

Kimpton Parish Magazine

Spring 2024
Number 277



2024 May Queen, Felicity
(centre), with attendants
Zachary and Poppy.

Read all about them on
page 13



Progress in Adversity

The bad news is that we are still no further forward to getting a new Vicar. The advertisements have produced very disappointing results and now the deadline for applications has been put back a fortnight in the hope that we might get better results. If we fail to appoint, we will be back to the drawing-board as to how the parish might be managed.

The **good news** is that services are still happening – and happening successfully. We continue to have a lively congregation, with visiting clergy taking those services that I (as I am not a priest) am not allowed to take. So I take 50% of the Sunday services in the form of 'Parish Worship'. We've also had four baptisms since Christmas and several funerals, so it is very much 'business as usual'!

With Easter fast approaching, with all its activities, we are going to be very busy, and the full list can be seen elsewhere in this Parish Mag. If you get the chance, please come along to one or more of them. It would be lovely to see you.

To be honest, I am constantly amazed by the number of people who tell me that they used to come to church and are still Christians, but they have, for one reason or another, dropped out. Perhaps now would be a great opportunity to join in again!

Because Easter is all about new life. Jesus' death and resurrection is a huge statement of revival and fresh energy. It tells us that God has a plan and it was, and is, embodied in Jesus. His love for us will never disappear and that he is with us in all the mess that we have made of his world. He is with those suffering in Ukraine and Gaza. He is there on the immigrant boats. And his love is present in the chaos that we see around us.

So Happy Easter to you all, and I hope to see you around the village during it!

Andy Morton, Lay Reader

Come and have your say about the Church

At the Annual Meeting of all parishioners, anyone who lives in Kimpton parish can have their say about the church and its importance in the community.

It will be held in Church House at 11am on Sunday 14th April and, after it, we will enjoy a bring-and-share lunch.

Come if you can!

News from BLAST—the Children’s Church

BLAST (Childrens Church) has had a very busy few months! Starting back from September last year, the children enjoyed Harvest where we looked at all things harvest especially giving thanks. We made hedgehog breads, planted cress and made popcorn pictures. In November, BLAST embraced the wonderful ‘Festival of Angels’ and started to design and construct our ‘Angel Wings’. Glitter, glue, sparkles, feathers and sequins filled the air (and carpet) at Church House! A huge amount of time was spent creating our masterpiece and what a masterpiece it was!!! Did you see the enormous bright, feather filled, glittery angel’s wings in Church? Did you have your photo taken in front them?? They truly were a fabulous sight.



Then before we knew it, Christmas was fast approaching. December was a busy, busy month but it was full of fun! Many of the BLAST families enjoyed the lovely Christingle service where we lit up the Church with light and love and of course enjoyed the yummy sweets from Christingle orange! At the Church Carol Service, all the lovely BLAST Families sang ‘Away in a Manger’ and they were brilliant! It was such a special service to be a part of. Alongside choir practice we were all busy preparing costumes and rehearsing for the very popular and entertaining Crib Service on Christmas Eve – ‘The Wonder of Christmas’ . Did you come and see it??!! What a fabulous service and what an incredible team we have! All the children played their part and were AMAZING, beyond AMAZING actually!! They totally blew me away with their confidence and ability and to tell this special and important story to a church full of families was incredible. Sharing the love of God and the wonderful Son, He gave to us.



We blasted back in January and looked at some superheroes from the Bible. Some of the children wore their favourite superhero costumes where we spoke and looked at some stories about Jesus, his Disciples, Ester and David (Goliath) and all the superhero talents they have. We discovered wearing a cape doesn’t always make you a superhero and we are all superheroes in many ways! We created our own shields and decorated shield biscuits, yummy! We are now preparing for Easter. On Good Friday (29th March) we will be hosting a FREE hot cross bun café at the Dacre Rooms. During the morning we are also running a FREE children’s Easter Garden and craft workshop. So please do come down and enjoy a cuppa with a hot cross bun while the children are busy crafting! BLAST generally runs two

Sundays a month, and our sessions are held at Church House @ 9.30am. Please look out for our updates on the Kimpton Village and Kimpton Church Face Book pages. Or join our BLAST page on Face Book. Any information please contact Carly on 07740552643 or carly.tindle@sky.com

Carly Tindle



Over December the church held competition for the children to do while the grown ups (big kid's) look around the angel displays.

Sophie's, name was drawn out the hat at the Christmas morning service by Andy Morton.

The answer was... Gabriel!

Well done to all got this correct.

Winner Sophie (6) is pictured with her big sister Charlotte.

Loaves & Fishes

If company is what you crave
And fellowship your wish is,
Then, once a month, down at the
Boot
Discover LOAVES & FISHES!

A lunch for our community
Our Treena will provide,
With mirth and laughter. All are
friends;
The door is open wide!

For seven pounds – it is a snip! –
Yes, you can eat your fill.
Oh! Every month it is for us
The season of goodwill!

If you want to come along, the next lunch will be at 12.00 on Wednesday April 17th. Ring Andy Morton 07884 064268.



Regular Services at St Peter & St Paul Church

1st, 3rd & 5th Sunday of the month 9.30am
Sung Holy Communion

2nd & 4th Sundays of the month 9.30am
Worship Service

2nd Sunday of the month 8am Said Holy
Communion in the Millennium Room

Tuesdays & Wednesdays
Morning Prayer at 9.00am
Thursdays Compline at 5.00pm



Drawstring bags with pockets made by our group.

Kimpton Stitches don't just do patchwork!

Join us on the 1st Thursday each month in the afternoon for sewing and good company.

For more information email Valerie Pollington
jandv@pollington10.plus .com



Kimpton History Group

Saturday & Sunday 4th & 5th May in Church House

Kimpton History Group Exhibition at the May Festival

Open Saturday 2pm – 5.30pm, Sunday 1pm – 5pm

Displays, Local History Photos & Slide Shows. Come and visit us, no entrance charge but donations are welcome.

Wednesday 15th May, at 8pm in the Green Room

“Moorcroft Pottery”

Stephen Potter will talk of the life and work of William Moorcroft and his son Walter. Stephen will bring some pottery items from the family collection.

Wednesday 19th June

“Shakespearean Hertford” A walking tour of Hertford

Liz Eastwood will be our guide. A contribution of £5 will be requested. Transport will be by members' cars, leaving Kimpton School at 6 pm. Contact Jane (01438 832686) if you would like to go.

Wednesday 17th July

An afternoon trip to Mill Green Water Mill & Museum

A miller and a guide will give us a conducted tour. There will be a charge of £5.60 per head. Transport by members' cars, leaving Kimpton at 1.30pm for a 2.30pm start.

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.

Grateful Thanks

The Editor and Production Team would like to acknowledge with thanks, a donation received from the Kimpton Environmentalists.

From the registers

Burials, Interments and Cremations

Baptisms

4th Feb Florence Diane Gardner-Bunnage
4th Feb Elowyn May Gardner-Bunnage

Burials, Interments and Cremations

8th Dec Tim Edwards
9th Feb Brian Sydney Blight
7th Mar Alec Richard Walker

Kimpton Retirement Village???

It may have slipped your notice that at Christmas the Kimpton Pre-School closed because of low numbers of children.

Any community depends on four pillars – a Church, a Shop, a Pub and a SCHOOL. Take away any of those bastions of community and the basic fabric starts to fall apart.

So what has caused this fall in numbers? Look around you. We now live in a village where the price of housing is way beyond the means of young families with young children. Houses have been extended way beyond their former size. New developments have been below the number that would require 'affordable' houses. The 'Ron Hyde Gap', which is an obvious place for building more houses, is not going to be built on because the plans were turned down for exactly that reason.

With more and more houses being sold in the village for over £1million, how is any young couple with school-age children to buy in Kimpton? Many who can afford the prices will have their children privately educated and not at our lovely and successful Primary School.

At the rate the numbers in the school are dropping we will be faced with a village of old and rich people with no children's voices, no Scouts, Guides, Brownies, Rainbows, Cubs and Beavers and fewer and fewer young adults to take over the running of the huge range of activities for which Kimpton is famous.

How can we stem this downward spiral?

By encouraging more families to use our successful and exciting school.

By drawing attention to this problem by writing to North Herts District Council

By lobbying our MP – Bim Afolami

By considering, when making land available for development, whether to be generous enough to include affordable housing for the good of our lovely community.

Otherwise, our lovely Kimpton will simply become the Kimpton Retirement Village for old fogies like me!
Andy Morton

2023 Another roaring success! Kimpton comes alive with thousands of twinkling lights, special tree decorations and festoon lights for our delight during the festive season and this is the backdrop to our unique Christmas Market with loads of attractions within walking distance.



Friday evening on The Green was fantastic with the most attendees ever recorded. The bar was extremely busy, food delicious from commercial vendors and the entertainment by our talented local musicians was amazing. It was wonderful to see more families join in and for everyone to have the opportunity of catching up with neighbours and friends.

Market Day saw high numbers of visitors browsing over 50 craft stalls selling exclusive items, having fun at the children's activities in the school including a chat with Father Christmas, popping

into the Dacre Rooms for tea and home-made cakes and The Boot PH for more stalls. Our hand-picked food vendors sold out of their tempting treats on offer. There is plenty going on around the village to enjoy for all ages.

We're delighted to announce that this year Kimpton Christmas Market will take place on **Saturday 30th November** from 12noon to 4pm with our increasingly popular Friday evening event on The Green on 29th November. More festive activities will be announced throughout the year.



Exhibitors: Please use the booking form on kimptonpc.org.uk/kimpton-christmas-market/

to reserve a table or pitch. Bookings are on a first come, first served basis.

Refurbishment of The Pavilion - building our future wellbeing

Over the winter, Stellar Developments Ltd has made excellent progress with the internal stripping out and refitting with new heating, lighting, flooring, windows and doors. Internal decorating throughout is being

completed plus the addition of a new roof to keep everything dry! We're extremely excited to have watched the transformation - the finish is in sight!

Once Stellar are off site, our tenants will then be fitting out their areas to create a fully equipped fitness studio and cosy coffee shop. Months of planning has gone into transforming The Pavilion into a local health and wellbeing centre for all ages and all abilities and will complement the public open space of the Recreation Ground.

Kimpton Parish Council will be organising for the exterior cladding to be painted in April and security shutters fitted. With the help of many generous donations from clients of imPROvfit and members of Kimpton Rugby Football Club we will be installing a new defibrillator on the outside of The Pavilion.

Looking ahead The Pavilion will be used to provide public toilets at Kimpton May Festival and users of the Recreation Ground can hire the changing facilities.

Please turn to page 16 for news of the latest Kimpton area Flood Alerts and other news



An Update from Cllr Ralph Muncer

You work hard for your money and rightly expect your Council to provide high-quality yet cost-effective services. Unfortunately, due to the decisions taken by the current Administration here in North Hertfordshire we are all paying more in Council Tax and getting less for our money.

From May 2025, residents across North Herts will be faced with the worst bin collection rota in the East of England.

It was announced in October 2022 that purple bin collections would be moving to a three-weekly collection cycle, and in December of last year the Administration voted in favour of further 'Service Design Changes' which will result in a number of cuts to service provision including:

- Three weekly collection of mixed paper and cardboard in a new bin for most households, and three weekly collection of the remaining mixed dry recycling – glass, plastic and cans, with the addition of plastic bags and wrapping,
- Removal of approximately 30% of litter bins from across the district,
- Increasing response times for missed bin collections from 17:00 the next working day to 72 hours,
- Reducing the number of items collected as part of a bulky waste collection from 6 to 3,
- Removing dedicated seasonal leaf-fall management and a reduction in street cleaning.

If you subscribe to the Garden Waste Service, this will still be collected every two weeks and Food Waste will continue to be collected every week.

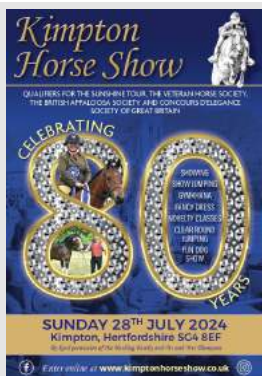
Like you, I'm deeply concerned about these plans, not least the impact they will have on households in our community. That's why I have called on the Administration to scrap these cuts and focus on delivering the high-quality statutory services you expect and deserve.

As you may be aware, on Thursday 2 May you will be voting for two District Councillors for the 'Codicote and Kimpton' Ward. Regardless of which two candidates you will be supporting, in order to have your say you must be registered to vote. It takes 5 minutes to register, and you can do it here: www.gov.uk/register-to-vote . Please also be aware that you now need to show Photo ID at the Polling Station in order to cast your ballot."

Best wishes, Ralph

Cllr Ralph Muncer

Member of North Hertfordshire District Council for Kimpton



Kimpton Horse Show Sunday 28th July 2024 80th Anniversary

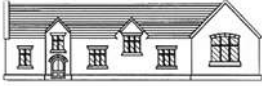
We're just four months away from Kimpton Horse Show's 80th Anniversary! The committee are working on the full schedule of classes, which will be available in due course with all the old favourites and a special anniversary addition or two that spectators to the show are going to be able to get involved with!

The dog show will also be back, along with some lovely trade stands for you to browse, as well as food stalls and our licensed bar.

As one of the few remaining village horse shows left nationwide, the committee are proud to be able to continue contributing to worthwhile causes from the money raised at each show, both here in Kimpton and further afield. So please do come down on the day and support us.

To find out more visit www.kimptonhorseshow.co.uk or email secretary@kimptonhorseshow.co.uk We look forward to seeing you on the day!

KIMPTON



PRIMARY SCHOOL

Come rain or shine

There is much evidence that being out in the fresh air can promote emotional wellbeing and, whatever the weather, Kimpton Primary School children can be found enjoying the great outdoors.

The school's investment in outdoor learning has continued apace and we are fortunate to have been assisted along the way with grants from Learning through Landscapes, Feeling Good Week (a Hertfordshire-wide event), and Kimpton Parish Council.

You may have read about Forest School – an initiative that has its roots in Scandinavia but which is now prevalent in many UK early years settings and schools. In the words of the Forest School Association, it is “a child-centred, inspirational learning process [...] that supports play, exploration and supported risk taking”. This is something we have long wanted to bring to Kimpton and we were able to set aside some reserves this year to kick-start our Forest School Journey.



We have built a fire pit area to the western edge of the main playground, where children will be able to take part safely in camp fire activities.

Then, with monies generously provided by the Parish Council, we have been able to erect a large shed to house our expanding collection of outdoor learning resources. As you will see from the photo, it is magnificent. Our landscapers laid a shingle path to the door and, in due course, we hope this will be framed by wild grasses and flowers.



To the front of the school, work has commenced on our community garden. In due course, we are hoping that this will become a whole-village affair, so watch this space!

Learning through Landscapes, the UK's leading outdoor learning and play charity, provided us with resources to the value of £500, and we used this to acquire three large planters and some lesson planning guides. LtL also sent a trainer to deliver some inspirational training to get us started and we will be continuing to work with this organisation next academic year. The Bench Party is now hard at work to build some additional planters for us and we will be using these to plant herbs and vegetables.

Through Feeling Good Week's Regrown Grant, we have been able to purchase a composter, butterfly house, wild insect hotel and hedgehog house, as well as a 2-seater bench and some smaller items.

Elsewhere, the pond is now well established and the children love to go pond dipping.

We are excited for spring!

And finally, a reminder that we are still accepting applications for Nursery and Reception September 2024 entry. For more information, please contact Mrs Caner in the School office on 01438 832394. We do also have spaces in some year groups for in-year admissions – please call to enquire.



Events at Ayot St Lawrence

The 8 voices of the Fayrfax Consort (directed by David Ireson) are delighted to be returning to the lovely setting of the Palladian Church at Ayot St Lawrence on Saturday 18th May, 18.00. The concert of mostly English song will be accompanied



by organ solos and readings. A wonderful springtime evening in a glorious setting.

Drinks at 6 pm followed by a one hour concert at 6.30 pm. Tickets £12.50 Eventbrite (plus small booking fee) [www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/855908564557?](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/855908564557?aff=oddtcreator)

[aff=oddtcreator](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/855908564557?aff=oddtcreator) or on the door. More information from Hazel on 01582 832312. Please try to advance book so we bring enough refreshments!



Make your spring wreath at the Palladian church

Join Izzie Barnes on Friday 22nd March, 09.30-12.30, to craft your own door wreath. Izzie will provide necessary materials, but if you'd like to personalise your treat, do bring flowers, foliage etc from your own garden too. Tickets limited to 12: book here please <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/854474585487?aff=oddtcreator>



There are some changes this year to the format of our popular Art Show, scheduled for Saturday 15 and Sunday 16th June, with the Preview Evening on Friday 14th. The Show will close on the Sunday and not open on Monday: buyers will be able to take their purchases home with them after purchase rather than need to return to collect. Find out more on the Art Show webpage www.ayotartshow.co.uk



Drama at Shaw's Corner

Save the date! 26th and 27th July. The successor company to Michael Friend Productions, Shaw 2020, who staged the very successful "Arms and the Man" in the church in 2019, will be at Shaw's Corner this year. Ticketing will not be handled through the National Trust, though, so details will follow. Keep your eyes on social media!



February 2024 saw Kimpton WI celebrate its 105th Birthday. Yes, our Institute really has been part of Kimpton village life for that long!

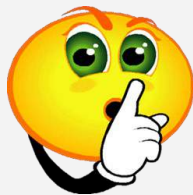
To celebrate the occasion we went to the Boot, where Treena and her staff served up a superb buffet lunch. This was followed by birthday cake, quizzes and an amusing “political correctness” sketch, performed by three of our thespian members. A good time was had by all and we hope we can look forward to many more WI birthday celebrations in the future.

Our March meeting, which will be open to the public, is entitled “What to do when you can’t do it yourself.” This will be a talk by Carolyn Hilder from the Court of Protection and will cover matters relevant to all of us, such as Power of Attorney and how the law protects the most vulnerable in society.

In April our speaker will be Bob Porter whose talk, “Growing up in a Children’s Home”, is about his early life.

May is the month of our Annual General Meeting when we hope to be able to form a new committee to take Kimpton WI forward for the rest of the year and beyond. Our future is at stake! With this in mind, we would love to welcome more new members, of all ages. We are a very friendly group and have a varied programme of interesting speakers and activities. We meet on the second Wednesday of the month in the Memorial Hall lounge at 2pm. Or come along as a visitor (£4 including tea/coffee and biscuits) and find out what we’re all about. See you there! To find out more please contact our Secretary, Liz Haynes (01438 832500) *Chris Bichener*

**The Noise!
is on silent**



For the last 12 (or so) years, the NOISE! Project has brought help to those in the parish who need help with unskilled jobs – gardening, painting etc. on a day in July. Hundreds of jobs got completed by the hundreds of volunteers over the years.

Sadly, we are not able to offer that day in 2024, because everyone is very busy and also because of lack of volunteers.

However, do not despair! If you know of anyone who is urgently in need of such help, we still stand ready to help. We will not respond just on one day, as in the past, but we will assess the needs of those who request our help and put together a work-force to suit.

Email me mortonandrew798@gmail.com or ring 07884064268, to discuss what is required.

Andy Morton

Easter Services at Kimpton

Friday March 29th Good Friday

9.30am Raising of the Cross at Perry Green and walk to Kimpton,
10am Dacre Rooms Hot Cross Buns

11am Walk of Witness round the village

12noon Midday Worship

Sunday March 31st

9.30am EASTER DAY!
Sung Holy Communion
Led by Ven. Jonathan Smith, former Archdeacon of St. Albans



A Budget that delivers for Kimpton

As a Minister in the Treasury, I've been working hard to ensure that the priorities of people in Kimpton were delivered on in the Budget. That means better, more efficient public services, a growing economy, and more money in your pocket.

We're investing £3.4bn in the NHS to roll out universal electronic patient records and new technologies. That will allow doctors to spend more time on patients and less on paperwork – cutting waiting lists and getting you the care you need.

We're also investing in a whole range of other productivity measures in the public sector. That will see £1.8bn in benefits by 2029, save 55,000 hours in the justice system, help HMRC catch fraudsters, speed up the planning process and much more.

We're doing this because we understand that you want to see better outputs from our public services, at a lower cost to the taxpayer.

We're backing our fantastic local businesses – helping them get the funding they need through the Growth Guarantee Scheme, increasing the VAT registration threshold, and unlocking investment through the British ISA. We understand that local businesses create new jobs and opportunities for people in Kimpton, that's why we're giving them all the support they need to thrive in our communities.

We're supporting hard-working people and families with the cost of living. The average full-time earner in our constituency will be £1,250 better off this year thanks to our National Insurance cuts; while pensioners on the full new state pension will get an extra £902 because we've protected the Triple Lock. That's real money back in your pocket.

For working parents, our reforms to the High Income Child Benefit Charge will save half a million families an average of £1,260 next year. And the most vulnerable in our community will be supported through an extension of the Household Support Fund.

Our plan is working – and these new measures will help us to deliver better public services, grow the economy, and return more of your hard-earned money to you. I'll keep working hard to ensure that our plan delivers for people in Kimpton.

Bim Afolami

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



Friday 3rd to
Monday 6th May

'Magic of the Musicals'

By the time you are reading this, it won't be long until the bunting goes up and the flags are raised at the Parish Church and The Boot to signify the start of this year's May Festival. The 'purple army' and friends have been beavering away to ensure all the traditional events take place.

The theme for this year is '***Magic of the Musicals***' and we know that there is a great love of all things musical in Kimpton. We are looking forward to seeing how the theme is interpreted by the entrants in the parade which will be led by this year's May Queen Felicity along with her attendants Poppy & Zachary.

For those new to the Parish, Kimpton May Festival started as a one-day event back in 1965 to raise money to repair the Dacre Chapel roof in the Parish Church. It has grown since then and now runs from Friday evening to Monday afternoon over the first May Bank Holiday weekend. It is best described as a variety of events for the whole community to have fun while raising money to support local groups and charities as well as making a large donation to the continuing work of the Parish Church Restoration Trust.

Information about the weekend's events can be found on our website and Facebook page and will also be on the board outside The Boot and on posters around the village. Nearer the time, we hope to deliver flyers showing the timetable for each day to all the houses in the village.

The Box Office is already open for the ticketed events – ***Wine Tasting, Kimpton Entertains*** and the ***Music Night*** – go to www.ticketsource.co.uk to buy your tickets in advance. It'll cost more on the door if there are tickets left.

We hope that everyone will have an enjoyable weekend and we will be keeping everything crossed for good weather.

Barbara Kazwini
Kimpton May Festival Committee
www.kimptonmayfestival.co.uk

Your 2024 May Queen and Attendants



Hello, I'm Zachary. I am 11 and I've always lived in Kimpton. I am proud to be the first male attendant ever and to lead the May Festival parade with Felicity and Poppy.

I attend Kimpton Primary and will go to Sir John Lawes in September so I'll be dancing the Maypole for the last time.

I'm in the Scouts, I play tennis and am in the u11 Cricket team. I enjoy trampolining and, as a member of Showtime Circus, hang upside down on silks and trapeze to relax!

I've been on a float nearly every year and helped to build them with the school Art Club and have even won fancy dress prizes.

May Festival is for everyone and we hope everyone makes fun memories.



Hi, my name is Felicity. I am 10 years old and attend Kimpton Primary School. I am always competing in sports matches and tournaments with them. I especially enjoy playing netball. I play for the school and with a team at the weekend.

When I was younger I was a Rainbow and Brownie and I have recently moved up to Guides. I have taken part in lots of fundraising events and parades with them.

I moved to the village when I was one month old and have been to every May Festival since I was born. The first year we were here my brother was an astronaut on the Pre-school float and I was dressed as a star in my pushchair alongside them! I have enjoyed being in the parade ever since, and I am excited to be doing it again this year. Since I was in year three I have danced in the Maypole, as many of the other May Queens and attendants have.

This year I am thrilled to be your May Queen and hope to see you all there!



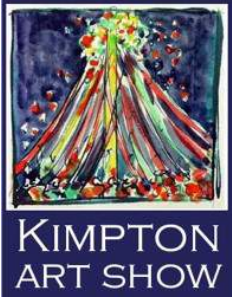
Hi there! I'm Poppy. I'm 11 and go to Kimpton Primary. I've always lived in Kimpton with my mum, dad, sister Lauren and my cat Monty (he is cheeky, that's why I love him!).

I attended Rainbows and do netball and art club in school.

I am a junior member at Mid Herts Golf Club, and I enjoy being on the course with my dad in the summer. My favourite club is a driver, it hits the ball so far!

I am honoured to be May Queen Attendant this year alongside Zachary and Felicity. I've always wanted to do it and it's going to be memorable!

I hope we have nice weather, that will add to the fun. I look forward to seeing you all.



Kimpton Art Show 2024 as part of Kimpton May Festival Friday 3rd May – Monday 6th May

Open night entry £6: Friday 3rd May: 6 – 9pm

Weekend entry: £2

Saturday 4th May: 10 – 5pm

Sunday 5th May: 11 – 5pm

Monday 6th May: 10 – 3pm

- **In 2023 Kimpton Art Show donated £9,500 to support these two village charities:**
 - Kimpton Parish Church Restoration Fund
 - Kimpton May Festival Good Causes
- Our thanks to everyone in the village who contributes to the success of the Show
- We continue to attract an increasingly talented array of artists and endeavour to create a show which provides an abundance of art styles
- **Last year's feedback indicates why this Show is so important to our artists and guests:**
 - *there was such a lovely atmosphere in the church*
 - *all your lovely volunteers are to be applauded*
 - *the pleasure is in having my work in such a wonderful Community Event*
 - *thank you for all the time and effort the team put into making such a vibrant show*
 - *your organization of this event is so professional*

From **Monday April 1st**, please follow **Kimpton Art Show** on **Kimpton Village Facebook** where we will bring you daily images of our artists' forthcoming work.

We look forward to welcoming you to the Show in the Parish Church.

Sue Burns, Chair, and the Committee, Kimpton Art Show
07765 097500 www.kimptonartshow.co.uk

May Festival Church Cream Teas

Calling All Bakers!!

<p>We are calling on the superb bakers of Kimpton to make:</p> <p>Victoria Sponges (filled or unfilled)</p> <p>Cakes, tea-breads and plain scones including gluten free</p> <p>Tray bakes, gluten free & vegan cakes</p> <p>Cupcakes and fairy cakes</p>	<p>Contributions can be left on the doorstep of</p> <p>The Vicarage, High Street</p> <p>(near the Dacre Rooms) from</p> <p>Friday 3rd May onwards</p>
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THANK YOU SO MUCH



Most people have heard of the Royal British Legion, but have you ever wondered what your contributions help with?

They assist both serving personnel, or those who have previously served. Here are just a few examples.

Expert rehabilitation **The Battle Back Centre Lilleshall** in the West Midlands, was established by the Royal British Legion in 2011 to support wounded and injured service personnel returning from Iraq and Afghanistan. It now provides recovery and rehabilitation support to currently serving and ex-service personnel who are wounded, injured or sick. In addition, they have expanded their service with the introduction of wellbeing courses for veterans.

7,137 Serving or ex-serving personnel have attended the centre since it opened.

Care Homes there are six care homes across the country- five with specialist dementia care- for the armed forces community and their families. Specifically designed for veterans and their families, there is also a unique camaraderie, and the residents often establish strong friendships and bond over their shared experiences.

Last year the RBL provided **793** residents with dementia care.

Tackling Money Problems The RBL help to ease the burden of financial pressure for thousands of serving and ex-serving personnel every year. Their financial team provide specialist compensation advice, help with debt and emergency situations, and can provide support through grant applications.

The benefits and money advice team can help with managing finances and also support you if someone is experiencing financial problems.

Last year **37,341** people received expert financial guidance and support.

The RBL also provides employment advice, accommodation advice, advice on how to live independently, how to set up a business and access to various courses.

The RBL Helpline is available 8am to 8pm, 7 days a week:- 0808 802 8080.

We are always looking for new members to help us fund raise and enjoy social activities. You do not have to have served to be able to join. Please give me a ring if you are interested.

Kim Hills, Chairman, RBL (Kimpton Branch) 07901 605383

Kimpton's Millennium Tapestry; the missing Record Book

The tapestry is on permanent display in the north aisle of the church. Alongside it was an album of photographs and the names of all those who participated in the project. This book has not been seen for some time and, despite a thorough search of the church, is missing.

Did someone take it home with a view to repairing the binding? Wherever it is, we would love to see it back in the church alongside the tapestry.

It is a unique record and irreplaceable. The church is always open in daylight hours so, at worst, has it been stolen? What value could it be to anyone else?

To see it back in its rightful place is what we pray and hope for. *Valerie Pollington*

Kimpton Groundwater Levels

The Environment Agency has issued a flood alert for Kimpton as the groundwater levels have continued to rise following recent rainfall. They monitor groundwater levels in Kimpton using data from the Lilley Bottom Observation borehole. You can view more information about the flood alert here: [Flood alert for Groundwater flooding in Kimpton and Lilley Bottom - GOV.UK \(check-for-flooding.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/flood-alert-for-groundwater-flooding-in-kimpton-and-lilley-bottom)

The alert indicates a possible risk of groundwater flooding in the coming weeks and months.

Hertfordshire County Council are organising multiagency meetings with North Herts Council, Environment Agency, Thames Water and attended by the Parish Clerk, in accordance with Kimpton Level Action Groundwater Plan. We would like to reassure residents that we are closely monitoring groundwater levels, sharing information and will ensure a coordinated and timely response to you regarding any future developments.

To keep up to date sign up to receive the Kimpton flood warnings direct www.gov.uk/sign-up-for-flood-warnings. 82 people have done so already!

Further information will be provided via Kimpton village FB, www.kimptonpc.org.uk and notice boards. For the Kimpton email bulletin please email clerk@kimptonpc.org.uk if you would like to be added to the distribution list.

September to December 2023 was wetter than equivalent in 2020 but Jan 2024 was drier and so delayed the groundwater rising. (please see graphs below)

Groundwater levels are also monitored by North Herts Council at the 'Claggy Road sump' to provide the data on the local situation.

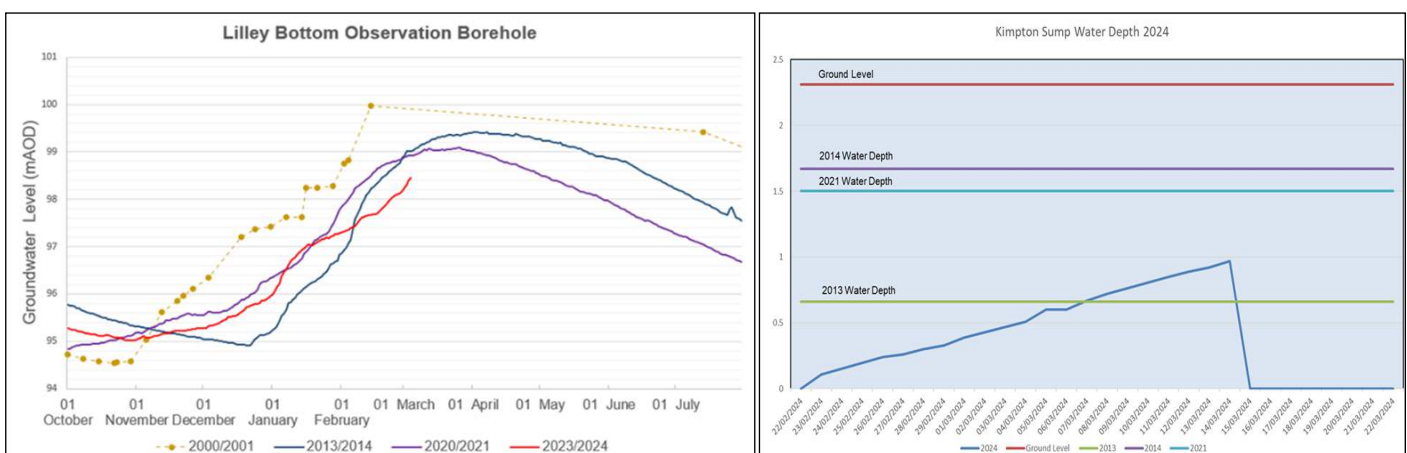
What do you think? Fencing or no fencing around the play area at the Recreation Ground?

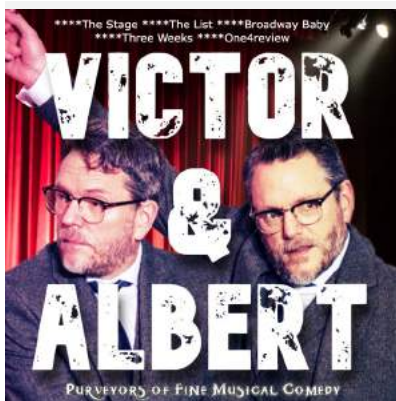
At the last council meeting concerns were raised linked to the play area at the bottom of the Recreation Ground, in relation to increased traffic to the updated facility and the safety of children at play. Some residents feel that it should be fenced in line with the new development, whereas others like the open feel of the space in keeping with the nature of the village. Councillors are hoping to gauge local opinion on this to inform their decision.

Please let us know your thoughts <https://forms.office.com/e/XHwuJ58FRr>

Finally, a reminder

There are many responsible dog owners in the village, but we are receiving complaints about dogs being loose in the Recreation Ground and being allowed to run up to children; a situation that is frightening to them. Also, when dogs are not under control, normally achieved by being on a lead, we see an increase in dog mess that is not being cleaned up by owners. A situation that cannot be tolerated in our public spaces and play areas. We would be grateful if all dog owners are considerate to the wellbeing of others.





Victor and Albert news!

Saturday sing-a-long / Wireless Wireless show and Live events

It was wonderful to see everyone at our sell-out performance at the Memorial Hall in Kimpton on January 27th this year. Thanks to all those who came along and helped to create such a wonderful atmosphere - In case you missed it we are performing again locally, at the Barn Theatre in WGC on **July 5th** - tickets are now on sale (see our website below for details). We also hope to be performing in Codicote before the end of the year - watch this space.



Saturday 20th April morning: We are hosting a Saturday Social Sing-a-long at the Dacre Rooms from 1000-1200. If you fancy a cuppa, cake and a sing, come and join us!

Saturday 20th April evening: We are recording the first two episodes of our Podcast dramas with a live audience. If you would like to be in the audience to hear two original new 'Goon-style Radio Plays' please visit our website for ticketing information.

The Dacre room has limited tickets available so get in quick to avoid disappointment.

Please visit www.victorandalbert.com for full details



Kimpton Walking Group

(Formerly Pathfinders)

Kimpton Walking Group (KWG) meets every month on the second Saturday. We walk 3 or 4 miles usually starting from Kimpton School but sometimes we drive to a nearby location and walk from there.

Apart from getting some exercise there is the opportunity to meet and converse with a range of people. Also dogs are welcome.

Our March walk went to Ayot St Lawrence and we were blessed with wonderful weather although some sections were still a bit boggy.

To obtain more information please telephone Graham Cook on 07757607930.

The next walk is on Saturday, 13th April. Just turn up.

A Blossoming Future: The Creation of Parkfield Meadow



In the heart of Kimpton, a transformation is underway, thanks to the vision and dedication of Sue Davies and a supportive community. With wildflower meadows across the UK vanishing at an alarming rate – a staggering 97% since the 1930s – the ecological impact has been profound, particularly on our vital pollinators and insects. Recognising the urgency of this loss, Sue proposed the creation of a wildflower meadow within our village, a suggestion that found enthusiastic approval from the Parish Council.

Parkfield Green was selected as the site for this project and has already seen Sue and a team of committed volunteers undertaking the preparatory work necessary for the meadow's establishment. This includes pruning trees, scarifying grass, and sowing a carefully chosen seed mixture from Emorsgate Seeds, a company specialising in native wild seeds. The mix, designed to promote biodiversity, consists of 20% wildflower and 80% grass seeds, including 27 wildflower species and five grass types.

This initiative has been made possible through the support of Kimpton Parish Council and the hard work of the Working Bench Party and other friends of Parkfield Meadow. Among the wildflower varieties soon to be seen in the meadow are cowslips, red campion, ox-eye daisies, self-heal, vipers bugloss, crested dog's-tail, and common bird's-foot trefoil. The latter is particularly noteworthy for its role as a food plant for 160 species of insects, which, in turn, support numerous birds and mammals.

While the newly sown plants in Parkfield Meadow may take some time to establish fully, we are encouraged to be patient, allowing this new habitat the time it needs to flourish. Once established, Parkfield Meadow will serve as a vibrant living classroom and sanctuary, showcasing the importance of biodiversity and ecological balance.

This project is a testament to what can be achieved when a community comes together, inspired by a shared vision of environmental stewardship and sustainability. Parkfield Meadow promises to be a source of pride and joy for Kimpton, a place where nature thrives, and the community can gather to enjoy the simple beauty of a wildflower meadow. Let us all support this fantastic initiative and watch eagerly as it grows into a legacy for future generations. *Nigel Dowse*

Please join us in protecting your village. We desperately need young and enthusiastic volunteers to pick up the baton and ensure the continuation of the Kimpton Protection Group.

Way back in the early 80's the Kimpton Protection Group was formed, to preserve and protect our lovely village.

We opposed the over development of the "Ron Hyde Gap". This led to us becoming members of the Parish Council, and using our numbers to purchase the park field to form the Parkfield Recreation Ground, install tennis courts, moved the cricket field from The Hoo there and levelling the football pitch on the original recreation ground

Since then we have had many achievements:

Our next campaign was to introduce a Lorry Ban Zone. We have supported LADACAN in stopping the second runway at Luton Airport.

KPG challenged the District Council to enforce planning regulations and challenged and stopped proposed "Plotland development" in the Green Belt surrounding Kimpton.

The KPG is a member of the CPRE (Council for the Protection of Rural England)

In recent years there has been little KPG activity and we have not held a meeting for some years, our secretary and chairman are in their 80s and our treasurer recently died. We are asking if there is any support to continue with the KPG and if so are there any volunteers willing to take on management of the KPG. Please let our current secretary know if you are interested. If there is no significant village wish for the KPG to continue, then the group will fold and our funds of around £120 will be donated to the CPRE (as stated in our constitution)

Jon Marsh j.marsh197@btinternet.com

Scouts

**1st Kimpton
Harpenden & Wheathampstead**

It has been a very exciting Spring term at 1st Kimpton Scout Group. 2024 kicked off with the annual trip to Harpenden and Wheathampstead Gang Show. The cast put on an amazing show which included a couple of our members. So far this term Beavers have enjoyed plenty of team games, a night hike as well as craft and cooking. Cubs have been working towards their skills challenge badge which involves problem solving, creative activities and learning some important life skills such as sewing and cooking. Scouts have taken part in an escape room challenge, a winter treasure hunt, and cooked pancakes. We went to Hollywood Bowl at Stevenage as a group. This was the first time we have arranged a trip with all the Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and leaders. It was a fun evening that I am sure we will do again.

If you have a child aged between 6 and 14 years old that would like to join, please visit our website kimptonscouts.org.uk. We are delighted to welcome Will and Charlotte as adult volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering, please email Kate at gsl@kimptonscouts.org.uk. Currently we are in urgent need of a secretary on a temporary basis.

We are looking forward to May Festival and taking part in the procession. The Scouts will be busy selling refreshments in The Dacre Rooms to help raise funds for their trip to the Essex International Jamboree. As usual we will be selling second hand books on the Recreation ground and we hope you will come and buy some books to help support 1st Kimpton Scout Group.

Kate James

Kimpton Garden Club

Spring is upon us, time to venture into your garden, tidy it up, do some pruning, divide plants and sow some seeds! Not sure what to do? Our members are knowledgeable and friendly and would be delighted to share some tips.

Meetings are held on the 1st Wednesday each month at 7.30pm in the Green Room, at the Memorial Hall. First visit is free, subsequent visits £3.00 and Annual Subscription is £15.00.

We have various talks, followed by a raffle and tea and biscuits.

Recently we had Plantiful Terrariums of Hitchin giving a talk and demonstration on making your own terrarium, a talk on Organic Gardening, and our meeting on 3rd April will be on flower arranging. Often at our talks there are products available to purchase, and we also sometimes do seed swaps.

7th May we have a plant sale at 2pm on the High Street near the Dacre Rooms. A half day trip is planned for a visit to a National Garden Scheme garden in June.

6th July we go to Coton Manor Garden in Northamptonshire and

August we have our Summer Garden party with lots of delicious home cooked food.

New members are always welcome, for further information contact:

*Dalia Wyatt (831293)
Sue & Allan Barfoot (832842)*

imPROvfit Coaching Pippa Robson, Health and Fitness Coach

With a diverse membership spanning ages 30 to 69, our fitness community in Kimpton continues to grow. To accommodate growing demand the imPROvfit Together circuit training timetable has expanded, and imPROvfit Active (an indoor functional fitness class) and small group training will be added to our timetable in the coming months. More on this below!

Current Group Training Timetable:

imPROvfit Together Circuit Training: Mondays 6pm and 7pm, Thursdays 6pm and 7pm, Saturdays 8.15am and 9.15am

Coming Soon:

imPROvfit Active: Friday's late morning (time tbc) Starting May 2024

Small Group PT starts April 2024

If you'd like to get in touch please email pippa@improvfit.com for further information.

You can also follow me on facebook *improvfitcoaching* and instagram *improvfit_coaching*

What is Functional fitness?

Functional fitness focuses on movements we encounter in our daily lives. Activities previously performed with ease that begin to feel uncomfortable and a bit of a challenge as we get older getting up off the sofa, hanging up the washing, carrying heavy shopping, and playing with the grandchildren to name a few.

When you include regular strength, balance, flexibility, and stretching alongside some gentle cardio exercise into your weekly routine, those everyday activities become easier. Regular exercise can also help with the management of existing health conditions, in addition to reducing those cumbersome aches and pains.

What are the benefits of Functional Fitness exercises:

Consider exercises like squats, lunges, planks, shoulder presses, and balance work:

- Squats strengthen legs and core for activities like sitting and standing.
- Lunges and step-ups improve balance for tasks such as climbing stairs.
- Planks strengthen core muscles, aiding posture and stability.
- Shoulder presses enhance upper body strength for lifting tasks.

Balance exercises reduce the risk of falls, promoting confidence in daily movements. Low-intensity cardio will enhance your heart health and give you more stamina to go out and enjoy life. By embracing targeted exercises, we enhance our functional capacity, empowering us to live life fully.

If you are ready to embrace functional fitness as the key to a vibrant and active lifestyle get in touch to find out more.

Note: imPROvfit Active is not a seated exercise / limited mobility class. The sessions have been designed for active and mobile men and women.



imPROvfit Intro to Circuit Training Course
Congratulations to the 12 dedicated members who completed December's intro to circuits course. From sub-zero temperatures to lashing rain, they embraced outdoor circuit training in all conditions. Delighted to report their enthusiasm hasn't waned; they're all still at it. In fact, most are now hitting 2-3 sessions every week, reaping the rewards of their commitment.

And finally...A big shoutout and thank you to our fantastic and generous circuit training and PT clients. Together, we raised an incredible £1270 in January to help fund a defibrillator for the recreation ground.

The litter pickers gathered once again in The Boot car park and we were delighted with the magnificent turn out. Over 50 happy volunteers all in Hi Vis waistcoats and equipped with 100s of bin bags and litter pickers.



They traversed the lanes around the parish of Kimpton and were ably supported by our dedicated Land Rover or truck and trailer drivers, we are very grateful to Stuart and Michael, Bob and Chris, Mick, Sam & Grace.

Over the space of about 2 and half hours they gathered more than 200 bags of rubbish and some more weird and wonderful items. This year's picks included a shower tray, a wheely bin, some large gas canisters, a large bag of questionable DVDs and the inevitable assortment of grubby clothing.

Thank you to everyone who helped, we hope that by carrying on this annual event we can continue to keep Kimpton tidy!



Katy Turberville

katyturberville@gmail.com mobile: 07837 743300





Hertfordshire Constabulary is delighted to share the link to a new community messaging system called Herts Connected (which is part of the Neighbourhood Alerts system)

This system replaces OWL (Online Watch Link) and will be active from 1 April, 2024. You can choose to receive free messages from the police, Neighbourhood Watch, Police and Crime Commissioner and Action Fraud.

To register to Herts Connected, please visit: hertsconnected.co.uk

If you would like to verify the website or do not feel comfortable clicking the above link, please visit the Herts Police website, click on 'Campaigns' on the homepage and select 'Herts Connected'. This will direct you to the new messaging system.

Due to GDPR it is not possible to automatically transfer members of the OWL system across and therefore residents will have to sign up through the link.

Residents currently signed up to OWL will continue to receive messages until 31 March 2024.

With a new system we are anticipating teething problems so please be patient.

Reported issues in this quarter are

- March 5th Theft of electrical cable from building site on the High Street
- February 28th Distraction theft by a male in high-vis involving Blue-Badge holder in car park
- February 12th Burglary in Parkfield Cres by smashing a patio door to gain access
- January 29th Theft of motor vehicle from Blackmore End

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 herts.police.uk/report/report

If you have any questions relating to NHW then 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

Don't throw it away we are collecting in the Church

The church now has recycling bins for certain types of savoury cracker and biscuit wrapping, Inkjet cartridges (not laser), coffee bean pouches and sachets. Also electric toothbrush heads, manual toothbrushes, and floss cartridges.

We do not accept crisp packets, individual coffee bags, coffee capsules, ground coffee, tea bags and cardboard packaging.

Please check signs on bins before leaving your items.

The Church in Kimpton

Parish Church

Lay Reader

Andy Morton
07884 064268
mortonandrew798@gmail.com

Church Wardens

Anne Hems
07811168980
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 (07884 064268), 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

Editor: Andy Wright

email: kimpton.editor@btinternet.com

Typed or written copy to John Pollington, 10 Canham Close
Kimpton SG4 8SD 01438 832249

Deadline

Copy for the Spring 2024 edition must be in by
Sunday June 2nd

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

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

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

Useful Links

kimptonvillage.com

herts.police.uk

stalbans.anglican.org

kimpton.herts.sch.uk

kimptonchurch.co.uk

 [Kimpton Church Hertfordshire](https://www.facebook.com/KimptonChurchHertfordshire)