

Kimpton Parish Magazine

Winter 2023

Number 276



Photo: Andy Wright

The Editor, production and delivery teams wish everyone a joyful Christmas and happy and healthy 2024



A Team Effort

As we head towards the busiest time for the Church – Christmas – with its Christingle, Carol Service, Nativity Play and Midnight Mass, I find myself fairly apprehensive. With no Parish Priest to take the strain, it is down to the team to make sure that everything goes smoothly.

And what a team we have got – two excellent Church Wardens, a group of highly talented and experienced people (many of whom have been Churchwardens before), and lots of support from our regular congregation. It is heart-warming to see how well everyone is pulling together.

So now we are launched on an exciting programme of events to celebrate our Saviour's birth. There is a lot to do, but, with goodwill and energy, we can accomplish it.

What a contrast, then, to the events of the first Christmas - a young man and his heavily pregnant wife having to make a long and hazardous journey in order to register for their taxes, only to find that there was nowhere to stay to allow the woman to give birth except a cattle shed!

They had to rely on their own resources and on the kindness of strangers. And then, like the victims of so many tyrannical governments, they had to flee to a foreign country to avoid persecution.

It puts any troubles we have into a different perspective, doesn't it! God's Son could hardly have had a worse start in life if he had been born in modern-day Gaza or Ukraine.

So perhaps, this Christmas, amid the joy, the merry-making and the expensive presents, we can remember those whose days will be spent in fear and loneliness, in pain and in sorrow in so many parts of the world. As was the case for Jesus and his family.

**May the joy of the angels,
the eagerness of the shepherds,
the perseverance of the wise men,
the obedience of Joseph and Mary,
and the peace of the Christ child
be yours this Christmas.**

Andy Morton



Services over Christmas

Sunday 10th December
9.30am Christingle Service

Tuesday 12th December
7.30pm Carols at The Boot

Saturday 16th December – Sat 6th January
Festival of Angels in Church

Sunday 17th December
9.30am Holy Communion
4.00pm Ayot Carol Service
6.30pm Kimpton Carol Service

Sunday 24th December Christmas Eve
9.30am Parish Worship
3.00pm Crib Service and Nativity Play
11.30pm Midnight Mass

Monday 25th December Christmas Day
10.00am Family Christmas Worship



We are sad to hear of the death of Marion Minchinton.

For many years, Marion and husband Paul with their daughters Clare and Margaret, were key members of our church congregation. Paul played the organ, while Marion was a server and choir member, and also acted as a relief organist.

Marion is pictured here on the right of the front row with other choir members. The picture was taken in Angermünde Church on one of the early visits to our Twin Parishes in Germany.



‘Angels from the Realms of Glory’



I can remember at least two occasions when I have been saved by angels. They didn't have wings or halos, but they arrived in the nick of time to help way beyond what might have been expected and saved us from a very tricky situation.

I imagine you have had the same experience.

Whether we call them Guardian Angels or not is immaterial. Whether they were heaven-sent is a matter of faith. But we were in a pickle and they suddenly appeared to help. That's angels, in my book!

In the Bible, angels are also God's messengers, telling news of Jesus' birth or warning the Wise Men not to go back to Herod. There are lots of references to beings who give god's messages to people, and I can also think of times when I feel I have been on the receiving end of that myself – moments of realisation, or warning.

Our FESTIVAL OF ANGELS in the Church this Christmas (Dec 16th – Jan 6th) is an opportunity for anyone to make a display on the theme of angels. Maybe they will be figures in white with wings and a halo. Maybe they will be stories or photos of times when someone has gone above and beyond to help you when times have been tough.

Whether you make a display or not, I hope that you will come along to see the ideas that people have illustrated with a picture, a poem, a story, a statue or whatever way they have found to express the experience of angels. It should be inspiring!

Andy Morton

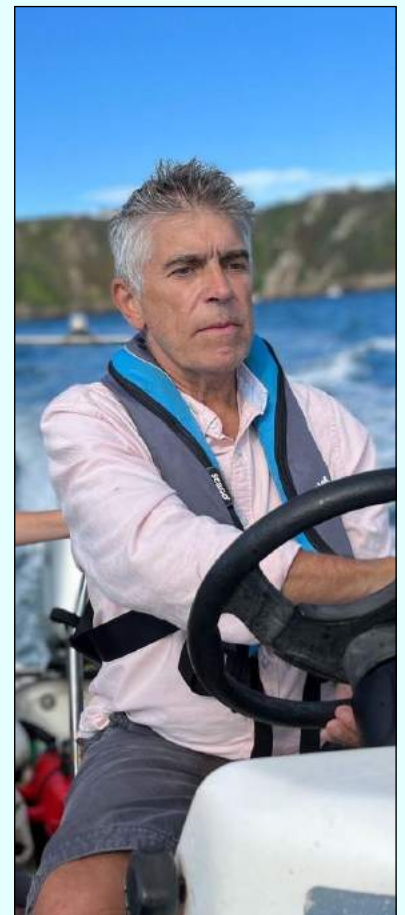


Kimpton has said its farewell to Tim Edwards who died in November.

Tim's wife, Lorry, said that Tim was "an incredible, kind man and had a 'special generosity of time' for people"

His love of Kimpton was deep and his service to the village through the years spanned many activities such as the Art Show, Artist, Musician, Memorial Hall, Litter Pick, Noise Project, Environmentalists and supporting Ukranian Refugees—all so important to him.

Tim would like us to support a dear friend's charity with donations to care2share.org.uk



Kimpton History Group

Wednesday 17th January 2024, at 8 pm in the Green Room

“James Bond – Fact or Fiction”

Ian Fleming famously never divulged the inspiration for James Bond though he did provide a very detailed backstory. Warren Phillips talk seeks to solve the mystery, was James Bond a creation from a very imaginative mind, elements of real adventurers and known spies or was there just one person who was the real James Bond?

Wednesday 14th February, at 8 pm in the Green Room

AGM and “The History of Hertfordshire”

An archive film following the development of Hertfordshire through the ages, Please note this is a **Members only** evening.

Wednesday 20th March, at 8 pm in the Green Room

“Women at work during the First World War”

Alex Amos from Luton Hoo Estate, will give a talk on the work that women did there during the First World War.

Visitors or guests are welcome to attend any of our talks for a small charge of £3, which includes tea/coffee. For more information about the Group, please contact Juliet Morton 01438 832427.

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

Kimpton

1st , 3rd & 5th Sundays in the month
9.30am Holy Communion
2nd Sunday 8am Holy Communion,
9.30 Worship
4th Sunday 9.30 Worship

Commemorate an anniversary?

The Church Flower Arrangers can put a special flower arrangement in the church for anyone who would like to remember a special anniversary or occasion. Your donation will cover the cost of the flower arrangement and a small profit for the Flower Fund. If this idea appeals to you, please contact me at jandv@pollington10.plus.com or 01438 832249 with your requirements and we will do our best to fulfill your wishes. *Valerie Pollington*

Prayer Corner

If you would like to have a few moments of prayer or contemplation, please feel free to come to our Prayer Corner in the Church. There is an opportunity to light a candle for a loved one and sit for a while to think about them and perhaps offer a prayer.

Instead of the Prayer Board, we have a book, where you are invited to write your prayer requests, this will be dated monthly so that there is a permanent record. The Church is open every day and all are welcome to come and experience the peace of our Prayer Corner and beautiful Church.

Grateful Thanks

The Editor and Production Team would like to acknowledge with thanks, grants received from the Kimpton Parish Council and Kimpton May Festival Committee.

From the registers

Burials, Interments and Cremations

21 st September	Molly Bigg
28 th September	Alasdair McDonald
2 nd October	Diana (Di) King



When: The construction works will start at the beginning of December with completion due by mid-March 2024.

What: Our refurbished pavilion will offer a changing room for sport users of the Recreation Ground, a fitness space, a unique coffee shop and toilets ready for public use at Kimpton May Festival and other fundraising events.

Why: With all that we will have on offer we hope that there will be something of benefit for everyone.

Kimpton Parish Council has been working closely with the contractors and our partners to bring this vision to life. Hear what they have to say:

Project Contractors – Stellar Developments and Interior Services

“Stellar is a family-run business. Collectively, we hold over 50 years of experience in our industry that we share with customers on a daily basis.

We are proud to say we possess an excellent customer retention rate and loyal customer base, and that many of our clients stay with us for a number of years to work on projects of varying scales. Our ethos is simple – we strive to deliver high-quality, honest work whilst maintaining an unfaltering level of customer service.

SDL Construction & Interiors is committed to equal opportunities, both in employment and service delivery. We celebrate diversity and inclusion in the workplace and do not believe in discrimination against others of any kind – whether related to gender identity, age, race, religion, political views, sexuality, or other beliefs”

Fitness Studio – Pippa Robson, imPROvfit Coaching

“Empowering Kimpton: Building a Healthier Village Together Since June 2021, I have had the privilege of leading the imPROvfit Together circuit training sessions in Kimpton. Additionally, I have been working closely with Personal Training clients at the Recreation Ground Pavilion. Now, with the refurbishment of the pavilion imminent, my aim is to expand the reach of my exercise classes and training sessions. This expansion is geared toward accommodating a diverse group of individuals, all striving to enhance their health and fitness.

I firmly believe that exercise should be accessible to everyone, regardless of age or fitness level. My commitment lies in creating a nurturing and motivational environment, catering to beginners as well as those already active in their fitness journey.

During the refurbishment period, I will continue to offer Personal Training services in Kimpton. Our Outdoor Circuit Training sessions will continue at their usual winter location on the Kimpton School Playground. We eagerly anticipate our return to the Recreation Ground and Pavilion in the Spring, ready to resume our fitness endeavours in a revitalized space.

I'm looking forward to embarking on this journey to create a healthier, happier Kimpton village!”
(see article on page 14)

Coffee shop – Catherine and John Disson

“We very are excited to be opening a new coffee shop in the beautiful village of Kimpton!



Some of you may remember us from The Wood Store - our small outdoor café in Gustard Wood. We had many visitors from Kimpton, and we'd love to see you at our new spot. We hope to create a warm, inspiring and friendly place to visit, where you can enjoy great coffee and quality ingredients whilst catching up with friends”

from page 6 **Funding**

We are extremely grateful to external funding bodies who are supporting Kimpton with the pavilion refurbishment and have contributed 60% of project costs.

Our thanks to the Community Ownership Fund from Central Government, National Lottery Community Fund, Hertfordshire County Council Locality Scheme and North Hertfordshire Council Community Grant Scheme.



An Update from Cllr Ralph Muncer

There has been much talk in the media about the policy of 'levelling up', but what exactly is it all about? In short, it's about improving opportunities for individuals and supporting communities up and down the country.

That's why our local MP, Bim Afolami and I are delighted the Government has awarded our Parish Council with a grant of £62,000 towards the costs of refurbishing the Recreation Ground Pavilion, enabling it to be transformed into a community facility fit for the future.

But that's not the only investment from Government our communities will benefit from, as I'm pleased to report Hertfordshire County Council have been allocated nearly £88 million to improve our county's roads. This means we'll be able to fix more potholes across the County and I'll work to ensure the roads you and I use everyday benefit from this funding.

While the Public Inquiry into the Expansion of Luton Airport is currently ongoing, unfortunately the Airport has been given the green light to increase passenger numbers from 18 million to 19 million per annum. Although this is disappointing, I will continue to oppose the unnecessary and unsustainable expansion of the Airport which will have a wholly negative impact on our community.

A number of residents have contacted me about the impact of the District Council boundary changes and therefore, I hope the information below clarifies the situation.

In December 2021 Council decided it should move to all-out elections as opposed to the current model of elections by thirds. This means that from 2024 North Hertfordshire District elections will be held every 4 years, with Councillors elected for a 4-year term.

A Boundary Review has also taken place, the recommendations of which have now been approved by Parliament. As a result, 'Codicote and Kimpton' will form a single ward, represented by two Councillors on the District Council. This means on Thursday 2 May 2024, you will be voting for two Councillors as opposed to one. Finally, I would like to wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and as ever, if you need any assistance please get in touch.

Early Years Education – The foundation for all learning

The Early Years at Kimpton Primary School comprise our Reception and Nursery classes. Both follow the statutory framework for the early years foundation stage, which has seven areas of learning and development:

- Communication and language
- Personal, social and emotional development
- Physical development
- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the world
- Expressive arts and design

From the term after their third birthday, all children are entitled to 15 hours' funded education – parents can use this in any early years setting; childminders, day care, preschools and nursery classes or schools.

Why choose a nursery class?

Research shows that children accessing quality nursery education are given a head start to lifelong learning through carefully planned structured learning and child-initiated learning, with quality interactions from adults, and we therefore believe there are many advantages to choosing a nursery class in a school.

- Teacher-led education, supported by qualified early years practitioners, meaning the adults nurturing your children are specialists who know how to support them to reach their developmental goals.
- Builds confidence and independence.
- Develops social skills, with peers and slightly older children.
- Quality environment and resources, offering opportunities to explore many activities both indoors and out.
- Prepares children for school – although the Nursery children have their own classroom, they share the outdoor space with the Reception children, so move seamlessly into Reception when it is time for them to start school.

The Kimpton offer

We have a 26-place nursery and our core offer is from 8.45 – 11.45 am each weekday. However, working parents who are eligible for 30 funded hours can extend the day to 2.45pm. We are also able to accommodate fee paying pupils for lunchtime or afternoon session. In addition, children can stay for the period from 2.45 – 3.15pm on a paid basis, so that pick up coincides with any school age siblings.

New for January 2024

From January, children will be able to start with us from the date of their 3rd birthday. We hope this will be a useful service for parents who might otherwise have enrolled with the Kimpton Preschool. Do get in touch if you would like more information about this.

To apply for a place, head to the [Admissions](#) page on our school website for more information, and – with thanks to Elizabeth Keates – do take a look at the lovely new photos on every page as well as our brand new [Welcome Video](#).





Victor and Albert - LIVE!

Local musical comedians Victor and Albert return to Kimpton Memorial Hall on **27 January 2024** with a new show! They will dazzle you with an evening of comedy, games, music, mayhem and a little magic! Good old-fashioned entertainment brought kicking and screaming into the modern age. After Christmas, it may be just what you need to blow away the cobwebs and set you up for a great 2024!

Get your tickets now from victorandalbert.com

"I don't think I've laughed so much - in a long time! They were absolutely fantastic
Michaela Wylde, BBC Radio Shropshire

"Thank you for such a superb evening last night. I think that the repeated encore calls showed you how much everyone enjoyed it. A real treat to spend the evening laughing with abandon!"
Lisa, Frieth, Bucks



It always seems very odd to be writing about May Festival with Christmas just around the corner but the planning for the 58th event has already started. If it wasn't for the pandemic we would be celebrating 60 years of May Festivals next year!

However, before getting on to the subject of the 2024 event – what did we do with the money raised in 2023?

The amount raised this year was an amazing £27,408 which includes £6,635 retained by the various groups who put on events and then gave the May Festival 50% of their profits. Therefore, with approximately £8,000 of expenses (it costs a lot to put on the festival), we are able to distribute approximately £12,700 to local groups and charities. This year's beneficiaries are:

Kimpton Parish Church Restoration Trust, Kimpton School, Kimpton Pre-School, Kimpton Players, Codicote Food Bank (supports Kimpton families), Kimpton Bowls Club, Kimpton Guides, Brownies & Rainbows, Kimpton Scout Group, Kimpton Garden Club, Kimpton Parish Magazine, The Willow Foundation, Herts Air Ambulance, Garden House & Isabel Hospices and Keech Hospice Care.

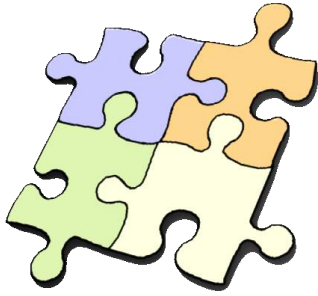
As you can see, we are able to help and support a great many people thanks to the generosity and hard work of the residents of this village & beyond.

Now we look forward to the next Kimpton May Festival which will run from the evening of **Friday 3rd to Monday 6th May 2024.**

The theme will be "The Magic of Musicals" so now is the time to get your thinking caps on and come up with ideas for floats for the procession, entries for the fancy dress competition, what you might do for Kimpton Entertains or even the Dog Show! We look forward to seeing some imaginative interpretations of the theme.

However, for the May Festival to be a success and enjoyable for all, the Purple Army needs help to organise and run the myriad of events. Some of the committee members and volunteers have done their bit and it's time for some new blood and some new ideas so if you would like to get involved in any way or find out a bit more, please get in touch.

*Thank you. Barbara Kazwini, Chairman,
Contact us at info@kimptonmayfestival.co.uk*



Jigsaw Swap

We are so pleased that the jigsaws are proving popular.

In future, on completion, please would you write on the label the date you

did it. This is helpful as we then know which puzzles are popular.

Please ensure all pieces are in a sealed plastic bag and if possible the boxes have an elastic bag round them. Please do not tape them closed. Please dispose of any jigsaws that have pieces missing as we don't want them back.

Stocks of children's puzzles are again low so if you have any we would welcome them.

If we have surplus puzzles we tend to donate them to local charity shops

Lastly, we would welcome suggestions as to how we could improve the Jigsaw Swap.

Have a peaceful puzzling Christmas.

Margaret Smith, 01438 832749

Robin Riley, 07979 996406

Come along for a
Crafty Cuppa
 in the
Dacre Rooms
 on
3rd Monday of every month
from 1-3pm
 Bring along a craft or project,
 share ideas and skills,
 help each other out
 or
 just pop along for tea or coffee
 and a friendly chat....
Costs £3 per session
 Just turn up or contact:
 Angela Dyke 07788651563
 Julie Brown 01438 833714

theWI INSPIRING WOMEN

Our members' meeting on November 8th was a very interesting and informative talk on Indochina by Joy Hall.

This covered a holiday Jill had spent in Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos; places which were vividly brought to life with slides and videos.

Now, as I write, Christmas is fast approaching. Next weekend Kimpton Church and Church House will again house stalls for the Christmas Market and WI members will soon (we hope!) be preparing delicious cakes for our stall in Church House, where we aim to raise some much needed funds.

Our Christmas members' meeting, on 13th December, entitled "Songs of Nostalgia," will have a Christmas theme and will be open to all at a small cost of £4 (plus refreshments) Do join us for an afternoon of song and celebration - 2pm in the Memorial Hall.

Our end of year get together will be our Christmas lunch at The Boot on December 15th. This is always a fun occasion with good food and company.

We are delighted that a number of new members have recently joined our ranks and we hope that this interest will continue in the New Year so that we can continue as a thriving organisation.

Several new non WI members have also joined our Friday afternoon table tennis sessions in the Green Room. These start at 2pm, at a cost of £3 per session, for an hour and a half of moderate exercise and a lot of laughs!

If you would like to find out more about us, you can contact the number below or come along as a visitor to one of our monthly meetings (2nd Wednesday of the month at 2pm), where you will receive a friendly welcome.

Finally, we would like to wish everyone a very happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year.
Chris Bichener (01438 832745)



Funding for Kimpton Pavilion re-development secured – and more wins for our community

When I wrote my last column for the Kimpton Magazine, I told you about the work we were doing to support Kimpton Parish Council's bid for Levelling Up funding to re-develop the pavilion on the Recreation Ground. In this column, I am absolutely delighted to be able to let you know that our efforts have paid off and Kimpton has been awarded £62k in Government funding for this project.

This is great news – and it shows that the Government's Levelling Up agenda really does have a material impact on communities like ours, with this fantastic local community-led project in Kimpton receiving game-changing funding.

And that's only one of a number of wins that we've seen over the past few months. You've told me how important it is to retain Day Travelcards and Ticket Offices are proposals were made to get rid of both. With the support of hundreds of people in our communities, I made representations to Government and to the Mayor of London (in the case of Day Travelcards), emphasising the importance of travelcards and ticket offices to easy, cheap and convenient travel for people in our area.

I am very pleased to be able to report back that our efforts have paid off, with both Day Travelcards and Ticket Offices being saved after the Government intervened.

In the run-up to Remembrance Sunday I also heard from constituents about a Thameslink policy that meant that the Royal British Legion and other charities were being prohibited from using their contactless card machines at local stations. I immediately wrote to Thameslink and they have agreed to change their policy – and I was pleased to hear that poppy sellers (and other charities, including Children in Need) were able to use their card machines to raise extra money for this fantastic cause.

Finally, on a personal note, you may have seen the news that the Prime Minister has asked me to serve as Economic Secretary to the Treasury. This is a really important role looking at a whole range of things, including financial services (a key local employer), regulation, fintech, crypto, and much more. At time of writing, I am getting stuck into my new brief as we look to deliver for people in Hitchin, Harpenden and the villages through the Autumn Statement!

In all my work, I'll continue to look after the interests of Kimpton alongside Cllrs Muncer, Thake and our whole local team. If you need my help on any issue, please do get in touch.

Bim Afolami

Villagers young and old remember the fallen



"They shall not grow old, as we that are left grow old: Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn"

Kimpton Remembered

For the first time in years, it rained on our parade! However, that did not dampen the enthusiasm of everyone who took part in the Remembrance Day parade and the church service. The uniformed organisations were magnificent and were a credit to their Leaders.

Thank you to Julie Smith and the



Guides for the amazing display on the notice board- it really did help raise awareness of the Poppy appeal and I understand started several conversations amongst the youngsters in the village. Thanks also to Keith Dollin - our standard bearer - who represented the branch at the Festival of Remembrance at the Royal Albert Hall. Unfortunately, the BBC chose to edit much of the programme showing the Standard Bearers , but we still managed to get glimpses of him!

Thank you to everyone who participated in a Remembrance event and huge thanks to the Poppy Appeal collectors and organisers. At the time of writing, I do not know how much we raised. The coffee morning was well supported.

Finally, my thanks to Mary Hyde and Jack and Amelie for repainting the stones at the war memorial. (pictured below, also, Guides making poppies)

We had a good attendance at our AGM and Gill Vine was voted onto the committee. There was much discussion about future social events which we hope will help raise the profile of the Legion and attract new members.

*Kim Hills, Chairman, RBL (Kimpton branch)
07901 605383*





imPROvfit Coaching

Our fitness community in Kimpton is thriving. With over 60 enthusiastic participants joining us for outdoor circuit training sessions up to three times a week, it's inspiring to see our community grow stronger together

Our diverse group of friendly members, spanning from early twenties to mid-sixties, embodies the spirit of support and encouragement that makes our sessions so special. As more individuals realise the immense benefits of resistance training for health and well-being, we're excited to announce in response to the growing demand, we'll be expanding our timetable in January with an additional Thursday evening session to accommodate everyone eager to join in!

This expansion not only reflects our commitment to meeting the needs of the community but also highlights the enthusiasm and dedication of our growing fitness family. Thank you to all our members for being part of this incredible journey.

4 week Intro to Outdoor Circuits Course

I didn't embark on my own fitness journey until my early 40's and I remember how daunting it can be when you are looking to get started.

Everybody starts somewhere, and I'm excited to be offering a 4-week Introduction to Outdoor Circuit Training Course during December.

The Role of Resistance Training in Empowering Health

Resistance training offers numerous health benefits and can help reduce the risk or impact of various chronic diseases. Here are some conditions where resistance training has shown positive effects:

Type 2 Diabetes: Resistance training improves insulin sensitivity, helping to regulate blood sugar levels and reduce the risk of developing type 2 diabetes.

Cardiovascular Diseases: It aids in lowering blood pressure, improving cholesterol levels, and enhancing heart health, thus reducing the risk of heart disease and stroke.

Osteoporosis: By strengthening bones and increasing bone density, resistance training reduces the risk of osteoporosis and fractures associated with this condition.

Arthritis: It can help manage arthritis by strengthening muscles around joints, improving joint function, and reducing pain associated with certain types of arthritis.

Obesity: Resistance training helps increase metabolism, build lean muscle mass, and contributes to weight management, reducing the risk of obesity-related health issues.

Depression and Anxiety: Regular exercise, including resistance training, can improve mood, reduce symptoms of depression, and alleviate anxiety, contributing to better mental health.

Sarcopenia (Age-Related Muscle Loss): Resistance training helps counteract age-related muscle loss, maintaining muscle mass and function as individuals age.

While resistance training isn't a cure, it plays a significant role in managing and reducing the risk of these chronic conditions when combined with a balanced diet and overall healthy lifestyle choices. Always consult with a healthcare professional before starting any new exercise regimen, especially if managing a chronic health condition.

Join me to learn exercises, get comfortable with resistance equipment, and boost confidence.

Circuit Training Course during December

Why wait until January? Get a head start and be four weeks into your fitness journey by Christmas. Places limited and allocated on a first come served basis. Reach out to secure your place and kickstart your fitness goals this December.

Pippa Robson Health and Fitness Coach

FB: [improvfit coaching](#) Instagram: [improvfit_coaching](#) email: pippa@improvfit.com



Kimpton Rainbows, Brownies a and Guides

We held our first activity day for all three units at the school, the girls from 1st Wheathampstead Brownies joined us. The 12 month challenge in a day, girls learnt their names in braille, planted flowers, made hedgehog hotels to name a few of the activities. Great fun was had by all, it was a very hot summer day.

Our first night back after the summer holidays, was a joint evening with the Brownies cooking supper outside on open fires. The girls always enjoy being outside especially if food and toasting marshmallows are involved.

The Rainbows, Brownies and guides have all enjoyed an evening at Wardown Park, crazy golf. It's a great facility, check out their website.

We had a wonderful walk around Kimpton on the blue plaque trail, lots of very interesting facts learnt that evening. A few of the girls had a great day on our trip to The Tower of London.

Julie Smith, designed this year's mural for the village notice board and came up with a great idea for our girls to make poppies, which you may have seen displayed on the notice board outside The Boot.

Poppy carried the union flag for The Remembrance Parade, Emily carried our unit flag escorted by Emma and Corine, and Melissa read the names of the fallen in church. All looking exceptionally smart. Kelly and I were very proud of them all.

The Guides made Christmas cakes which we sold at the Kimpton Christmas market, they went down a storm. Brownies made some rather yummy chocolate spoons. We are very grateful to everyone that supported our stall.

Our Guides have our annual theatre trip in December, where we will be joined by 60 Guides from other units in the district to visit London to see Mrs Doubtfire *Donna, Wendy and Kelly*

New Village Cinema launch date announced!

For a number of reasons, not worthy of a film script as they are beyond dull, we have had to postpone the launch of the village cinema trial night from December 9th 2023 to **SATURDAY MARCH 16th 2024**. We apologise for any disappointment caused by the delay but it will be worth the wait!!!

As a result of said wait we are getting even more excited about the potential benefit to the village, not only to people wishing to spend the afternoon or the evening watching a film with friends and family (not necessarily the same people) whilst enjoying an intoxicating or otherwise beverage and a snack, but also to organisations who wish to get involved in raising funds by running the bar/cafe!

We hope that the first trial event will be a success and will kick off a regular series of screenings over the coming years. We are still looking for volunteers to help with things from running the bar, to welcoming people, putting out and clearing chairs and helping with some promotion - social media gurus welcome! Even with great advances in AI, we still need humans to help.

If you are interested in getting involved, in however small a way, please contact kmh@armstrong-taylor.co.uk

Keep an eye on the Village Facebook page and www.kimptonmemorialhall.co.uk where full details will soon be available including an online vote to choose our first two films!

Bring it on!...again! Tim Armstrong-Taylor

After more than 12 glorious fun filled years, the Preschool is closing its doors at Christmas.

Over the past few months we have been astounded and deeply grateful at how the Kimpton community has stepped up to support us. The fundraiser and messages of support have meant the world to us, but now, sadly it's time to say goodbye.

The Preschool exists to serve one purpose. To start our youngest learners on their journey of discovery through play and education toward the world that awaits them at the school and well beyond.

However, the truth remains that without the children, there is a hole in our purpose, and that is not something that is new. The reality, as previously communicated, is that the number of children we have in sessions now and planned through to April is simply not sustainable for us. We have seen fewer children starting every year for the past 5 years. A slow drip effect of choices, commitments and competition that has made us more reliant on raising money or getting grants rather than through admissions which is the main way that we receive income.

We know there was talk of additional funds being pledged, but that would have required us to remain open to protect the investment. That was not something that could be done in good conscience as we knew that by the end of the school year it all would have been used, and then what would we do?

We cannot thank the people enough that have kept us going through their efforts. It's not just the bits that you may see - the fundraising and the leaflets and the staffing of the stalls. It's also those that help us manage the charity side, the business and finance side, the HR side; particularly over the past few weeks - and the level headedness when the decision needed to be made. They are all volunteers who give us their time whenever we ask, without question. We won't name them, but they know who they are, and we hope that our thanks here will be enough.

The future is not ours to decide, but we hear that there are a number of options being considered. A private nursery company takeover of the building, maybe a resource for the school – we don't know and would ask for your patience whilst those cogs turn. Just know that what we have built will not be forgotten.

As part of closing down the Preschool, we will be running a resources sale. We have lots of amazing, good quality equipment that can be sold or donated. We are particularly keen to support charities that support the thousands of children that are suffering so terribly in the current conflicts. We would also like to hear from you if you have contacts with any children's hospital wards or refuge centres that could benefit from toy donations.

As the Preschool is run as a non for profit charity, any money we raise will be donated straight back to where it should go; our Kimpton community. We will support the May Festival and Parish Council who have been so generous in their support to us over the years.

It has been an enormous privilege to be part of each and every child's Early Years journey over the years, we remember them all with pride and love.

Thank you and Goodbye.

Beth, Michelle and Rebecca

To see this magazine in full *colour* visit these websites

kimptonpc.org.uk

kimptonchurch.co.uk

Recently, 1st Kimpton Scouts held their AGM and celebration evening. We were pleased to invest new members and award four Cubs with their Chief Scout Silver Award. We were delighted to present Henry Gibson with his Chief Scout Gold Award as he has spent the past four years working hard to achieve this. We are particularly proud of Henry as it has been many years since we have been able to present this award.



I would like to share some of the highlights from the AGM:

During the past 12 months Beavers have participated in their first ever two-night sleepover at Lees Wood Scout Camp. They have earned 285 badges which is a fantastic achievement. Cubs have been busy learning new skills such as archery, rifle shooting and junior axe throwing whilst at Autumn Camp at Lees Wood. They are also looking forward to another weekend camp in the Spring term.

Scouts have been given the opportunity to attend five different residentials over the past year. These included our first ever Winter Patrol Challenge weekend at Haverings. We entered two teams of Scouts in the annual Green Beret Challenge which they particularly enjoyed as it involved getting very muddy. This is a county competition in which the Scouts complete an orienteering course, an obstacle course, day bases and night bases. The teams demonstrated excellent teamwork and had great fun camping in November!

Scouts are busy raising funds for their first ever International Jamboree in Essex next year. They would like to thank everyone that came and supported them at the Dacre Rooms during the Christmas Market. They were pleased to make a profit of £350.

If you have a child that is interested in joining 1st Kimpton Scouts, Cubs or Beavers please go to our website kimptonscouts.org.uk for joining information. I would like to thank our executive committee, leaders, parents, and members for all their hard work that has made 2023 such a success!

Merry Christmas and a Happy new Year from 1st Kimpton Scout Group!

Kate James, GSL 1ST Kimpton Scout Group

The Boot will be hosting their annual over 65s Christmas party at the memorial hall on Sunday 21st January 12.30 for 1pm

There will be a three course meal and entertainment.

If you or anyone you know would like to attend please contact Treena on 01438 832438 or pop into the pub and we can add you to our list.



After another successful pantomime The Kimpton Players will be presenting their annual Old Time Music Hall from February 28th to March 2nd.

2024 will be the 60th year of Music Hall, but the 59th show, as one was cancelled due to Covid.

Please look on Social Media and notice boards around the village in January for ticket details.

The Christmas Market — A resounding success!



We are still on a high from this year's Christmas Market, which truly brought the festive spirit to Kimpton. It was lovely to see so many of you enjoying the refreshments and live music while browsing the superb range of local gift stalls and supporting our wonderful community groups.

Many stallholders commented how much they enjoyed the event, and particularly appreciated the support of our fabulous Bench Working Party – a number have already booked stalls for next year!

The children loved their specially designed trail, including the stunning mushroom photo op on The Green, with the final venue – the school – bustling with excitement. The Year 6 children designed and ran their own stalls to raise money for their school trip to Young Voices at the O2. Amelie and Saoirse won the bauble decorating competition, while Zoe and Lexie won a year's subscription to POPin magazine and Eliza won the "name the Christmas Rat" competition!

Special thanks to our three magnificent Santas, Dave, Jim and Neil.

Thank you all for your support of this magical village event, and we're already looking forward to next year. If you have any ideas or would like to get involved, please let us know either via our Facebook page or email Clerk@kimptonpc.org.uk

Some snapshots of the Christmas Market

Images supplied by Kimpton Christmas Market and Juliet Morton



Help Wanted

Kimpton Environmentalists was started 36 years ago, with the aim of 'promoting, enhancing and conserving the environment in and around the Parish'. From the beginning, the focus was on actions rather than regular meetings: working parties to tidy the Churchyard; maintain the Kyme wetlands; coppice hedgerows; and plant bulbs and trees. And for the community, we organised nature walks and talks; an annual litter clear; a Kimpton Trail for the May Festival; and the making of Kimpton Apple Juice each autumn.

Long before there was doorstep recycling in the village, we organised a 'can-can' outside the Corner Shop to collect aluminium cans for recycling.

But, at a time when more and more people are aware of the importance of the environment to our well-being, there are now too few members with the time or ability to maintain a programme of activities. Due to ill health, this year there was no Kimpton Trail and no Kimpton Apple Juice.

We have a long list of supporters but we need organisers. Who is willing to step up and help? Please contact me if you are at all interested. It would be sad to see Kimpton Environmentalists fold at such a critical time.

Davina Malcolm 01438-832-309
davina@bottcott.uk

Crowd funding needed for a new wildlife project



Photo: Andy Wright

We are crowdfunding to create a new wildlife pond providing homes to a range of animals including newts, frogs, toads, dragonflies and many other invertebrates.

If we can reach £5,000 then Hertfordshire County Council will also match fund £2,500. The Fundraiser ends 4th December 2023.

www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/wildlife-pond-in-hertfordshire

Hornbeam Wood Hedgehog Sanctuary is located on the same lands that made up Grahame Dangerfield's Animal Sanctuary and still uses many of the original pens and cages. The sanctuary is based in Harpenden/Wheathampstead in Hertfordshire with 10 Acres of woodland and open fields home to all kinds of local wildlife including Barn Owls, Bats, Deer, Foxes, Hedgehogs, Rabbits and more.

Martin Maylin
07999 573513 hogs@hwhs.org.uk



North Hertfordshire

Citizens Advice North Herts warns shoppers not to fall into seasonal shopping traps

New figures from Citizens Advice reveal the charity's national consumer service is contacted by worried shoppers every nine seconds, totalling an average of over 3400 a day.

The service typically sees a spike in calls each

January as shoppers seek help after problems with Black Friday, Cyber Monday and festive purchases. The number of complaints received by the charity in January 2023 grew 28% compared with the month before.

Does it seem too good to be true?

If it seems too good to be true — it probably is. This is especially true for products which are 'must-haves' or are sold out in major retailers.

Be wary of sites offering big discounts. Ensure that you're buying from the retailer's official website so that you know it's a genuine product. You can find out if a company is registered by searching their details on *gov.uk*. Sole traders (someone who runs their own business) and partnerships (where two or more people run a business together) don't need to register with *gov.uk*, so you'll need to do further research on their site to make sure they're a genuine seller

Check you're buying from a trustworthy retailer

Do some background research into the company. Make sure you find their return and refund policies so you can understand your rights if something goes wrong with your purchase. Seeing what others say about the retailer can help you find out if it's a legitimate seller or not. But remember to look at reviews on other websites too, not just their official website.

How do they want you to pay?

Be cautious when a seller asks you to pay by an unusual means such as in iTunes vouchers, crypto currency or via bank transfer. These are harder to track and lack the vital protections that you get when paying by debit or credit card or by a third party app such as PayPal.

If something you ordered hasn't arrived

If you've bought something from a business to be delivered, it's the seller's responsibility to make sure the item is delivered to you. If the seller used a courier, they should chase the courier to find out what's happened to your order - it's not your responsibility.

For information and advice, contact Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline on 0808 223 1133



Who's dreaming of a white Christmas?

This photo was taken on

November 28th 2010



Hertfordshire OWL membership is currently 162,000 which includes Kimpton with 418 (48% of village households) but we want to improve on that. Please tell your friends and neighbours about it and urge them to join. Joining is simple by visiting www.owl.co.uk, contacting your Ward Coordinators (details below), or our Watch Liaison Officer Verity Soued on wlo@herts.pnn.police.uk.

Fortunately this has been a quiet quarter but one recurring major issue relates to online and telephone crime.

Across Hertfordshire we know residents are still being conned through telephone and online frauds, and the fraudsters can be persuasive, and manipulative. If you receive a telephone call or email to say you are entitled to compensation, or you could help with a Police situation relating to your bank account, or your broadband / energy company / phone provider is giving you money back – it's likely to be the start of a fraud as the criminal will try to hook you with something that seems too good to be true. Any reputable company you do business with would have your postal address and would send you a letter about any money owing to you – they really wouldn't phone, text or email you.

Reported issues in this quarter are:

22 November	Theft of vehicle from Church Lane, Kimpton
21 November	Field gate & fences damaged in theft of farm equipment, leaving sheep loose on road at far end of Kimpton Bottom
07 November	Theft of catalytic convertor from vehicle on Claggy Road
27 October	Strong smell of cannabis in the village, the use of which is contrary to the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971

Also, don't forget that you can report anonymously if you witness any incidents of fly-tipping, dog fouling, unruly behaviour, excessive noise and nuisance neighbours on Crime Stoppers 0800 555 111. Please use 101 for non-emergencies or you can go online to: www.herts.police.uk/report/report

If you have any questions relating to NHW then please get in touch and we will be pleased to help

*John Bowers, 07833 301 268 bowers984@btinternet.com
Angus Davidson, 07789 502 057 angussdavidson@btinternet.com*

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

The Church in Kimpton

Parish Church

Lay Reader

Andy Morton
01438 832427
adewm@aol.com

Church Wardens

Anne Hems
anniehems@gmail.com

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

Pastoral Care Co-ordinator

Liz Jamieson
01438 832858
liz@jamieson21.plus.com

For any information regarding the use of the Parish Church, (including Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals), please contact either the Lay Reader - Andy Morton (07884064268), or one of the Churchwardens; Lynda Harvey (07487413901) or Annie Hems (07811168980)

Baptist Church

Perry Green at Peters Green

Branch Leader

Miss Pam Greener
01582 604771

Police Telephone Numbers

Urgent 999 Non urgent 101

Hitchin Safer Neighbourhood Team

Gill Taranvir
taranvir.gill@herts.police.uk

Ward Constable Natasha Redman
natasha.redman@herts.police.uk
PCSO Heather Burrows
heather.burrows@herts.police.uk

Hitchin rural general email
SNTHitchinRural@herts.police.uk

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

Parish Magazine

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Kimpton SG4 8SD 01438 832249

Deadline

Copy for the Spring 2024 edition must be in by
Sunday March 17th

Parish Council

Cllr Alex Firth (Chairman)
Cllr Grahame Durrant
Cllr Nicky Jackman
Cllr Sue O'Brien
Cllr Ian Pegrum
Cllr Sarah Amexheta

Parish Clerk

Carina Helmn
clerk@kimptonpc.org.uk
01438 832573

North Herts District Councillor

Cllr Ralph Muncer ralph.muncer@north-herts.gov.uk

County Councillor

Cllr Richard Thake richard.thake@hertfordshire.gov.uk

Member of Parliament

Bim Afolami www.bimafolami.co.uk

Helping Hand

North Herts Community Volunteer Services

Can provide transport to hospitals. For details ring 01462 689400

The Samaritans

If you would like to talk to the Samaritans or find out more about becoming a volunteer, please ring 01582 720666 or freephone 116 123 anytime day or night or email jo@samaritans.org

North Herts & District Citizens Advice Bureau

To contact the CAB phone 0344 411 1444 www.northhertscab.org.uk

Kimpton Preschool

Our OFSTED 'Good' Preschool and friendly team are based at Linden Lodge (on the grounds of Kimpton Primary School), offering sessional care for 2-4yr olds.

We are open Monday-Friday (term time), with morning/lunch club/afternoon sessions available.

We accept 15-30 hrs, funded and self-funded.

For more information, please contact the team on manager@kimptonpreschool.co.uk or 01438 833936. www.kimptonpreschool.co.uk

The Dacre Rooms

To book The Dacre Rooms please email our bookings secretary Wendy Dollin bookings@dacrerooms.info

Kimpton Memorial Hall

For bookings contact Mrs Barbara Kazwini. 6 The Wick, Kimpton. 01438 832620 barbara.kazwini@btinternet.com

Useful Links

kimptonvillage.com

herts.police.uk

stalbans.anglican.org

kimpton.herts.sch.uk

kimptonchurch.co.uk

 Kimpton Church Hertfordshire

Kimpton Primary School

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

For information:



01438 832 394



admin@kimpton.herts.sch.uk



www.kimpton.herts.sch.uk



[@Kimpton_Primary](https://twitter.com/Kimpton_Primary)