recycled spare apples from the village into apple juice. Thanks to generous apple suppliers and pickers we have made nearly 200 bottles. They will be on sale for £3 each with phone -and-collect or free home delivery service for boxes of 6 or more. They make a perfect Christmas present, get yours now.

Davina Malcolm, Kimpton Environmentalists
01438 832309

DON'T THROW IT AWAY!

Kimpton is collecting:



**Save them and put in the marked containers
in the Church or the Dacre Rooms.**

Kimpton Environmentalists will send them to be recycled.

For more info call Robin on: 07979 996406

Find ways to make life that bit easier for you at home. In our new Technology House webpage, you will see gadgets and devices which can help you to stay safe and well.

Simple things like medication reminders could help you to continue to be independent. Systems which can link you to your family or a carer, or even a team of team of trained advisors in a monitoring centre, can give reassurance and help if it's needed.

As well as showing examples of devices you can also find how to get these and technology to suit different conditions.

Visit the Technology House at www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/technologyhouse

Kimpton History Group Project

As with so many things, the Covid pandemic has meant that we have been unable to meet since February. Sadly, it is looking increasingly likely that we won't be able to meet again as we were wont to do, until sometime next year. Obviously we are keeping a close eye on what is happening and as soon as we can, we will contact members with a new programme. We are really looking forward to being able to meet again.

Meantime, members have been invited to help us with finding out more about the history of our own village. However if you are not a member and yet would like to take part and help us, we would be very grateful.

Our idea is that we try to compile the history of some of our own houses and possibly the street on which it is situated.

Could you help us by answering any of the following suggested questions:

1. How long have you lived in your house?
2. Has it changed much since you have lived there?
3. Have you any photographs of it during any of its history? Dated if possible.
(These can be scanned and returned to you, or email to us)
4. Could you share any memories linked to the house or street
5. Do you know any of the history of your house or street you could share?

We hope to be able to use the information for future meetings and our May Festival Exhibition. We would really value the help of anyone in the parish with this project, whether you are a member or not. It will give you something to do in the dark winter nights!

Please send information to Juliet Morton julietmorton@aol.com or John Pollington jandv@pollington10.plus.com

British Council International School Award success for Kimpton Primary School

Kimpton Primary school in Kimpton village has been awarded Foundation level of the British Council's prestigious International School Award in recognition of its work to bring the world into the classroom.

The International School Award celebrates the achievements of schools that do exceptional work in international education. Fostering an international dimension in the curriculum is at the heart of the British Council's work with schools, so that young people gain the cultural understanding and skills they need for life and work in today's world.

On hearing the news that Kimpton School had achieved Foundation level of the award, head teacher, Tracy Clements said: "All of the staff at Kimpton Primary value our creative curriculum and understand the importance of catering for the needs of the pupils who attend our school. Being in a village can sometimes mean that our children's experiences are limited with regards to different cultures, religions, and countries. By placing an importance on the attributes of the International Award, we aim to broaden our pupil's knowledge and understanding whilst bringing their learning to life. Mrs Stagg has only been at a school for a year but has already brought our humanities curriculum to life and this award highlights the work which has gone into our Geography curriculum. There are already plans to develop this area further and apply for the next award."



It is really important that people do not neglect their general health during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. At the moment it can be hard to know what to do if you're unwell but it is vital to get medical help if you need it.

Bridge Cottage Surgery are still carrying out face to face appointments when needed following an initial telephone consultation. You will be asked by the reception team to give a brief description of the nature of the issue you wish to discuss, which will help them book the right person in the right time frame. Patients are asked to call at 8am for a morning call back and 12noon for an afternoon one. If the clinician decides you need to be seen face to face, they will arrange to see you. Many issues can be dealt with quickly and safely over the phone, saving you an unnecessary trip to the surgery and reducing the risk of spreading Covid-19 to you and the Surgery staff.

Advanced booking is available with Bridge Cottage Surgery nurses with Face to face appointments for baby immunisations, blood pressure checks, B12 injections, coil checks, dressings, ear syringing, hormone injections, pneumonia vaccinations, shingles vaccinations and smear tests.

During this time do not put off having any immunisations or screenings that you are eligible for. Bridge Cottage is operating in a COVID safe manner.

If you are unwell or need assistance then contact the surgery on 01438 715044 or use the eConsult service (accessible <https://www.bridgecottagesurgery.nhs.uk>) Bridge Cottage Surgery is open for patients to be able to collect any relevant paperwork that has been instructed by a clinician. They ask that patients continue to drop any samples or paperwork via the black front door letter box rather than bringing to the reception desk and to telephone the Surgery instead of entering the building. This will protect both patients and staff of Bridge Cottage Surgery against unnecessary exposure to the virus.

If you do have an appointment please do not attend if you, or anyone you have had close contact with, develops a continuous cough, a high temperature or loss of taste or smell.

This information was accurate as of 28th September 2020.

If you would like further information about the Bridge Cottage Surgery Patient Participation Group please email ppgbridgecottage@gmail.com

Parish Magazine Deadline
Winter Edition
Monday November 23rd

Light up Kimpton in December



Calling Crafters, Artists and 'Have a goers'
Create a piece of 'Stained glass' for your window or a Lantern for:

Light up Kimpton in December!



The Vision! Imagine the dark days of December lit by home designed stained glass windows and / or lanterns, placed in your windows or gardens.

Easy to make yet you can design what you like.

We used tissue paper, black paper, Quality Street wrappers, plastic bottles, jam jars, material with a simple print on it and a few small battery operated lights.

We will put up some ideas in Church on October 24th and we will be in the Church that morning should you want to discuss ideas or if you would like to chat about any aspect of the project.

We would love you to join in.

*Sue Davies and
Juliet Morton*

Bim Afolami MP on Mental Health

This weekend, many organisations and individuals will be involved in activities to highlight the 2020 Mental Health Day. We know that one in four people will experience a mental health issue of some kind each year in the UK. Yet, many people still feel uncomfortable talking about this or seeking help. We must challenge the stigma and ensure that psychological wellbeing is seen as being equally important as good physical health.

This year the focus is on mental health for all. This is more important than it has ever been as we recover from the unprecedented impact of COVID-19 on the mental health of millions. A recent survey by the Office for National Statistics shows that the number of adults in Britain with depression has doubled during the pandemic. As the local MP, I have been struck by the number of local people who have struggled after the announcement of the national lockdown in March. Each day my office received correspondence from those who were worried about their jobs or businesses, those who grew lonely in isolation or those who were apprehensive about what was to come next and what this pandemic meant for their future.

Throughout the crisis local communities have come together to help the most vulnerable during their time of need. Groups like Harpenden Cares have been delivering food and medical supplies, providing company to lonely community members through daily phone calls, and going above and beyond to help people at their time of need. As a patron of organisations, including Tilehouse and Grit, that offer local mental health support, I have seen first-hand the great work being done.

As we adapt to our new normal over the next few months, it will be crucial that we continue to support our friends, family members, and neighbours who may be facing hardship or distress. My focus over the next few months is to ensure that local people, businesses and our community have all the support they need.

If you need my support at this difficult time, please do get in touch with my office at bim.afolami.mp@parliament.uk.



Local Crime and Safer Neighbourhood Policing

I am pleased to say that one piece of good news during these strange times is that it has been relatively peaceful crime-wise in the parish since the last report.

Regrettably though there are some serious concerns with a new crop of Scams, more details below.

In terms of locally generated crime if you are a victim or a witness of an incident which you feel is serious enough, do report it immediately to Hitchin Police Station using 101 and ask for a Crime No.

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

Keyless Vehicle Theft

Still a worrying modus operandi where villains target valuable cars and use a booster device to remotely steal your key, activate locks and start the engine. Contact your dealer for advice or store the key in a dedicated security pouch, metal box or wrapped in foil to shield it from any unwanted signal. Then store this as far from the parked car as possible.

On some cars it is possible to switch the key signal to "off" so check the manual or ask the dealer.

For additional security you could also fit your car with an old fashioned steering wheel lock (e.g, Krooklock) and/or an approved tracking device, which will help police recover a stolen vehicle.

Vehicle and Contents Theft

Countywide there has been a marked increase in these crimes so always lock your car and set the alarm and don't leave any valuables, Satnavs or Dash Cams on display. There's also been an increase of thefts of catalytic converters. Fit secure CCTV cameras where possible.

Protect your money

Some residents are still being conned by scams allowing villains access to their Bank details, either by telephone or email, so don't give any personal or bank information to an unsolicited caller. Put the phone down. Fraudsters can also copy your telephone number and control your online banking.

OWL (On line Watch Link)

We would like more of you to join the growing numbers of residents in NHW and OWL and benefit from the receipt of police crime alerts direct by e-mail or telephone. Joining is quite painless by contacting www.owl.co.uk or our Watch Liaison Officer, Verity Soued on wlo@herts.pnn.police.uk.

Scams

The latest innovative three scams involve texts or voice-mails to you from HMRC. Royal Courts of Justice or the Crown Prosecution Service claiming that you owe outstanding miscalculated tax or you were guilty of tax avoidance. It all sounds very convincing and in one case it said that a warrant had been issued for your arrest, unless you paid an amount immediately into a numbered account. Considerable amounts of money are involved if you fall for it.

None of the three HMG organisations mentioned would ever contact you by text so do not be fooled. Delete all calls and inform the police immediately.

Seasonal Security Reminders.

When the lockdown is fully lifted and we can move about more freely and you do leave your property unoccupied for any length of time please secure all windows, doors, garages and sheds. Make the property look 'lived in' by parking a vehicle on the drive if possible and installing timer operated security lights and do please give a neighbour your contact details.

Don't leave any keys within sight of an open letter box. Our free Letter Box Deflector prevents 'peeping toms' having a quick look and manipulating a grabber through the slot. Please let me know if you would like one.

Making life more bearable

Don't forget that you can report anonymously if you witness any incidents of fly tipping, abuse, 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 on line to: herts.police.uk/contact_us.aspx.

With best wishes for a peaceful and enjoyable autumn if that's possible.

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

The Church in Kimpton

Parish Church

Priest-in-Charge

Rev'd Linda Williams

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

Lay Reader

Andy Morton
01438 832427
adewm@aol.com

Church Wardens

Jenny Kelly
07818 613143
genkel@btinternet.com

Lynda Harvey
07487 413901
lynda.a.harvey@hotmail.com

Pastoral Care Co-ordinator

Liz Jamieson
01438 832858
liz@jamieson21.plus.com

Baptist Church

Perry Green at Peters Green

Minister

Rev Andrew Gale
01582 422635

Branch Leader

Miss Pam Greener

Your Parish Magazine

Due to the current situation this edition of the Parish Magazine is only available online. Please feel free to print it and pass it on to those not online.

Police Telephone Numbers

Urgent 999 Non urgent 101

Hitchin Safer Neighbourhood Team

Sergeant Jonathan Vine
jonathan.vine@herts.pnn.police.uk

Ward Constable Gary Pugsley
gary.pugsley@herts.pnn.police.uk

PCSO Heather Burrows
heather.burrows@herts.pnn.police.uk

Contact any officer by telephone on 01707 354192
(automated system)

Police and Crime Commissioner

David Lloyd
commissioner@herts.pnn.police.uk

Parish Magazine

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Parish Council

Cllr Neil Burns (Chairman)
Cllr Ian Corbett
Cllr Alex Firth
Cllr Lewis Hawke
Cllr Jon Marsh
Cllr Sue O'Brien
Cllr Carly Procter
Cllr David Reavell

Parish Clerk

Carina Helm
Memorial Hall
clerk@kimptonpc.org.uk
01438 832573

North Herts District Councillor

Cllr John Bishop john.bishop@north-herts.gov.uk

County Councillor

Cllr Richard Thake richard.thake@hertscc.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 friendly team, based at Linden Lodge in the grounds of Kimpton Primary School, offers sessional care for children aged two to five years old.

We are open during term time, Monday to Friday. Our morning sessions run from 8.50am to 11.50am and Lunch Clubs from 11.50am to 1.20pm. We now also offer 30 hours childcare, with afternoon sessions running from 1.20pm to 3.05pm, where there is enough interest. For more details, please contact Shahnaz Vayani, Preschool Manager, on 01438 833936 or email communications@kimpton-preschool.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