

Bench Working Party Report

Parish Council

We raised up the Xmas lights on the trees at the west end of the village and left them secured (we hope) so they will last there until next December. We removed the Xmas lights at The School, Church Lane and on The Green. We took the old artificial grass from the football steps and disposed of it in the Memorial Hall skip

Memorial Hall

We took an enormous number of children's toys out from under the stage. We kept some back in case a nursery was formed again, donated some of the others to the Kimpton Church, All Saints Harpenden Church, the Kimpton preschool, Kimpton Nursery, the two Tiny Tots groups that meet in the Dacre Rooms and the Green Room. Some went to the Garden House Hospice, after we offered them to the village residents. Some went in a skip hired for the purpose. We replaced some broken wheels on the chair trolleys.

We set out the new indoor bowls mat and configured it to try to keep the "woods" from damaging the floor. The new coffee and bowls mornings have started on a Tuesday and we help with that. Open to all, not just Bowls Club events.

Church and Churchyard

We removed some furniture from the west end of the church (by the book swap area) and exposed the woodwork underneath which was found to be damp. We removed the carpet covering the damp area. More work to be done.

We reset some sunken graves and some headstones that were loose. We tried to secure the two new benches on the South wall by sinking straps in the ground but found that the drain rodding holes would be difficult to use, so we placed the straps loosely in the stones and hope people would be deterred from stealing the benches.

Community

We removed twig and branch growth from a number of footpath signs and reset some signs that had become twisted so they showed the wrong direction. For the Kimpton Players we placed the Music Hall banners at each end of the High Street.

At Ayot Church we reset three flagstones, repaired two choir pews, and fixed into position a ventilation grill (for the coal cellar). We did a "wobble tests" on the graves in the churchyard there and found some that need fixing more firmly.

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