

Kimpton Parish Magazine

*Winter 2011
Number 228*



The Remembrance Sunday Parade in Hall Lane
Royal British Legion news on page 18



The Church in Kimpton and Ayot St Lawrence Normal Services

Tuesday

8.45am	Parish Church	Morning Prayer
5.30pm	Parish Church	Prayers for World Peace

Thursday

8.45am	Parish Church	Morning Prayer
5.30pm	Parish Church	Evening Prayer

Saturday

9am	Ayot St Lawrence	Morning Prayer
5.30pm (summer months)	Ayot St Lawrence	Evening Prayer
5.30pm (winter months)	Parish Church	Evening Prayer

Sunday

8am	Parish Church	Holy Communion (BCP)
9.30am	<i>1st Sunday each month</i>	Family Communion followed by Parish Breakfast
8am	Parish Church <i>other Sundays</i>	Holy Communion (Common Worship)
9.30		Holy Communion followed by coffee
11.30am	Ayot St Lawrence <i>2nd Sunday each month</i>	Mattins with Holy Communion (BCP)
6pm	Perry Green Baptist Chapel	Evening Service at Peters Green

The Parish Magazine Team is trying to help the environment

The Parish Magazine is now printed on recycled paper.
The editor and production team acknowledge with thanks a donation received from Kimpton Environmentalists.



Dear Friends,

Thank you to all those who responded to my last letter; in writing about the lack of opportunities and low self-esteem among our nation's young people I seem to have stuck a chord with many of you. It's good to know that so many of you care so much.

At this time of year clergy hear the words, "Of course, now's your busy time", almost as much as we hear Away in a Manger or Hark the Herald Angels! Like everyone else, though, clergy are busy all year round, not just at Christmas and Easter. You will all busy too, with Christmas shopping, arranging visits, going to Nativity Plays etc, as well as having all the everyday tasks that have to be done whatever the time of year. We all need time out from the stresses of modern daily life, and for me, going to church morning and evening (or to the chapel when I am on hospital duty) to say daily prayers is a respite from all the busy-ness. There I can be in God's Presence without the ringing of phone or door bell, without post and e-mails to read, or services to arrange or the 101 other things that may need to be done. Instead I bring my tasks for the day and my concern for all of you to our Heavenly Father either asking for His help during the day just beginning, or thanking Him for the day just ending, and I always come away feeling calmed and refreshed.

I hope that each of you has a few minutes each day when you are able to indulge in some "me" time, doing something you enjoy or find relaxing, especially in the run up to Christmas, because Christmas is not about trees and turkeys and presents. It's about God's free gift of Himself, coming to us in Jesus Christ, simply because He loves us. So please celebrate this most wonderful of gifts, but do not bankrupt

yourself or wear yourself out, and if you need a bolt hole, do remember that both our churches are open each day, and that you are very welcome to go in for prayer or a wander around, or just to sit and enjoy the peace and quiet. And you never know, in that quietness you might just hear the angels singing,

"Glory to the New Born King!"

With my love to you all and my prayers for a happy and peaceful Christmas, Lorraine

Christmas Services in Kimpton and Ayot St. Lawrence

Sunday 11th December

4pm Kimpton Christingle Service

Sunday 18th December

4pm at Ayot Carol Service

6:30pm at Kimpton Carol Service

Wednesday 21st December

6pm Carols at The White Horse

Christmas Eve

11:30pm Midnight Communion at Kimpton and Ayot St Lawrence

Christmas Day

10am Family Communion at Kimpton

Sunday 1st January 2012

10am "said" Service of Holy Communion (i.e. no hymns or sermon)

Also, in Kimpton on Thursday 22nd from 6pm there will be Carol singing around the village.

Everyone welcome. Meet outside the Boot.

CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION WINNERS

A big THANK YOU from Kimpton Christians Together to all the children who entered our Design a Christmas Card Competition. All the entries were so good that the judge found it very difficult to choose the winners! The winner in the age 7 and under group is 6 year old Alex Pike, and in the age 8-12 group the winner is Phoebe Boniface, age 9. Well done and congratulations to them both.

Alex and Phoebe will be presented with their certificates at the Christingle Service in Kimpton Parish Church on Sunday 11th Dec at 4pm, to which you are all invited. See page 5

CHRISTIANITY EXPLORED

A new course to discuss the basic questions about the Christian faith will be starting during the week beginning February 13th, 2012!

The course answers the questions everyone is asking;

What are we doing here?

Who is Jesus?

Why did Jesus come?

Why did Jesus die?

Why did Jesus rise?

How can God accept us?

What does it mean to follow Jesus?

There will be several groups during the week, so you can pick the time and place to suit YOU.

Contact Andy Morton, 01438 832427, for further details.

From The Registers

Baptisms

15 October 2011	Robert George Cross Shaughnessy
16 October 2011	Katie Ellen Moore
20 November 2011	William Henry Charles Richardson

Burials & Interments

15 October 2011	Margrit Else Speroni
2 November 2011	Barbara Laura Dayman

Weddings

1 October 2011	Caroline Joy Hyde to Geoffrey Curry
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Can anyone help?

The Village Helpline desperately needs someone to be the coordinator.

The Helpline is there to arrange lifts for people without their own transport to get to hospital and doctor's appointments.

This has been run for many years by Linda Thompson who is now giving it up. Linda would be very happy to help anyone taking over the role and she can be contacted on 01438 833180.

KIMPTON ART GROUP

We meet once a month on the third Wednesday from 2p.m. to 4.30 p.m.in Church House to paint and draw together. Occasionally we have a tutor. We are a friendly group of mixed ability so if you enjoy painting why not come for a taster session. The fees are modest.

Please contact Valerie Pollington on 01438 832249.

*The Parish Magazine Team wish
everyone a very happy and peaceful
Christmas*



The winning designs in this year's Christmas Card Competition are by Phoebe Boniface, 9, whose design is printed above and by 6 year old Alex Pike, to the right.
Well done both of you!





Gourmet Fund Raising at The Boot

David Robbins and Mark Klimek, pictured, took over the restaurant at the Boot recently with all food profits being donated to Children in Need.

They made a staggering £3095 and would like to thank all involved, including Robbie and Barry, and everyone who supported them.

Visit the blog at bootpopup.blogspot.com

May Festival 2012 Get thinking Kimpton!

The theme for the 48th Kimpton May Festival will be 'Best of British', coinciding nicely with the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and the Festival itself, which surely fit that title. As ever, the Festival will be a mixture of the familiar and the new. We are always keen to have your feedback to help us plan for the next year; all forms of communication available, including www.kimptonmayfest.co.uk and Facebook.

As you begin to think how you and/or your group are going to interpret/reflect the theme could you also spare a thought for the Auction? This is a very popular event over the weekend and we have very generous supporters who provide us with 'lots' on a regular basis...is there something that you could put up as a 'lot' or maybe you know people at companies or organisations that might be willing to donate?

Also, is there anyone with experience of traffic management who would be willing to help with the organisation of the road closure and diversion routes that we need in order to have a safe and successful procession?

If so, please let myself know (andrew.ackrill@gmail.com) or Barbara (barbara.kazwini@btinternet.com).

We are always keen to welcome new members to the Committee and since the last Festival the average age of the Committee has gone down again...this is a very good sign for the future of this village institution and we would encourage anyone of any age who would like to get involved to do so.

Andrew Ackrill, KMF Committee Chair

KIMPTON WI

At our 'Annual Meeting' in November the committee was returned unopposed. We have had an excellent year with a significant rise in our membership and have an interesting programme for 2012. Our newly formed Book Group and Table Tennis Group are up and running and proving popular. A recent fund raising auction of unwanted gifts was very successful and gave rise to much hilarity!

Why not join us on 2nd Wednesday of the month in the Memorial Hall lounge, 7.30p.m. for a prompt start at 7.45pm.

Valerie Pollington

Could you use some extra cash?

Talk to your District Councillor.
I would like to publicise the Annual Discretionary Grant that District Councillors can donate to local Volunteer and Community groups.

In previous years grants have been made for new dog mess bins, benches, repairs to facilities and youth groups.

The amount requested can be as little as £50

Ideas are often channelled through the Parish Council or alternatively contact me direct.

John Bishop
kimptoncouncillor@yahoo.co.uk



School News

Here at Kimpton Primary School we have been even more immersed in books than usual this term. Each class from Year One to Year Six has based most of their learning on a novel chosen by the teacher. The feedback from the children about this approach has been very good and the school looks wonderful with colourful, creative displays abounding. As part of the topic we held a book character day for all children and staff. Harry Potters and Hermione Graingers, Gruffalos and Oompa Loompas invaded the school. Children shared favourite books with each other and staff read to groups of children. The day was topped off with a bake sale for the Blue Peter Children In Need Appeal organised by some Year Four and Five children. A truly wonderful day was had by all. There was also some interesting garb around on Children in Need Day itself when children and staff spent the day in their pyjamas. It was a strange sight as children played tennis, skipping and catch on the playground in their night attire and I did feel a little strange introducing a sharing assembly to parents in my dressing gown and slippers!

We have also arranged some exciting class trips. An important element of our topic based approach is giving the children first hand experiences related to their learning. This term our Year One class have had a HUGE adventure, going to London to visit the London Aquarium and, as I write, we have some very excited Year Four and Five pupils looking forward to a trip to Cadbury World. Trips related to topics will take place for other year groups later in the year.

It is very important to us at Kimpton Primary School that our children know about their history and heritage and we very much appreciate the annual invitation to participate in the Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial. I was proud to hear that our School Council representatives who took part showed real interest in and respect for this important tradition. I was JUST AS proud to know that our Act of Remembrance, held within school, was observed in an exemplary way by everyone else.

And now we are preparing for Christmas... Our Christmas trees are just about to go up in our arched window and front garden. On behalf of the school, I would like to thank Mark Klimek for donating the tree. It is, of course a village tree but it feels very special to have it in front of the school. I would also like to thank Janet and the customers of the White Horse for donating the lights.

The children are currently working very hard on their Christmas productions, a traditional Nativity Play for Nursery and Reception and musical production called 'The Peace Child' for years one to six. I am not sure if we can top last year's production 'Sheik, Rattle and Roll' but we can try...

With my very best wishes for a happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Marion Stewart-Smith Head teacher

Kimpton Memorial Hall



The New Tarmac' Has Arrived!

How quickly things change! In the last edition of this magazine I reported on the problems relating to our plans to resurface the Memorial Hall car park. Now, even as I write, that work is very well advanced.

At its meeting on the 11th October, the Management Committee of The Hall decided to allow the recycling facility to continue to occupy part of the car park. The Parish Council very generously agreed to fund the additional cost of constructing the surface to a standard that would bear the weight of the lorries which service the facility, and the contract was placed.

By this coming weekend (26th November) the new tarmac surface will be complete and ready for use. During the following week, parking spaces will be marked out: safety areas, where vehicles must not be parked, will be identified, and a job that should last another 20 years or so, will be complete.

During the process of this work, the long standing mystery of the dampness in the South Western corner of the Building, on the southern side of the entrance doors (i.e. to their right, when facing the building) was solved and resolved. It transpired that the underground pipe that was supposed to carry the surface water to a soak-away under the tarmac, terminated in a bed of clay, some 60cm short of its intended target. Those of us who have spent so many frustrating hours with drain rods and high pressure hoses, trying to clear it can breathe a sigh of relief. The problem has been overcome with the addition of a short piece of pipe that will carry the water to the previously unused 'new' soak-away, installed by the Hall's

builders in 1983/4. Our chances of a refund are slim!

The net result of all this is that for the moment, we have had to shelve our plans to refurbish the 'Ladies', until that whole area of the building dries out: which is just as well because, our coffers are running a bit low! So circumstances have imposed upon us a prudent decision. (One that we would certainly have taken, anyway!),

We have also had to defer our plans to replace most of the Hall's Chairs, which are 28 years old, and have become very uncomfortable. We had budgeted £4,500 or so for this project, helped by an extremely generous donation from Kimpton Horse Show. In the event we have been unable to source a chair of sufficiently high quality, within our price range (£28ish. per Chair). Most of the chairs we have viewed probably would not last 5 years, let alone the twenty to which we aspire. The current chairs were bought in 1984, and were made to last, but only to a point, and certainly not for 30 years! Currently the Bench Working Party is fitting new rubber feet to those, and replacing the missing screws. We will have to make them last a short while longer. We are yet again greatly indebted to the BWP for its efforts.

In the meantime we will hold the Horse show's donation separately until we can use it for its intended purpose, and hope to raise additional funds. And if anybody knows of a source of reasonably priced really good quality stacking chairs, please let us know.

Roger Nash. 01438 832101



Kimpton

PARISH COUNCIL

*From
The
Chair*

I'm delighted to be able to report that the new Parish Council website is now going from strength to strength, as everyone involved gets used to using it, and posting information onto it. A very useful feature is the calendar, which we hope to grow into a collaborative 'village diary', so that visitors to the site can see a real overview of all that goes on in the community. If you haven't yet visited the site, please do so at www.kimptonparishcouncil.org.uk and let us know what you think. Obviously we're always open to suggestions for content and would particularly welcome some interesting photographs of the village that we can make use of throughout the site. Please note, though, that the Parish Council site does not replace the History Group site, which still has its home at www.kimptonvillage.tsohost.co.uk. One important decision that was taken at the November meeting of the Parish Council was to cease the funding currently provided for the Police Community Support Officer that patrols the village. Under the existing arrangement, the Parish funds 50% of the time that a PCSO is in Kimpton (or in Peters Green or Blackmore End).

There was some debate over this decision, as you would expect, but we took into account the cost in terms of our precept, our experience over the past four years of having this funding in place, and community feedback. It was felt that the money (over 10% of our annual budget) could be used to greater benefit elsewhere. Accordingly, the provision of a PCSO in the Parish will reduce by 50% from April 2012, following the expiry of the current contract.

You may have seen or heard about a proposal to install a 'play-wall' in the village. A local company, WallJam, has an innovative product that was presented to the Parish Council some months ago, and which is currently the subject of a grant application. We will learn whether the application has been successful in early December, and if so we will then organise a consultation meeting, currently scheduled for January 11th 2012.

No decision has currently been taken as to whether the project will proceed (even assuming the funding becomes available) nor about where the facility may be installed. All of this is open to consultation and debate, and we would like this to be as wide-ranging as possible, so please keep an eye out for further information, via the website, noticeboards or letter-drops.

I mentioned in my last newsletter that there had been little further news on the Lloyd Way development. I'm disappointed to say that nothing has changed for this quarter! Despite regular contact with the developers, we have received no further concrete information, so once again I'm having to say 'watch this space.'!

The Parish Council have also submitted a strong objection to proposals to charge for car parking in Welwyn Village. We feel that this particularly impacts on us as a rural community, because of the surgery there, and the regular need for parishioners to travel over there for surgery visits. We understand that objections were, as you would expect, widespread, and await a definitive outcome.

I will also add to the publicity surrounding the up-and-coming 'digital TV switchover', which is scheduled to take place in the first half of 2012 in our area. In case this has passed you by, it means that the analogue TV transmitters will be switched off, so unless you have made provision via Freeview or Freesat digital services, or unless you subscribe to Sky etc., you will be unable to access broadcast TV services.

For further information on this, see the Parish Council website, or call the Digital UK Advice Line on 08456 505050, or visit www.digitaluk.co.uk. There will be a lot of publicity about this in the coming months, so I'm sure nobody will be left behind!

Finally, on behalf of the Parish Council, may I wish everyone a peaceful and comfortable Christmas, and all good wishes for 2012.

David Hardstaff



Where children and families come first!
Why not register with us, if you aren't already—
it is totally FREE!

We run lots of groups and activities for families with children under 5, as well as giving support, providing information and offering a good listening ear!

Some of our services are
Jolly Tots 'Stay and 'Play', Jolly Babies—postnatal, Free baby massage sessions, Grandparents 'stay and play', a termly programme of Jolly Mixtures fun activities , Jolly Dads Saturday Group, Jolly Roger Toy Library.

We are open daily, Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm so why not pop in to the centre or visit our website.

Due to the nature of our outreach service it may be best to ring before you pop, as on occasions staff will not be working on site.

Lamer Fields Children's Centre, Nurseries Road, Wheathampstead,
Herts AL4 8TP 01582 834758
admin.lamerfields@hertschildrenscentres.org.uk
www.hertschildrenscentres.org.uk/lamerfields

New Monthly Coffee Morning

Please feel free to join us at the Dacre rooms one Friday each month for Tea / Coffee a selection of homemade cakes and a chat, from 10am to 12noon. This is a non profit making community event and everyone is welcome. A small charge is made to cover the cost of expenses.

Dates for your diaries for the next few months.

20th January, 17th February and 20th March

Each month we will have an 'event' such as raffle, tombola, craft stall, sale of produce etc.

Jackie Davies, Julie Milburn and Denise Klimek

Kimpton Environmentalists

We've made the most of the glorious Autumn weather with outings galore. An early evening visit to Buzzworks Community Bee Garden in Hitchin was fascinating, and we came back enthused to start a community hive here in Kimpton. You do not have to have a hive in your own garden; we just need lots more people interested in bee-keeping to make it happen. In the meantime, let's all plant bee-friendly flowers.

The Oxfam Herts Hike round the new Heartwood Forest introduced us to lovely woodland walks, numerous footpaths on Nomansland Common and to the Devil's Dyke in Wheathampstead. We've also participated in the Cycle Project's Walk the Route, to promote the proposed cycle path from Kimpton to Harpenden. Both great walks with great pubs to keep us going.

The badger watch was well attended by humans, badgers and foxes!

Fruit trees in the village valley suffered from the late frost this year and apples were scarce, but luckily Blackmore End had an abundance. So Kimpton Apple Juice is available again this year, sweeter than ever, as it is made mainly from eating apples rather than cookers. Good to know it was even pressed by ex-Kimpton folk! *Davina Malcolm 01438 832309*

Kimpton Apple Juice

**makes a
perfect Christmas present.**

**Pasteurised and bottled to
keep till next November.
£2.50 per bottle.**

**Call Davina: 01438 832309
Kimpton Environmentalists**



The Garden Club has had a very interesting Autumn programme. The November meeting was a presentation by Peter Poyser on "Bee Keeping and the Gardener". The talk was so fascinating that Peter was immediately booked to present his second talk "Honey, from flower to table", in early 2013. The December meeting will be the Christmas Party. Entertainment will be provided by the Hertfordshire Police Choir.

We have an interesting programme for the New Year, including "Notable Gardens of Southeast England", in January, "World Garden – Lullington Castle" in February and "Plants in the Chiltern Garden" in March.

Kimpton Garden Club is a very friendly group and we welcome new members. For more information please contact our Secretary on 01438 832776.

Financial Results of the 35th Autumn Show

The committee was delighted to be able to hand over a record sum to the Memorial Hall of £900 from the Show. The increase was mainly due to profit on the Grand Draw so thank you to all who supported us.

The committee will begin planning in the spring for next year's show which will be on Sept. 1st. New ideas are very welcome and if you would like to be more involved don't hesitate to contact me or any member of the committee.

Valerie Pollington

Free First Aid in Rural Communities

Would you know what to do if someone collapsed in your community?

We are offering free first aid learning to rural communities in Hertfordshire. By learning some simple techniques you too could save a life.

We offer a range of courses from 1-7 hours that can be tailored to meet the needs of your group. We can also offer awareness sessions if preferred. To find out more about our sessions, please contact Helen Kibbler on 01992 585959 or email HKibbler@redcross.org.uk

Kimpton History Group

We have just completed planning an exciting programme of talks and activities for 2012. Do come and enjoy them.

We meet in the Memorial hall Lounge at 8pm and our first three meetings are as follows:

Wednesday January 18th

Mark Pardoe will be talking about The History of the Underground Railway.

Wednesday February 15th

Pam Farley will discuss The Creation of Heartwood Forest – Hertfordshire's newest forest.

Wednesday March 21st

The Romans in Hertfordshire a talk given by the Verulamium Museum

Last year members of the Kimpton History Group completed mapping and recording the inscriptions on the monuments in the churchyard and inside the Parish Church of SS Peter and Paul, Kimpton. Hertfordshire Family History Society published a booklet of their findings as part of a series of books aiming to record the inscriptions in all the Christian burial sites in Hertfordshire.

Anyone interested may find this booklet useful in researching their family history or indeed just be intrigued by the language used in times gone by. The booklet is available at a cost of £5.00 from John Pollington, 01438 832249, if you would like a copy.

Juliet Morton 01438 832427

Chronic Fatigue Syndrome M.E. Support Group

A new local group to offer support, guidance and share info for CFS/M.E. and similar conditions.

Come and meet and chat over coffee and tea in Kimpton.

For more details call Dalia Wyatt on 01438 831293 or email daliarw@hotmail.com

Grateful Thanks

The Editor and production team acknowledge with grateful thanks donations received from Kimpton Parish Council, Kimpton May Festival, Kimpton Horse Show, Perry Green Baptist Chapel, Kimpton Autumn Show and Kimpton Garden Club.

Kimpton Bowls Club

Our AGM was held on 23rd November when each officer on the committee gave their report. Generally, the club is in good health, with members enjoying a very full list of fixtures, thanks to Pat Flury our fixtures secretary. We still need new members to help fulfil our match commitments and/or take part in roll-ups and social events. Full membership and Associate membership is available.

The green is now put to bed for the winter, but re-opens in April. Our Christmas Dinner will be held at the White Horse again, and will be "full house", as usual. Some of the members meet for Diamond Diners lunch at the White Horse throughout the year, which is enjoyable and helps to members to keep in touch during the closed season.

If anyone is interested in friendly, and/or competitive bowling and gentle exercise, please contact our secretary , any member you may know, or speak to Janet at the White Horse.

Officers elected at the AGM are:-

President:	D. Ginn
Chair:	H. Boshier
Hon. Secretary:	Beverley Pate Tel: 01582 834014
Hon. Treasurer:	R. Willets
Fixtures Secretary:	Pat Flury
Greenkeeper:	Ken Ryder

Dud Ginn

Kimpton Cricket Club

Kimpton Cricket Club had an excellent season and continues to go from strength to strength. Over 40 players represented the team in 2011, and we performed well in both our weekend and evening 20-20 fixtures. Notable achievements during the year included a win over Saracens - they are already talking about revenge next year!

We have also continued to invest in the facilities, with the addition of sight screens this year.

Pre-season training starts on 9 January at the Choice Cricket Centre in Redbourn and

continues each week until the start of the season - it is held from 9-10pm on a Monday evening.

As ever, we are always pleased to hear from prospective new members and non-playing volunteers that might be interested in scoring, umpiring or fundraising. Please give Simon (01438 833767 or 07899 810743) a call if you would like to get involved." *Hugh Cutler*

Santa comes to Blackmore End and Kimpton in December 2011

In 2005 Harpenden Village Rotary Club revived the age-old tradition of Santa making his way round the houses of Wheathampstead with his elves and this he has done each year since then, raising a total of over £10,000 in support of local charities.

There are adults living in the Village now who will remember their own experience as a child of looking out of the bedroom window on a cold frosty night and seeing that big man with the flowing white beard and hearing the sound of Christmas carols on the loudspeaker system.

This year the exercise will be repeated but Santa will venture further afield and will be visiting Blackmore End and the village of Kimpton, trying to drive down as many streets as possible between the hours of 6.00pm and 8.30pm

**Tuesday, 13th December - Blackmore End
Friday, 16th December - Kimpton**

Proceeds from the collections will be going to

The Alzheimer's Society
EMMAUS for the Homeless
Phoenix Holidays for the Disabled
Wheathampstead MacIntyre Home
and other Charities and good causes supported by Rotary.

**The deadline for the spring edition of this magazine is Friday March 9th 2012
Please send copy and JPEGs to
kimpton.editor@btinternet.com**



Who Says School Is For Kids?

A review by **Aidan Phillips** of the Kimpton Players' recent production "The Flint Street Nativity"

Tim Firth's comedy provides an insight into the minds of the worldly innocent, as it follows a class of 7 year-olds (played by adult actors) through rehearsals for their school nativity. What you find is a miniature society of eager yet naïve little people, all trying to understand and find their place in the confined world of the classroom around them. Their confusion is the audience's pleasure; watching it is just pure fun.

Dissecting the commotion of a classroom, 'The Flint Street Nativity' presents us with all manner of individual conversations ensuing between the children. With a broad variety of all your usual suspects – the demanding bully, miss know-it-all, the introverted romantic, etc – the end result is a compelling narrative with enough diverse personalities to entertain throughout. Consistently raising smiles in the first half, the second part will have you frequently laughing out loud as the children continuously misinterpret what they have heard their parents say and relay their opinions through humorous twists on well-known carols. The foundation joke of adults playing kids thankfully maintains its humour right through; whether this was ever going to work was always going to depend on the quality of the acting, and the Kimpton Players rise to the challenge brilliantly.

To be original in a millennia-old art isn't easy, so appraisal goes to Firth for his creative turn at the end with the actors changing into suits to play the parents of their child character. As disappointing as it is to see the kids being replaced by these more serious and less comical adults, the change allows for an interesting contrast between the minds of the young and old as well as a rather poignant ending, adding a new emotional dimension to the production.

Its well-balanced mix of slapstick and subtle adult humour creates a play which is fun for all the family to watch, although I'd imagine that the parents would appreciate it most. For its only as you get older that you begin to realise that children – trying to understand this perplexing world around them – make the funniest comedians of all.

We've just started preparations for next year's Music Hall, which will take place on Friday and Saturday, February 24th & 25th, and Thursday, Friday and Saturday, March 1st, 2nd & 3rd. This year, the task of planning and producing the whole show has fallen to Margaret Barker, so it's in safe, talented hands. DIARY DATE: Tickets will be £12.00 again, and will go on sale on Saturday January 14th, at 9am, in the Playhouse (at the far end of the Memorial Hall car park). Don't forget - both Junior and Senior Players are always on the lookout for new members – acting, set-building, stage management, sweeping up, whatever – if you fancy having a go, we'd love to hear from you. Contact Gill Vine, on 01438 833364 for Junior Players, and for the Senior Players, Arthur South (01438 820331) or Mike Taylor (01438 832869) or any of the committee.

"Come and join us.....".



Who's your friend?

1st Kimpton Rainbows

The Rainbows has had a busy term, we started the term off welcoming 3 new girls, taking our group up to our maximum of 22.

We had a visit from a travelling Zoo called Impeyan, who brought along an assortment of animals that the girls could hold or stroke, this was a fantastic evening; I have never known a group of girls be quiet for so long! We followed this by the girls making animals out of clay one week and painting them the next.

We held a Halloween themed sleepover at Havering's in Luton where we had a game in the wood with our torches, made toffee apples and toasted marshmallows round the camp fire. I have to say not much sleep was had by some of us.

We've had an evening bowling at Stevenage, which the girls loved.

Most of the girls attended the Remembrance Parade where they all looked very smart and behaved so well in church.

We had a go at some basic first aid, where they got to wrap each other up in bandages and learn how to call for an ambulance.

We shall be ending the term with a Christmas party and a trip to Gulliver's Land in Milton Keynes.

If you wish to put your daughter's name down on our waiting list please call Wendy on 01438 832077.

Wendy Dollin

1st Kimpton Guides

We welcomed 4 new girls to our group this term.

The girls joined other units in the district at the Big Gig, which is a concert put on in Wembley Arena just for Guides. A great evening was had by all.

They have worked on and gained their sports badge. Had a hike up to Blackmore End where they had a bonfire with baked bananas and toasted marshmallows.

They had a Halloween themed evening. The unit was split into two groups then over two weeks they each planned, prepared and served a 3 course meal to the other group, whilst the other group had to show how to lay a table for a dinner party. This earned them their Hostess badge.

Unfortunately only one of them helped serve at the Guide and Scout Ball and we are extremely proud of her.

We will be doing the Parish Breakfast, and the money from this will go to "The Railway Children" which is a charity that supports runaway children. The girls are also filling Smartie tubes with 20p's to boost this money.

We shall be ending the term with a patrol arranged activity then a games night.

If you would like more information on our group please ring Wendy on 01428 832077



Pictured are the Guides and Rainbows on a trip to London, where they went on the London Eye and then on to the Centenary Maze at Crystal Palace.

Let's Celebrate!



Being involved in Kimpton Scout Group is always very rewarding, but now we're not the only ones who know how brilliant it is...

The many years of dedicated service to Scouting provided by our fabulous Cub leader, Pete Desborough, have recently been recognised by the Chief Scout, Bear Grylls, when he was presented with a special Merit Award by our County Commissioner in November. He thoroughly deserves this special award; there must be hundreds of Kimpton folk who can testify to his huge contribution to Scouting in the village. Many thanks and well done Pete!

Our next reason to celebrate is the amazing success of our Scouts in the Hertfordshire Green Beret Challenge. This is a weekend in which 134 teams from all over the County take part in a variety of challenges that require skill, initiative and teamwork. Having received training from our dedicated team of Scout leaders - Mark, Matt, Christine and Kate – Kimpton was able to enter 3 teams this year. Our youngest team, brilliantly supported by one of our older Scouts, Beattie, came a credible 31st, and another team led by Joel came in 78th place. For most of these Scouts it was their first competition and they tackled new challenges really well. They will have an opportunity to compete again next year and having achieved so well this year we are confident that they will improve their ranking.

Our 'A' team achieved the most amazing result by finishing first in 3 out of the 4 challenges and were overall winners of the Green Beret Trophy. This really is an fabulous achievement and we are all so proud of them - huge congratulations to Austin, Charlie, Declan, Jacob, Jonah and Rory. They demonstrated real determination and resolve, all with great humour, to overcome stiff competition... and mud!

To achieve this great result is the culmination of years of involvement in Kimpton Scout Group, with the young people starting off in Beavers, moving to Cubs and then putting all they have learnt into practice once they are in Scouts. As leaders we are proud of the achievements of all our teams, and as a village community we would like you to share this pride in our young people.

If you want to find out more about Kimpton Scout Group, and to register on our waiting list (highly recommended!) please visit our website at www.kimptonscouts.org.uk



Pete Desborough receives his award



Neighbourhood Watch Update

Community Policing

PCSO Elaine Cuozzo continues as our part funded officer supported by her colleague PCSO Charli Tizard, who has primary responsibilities in other Wards..

If you need to contact either officer and you miss them during their walk-about the quickest way to make telephone contact with any officer is to use the new automated system at County HQ on 01707 354192 where you must clearly identify the officer you wish to speak to. It really does work.

Our Ward Constable now has an increased responsibilities covering Wymondeley and Graveley. Did you know that PCSO's now have powers to issue on the spot fines to motorists for a number of offences inc. inconsiderate parking, anti-social driving(e.g. driving on the verge or footpath), failure to display a valid tax disc and causing an unnecessary obstruction. You have been warned !

Police Target Issues

They continue to be reductions in Metal Theft, Fly Tipping, Anti- Social Behaviour, Hare Coursing and 4x4Off-roading, so if you witness any of these crimes actually taking place you should ring 999. If it's after the event ring 101.

Valuable assistance/intelligence is being provided by local riding stables, farmers and gamekeepers as part of Farm Watch and Horse Watch. Business and Dog Watches now operate in this area together with the new Transport Watch covering bus and cab operators.

New Hi- tech Property Marking – Selecta DNA

Unfortunately Selecta DNA is no longer available at the special price of £15 and is now £50 for a bottle of marking fluid containing thousands of micro-dots, invisible to the naked eye, but will show up under UV light. The fluid is part of a kit including brush and warning labels for attaching to the item and your entry doors. There is sufficient fluid to mark about 50 items and is unique to your home, so it is not possible to share with a neighbour, and enables the police to trace stolen items to your household. If you wish to purchase a kit please contact PC Matthew Jenkins on e-mail matthew.jenkins@herts.pnn.police.uk ,or Elaine or Charli in person.

OWL On-line Watch Link

Any resident with an e-mail address can be included in the OWL system, after having signed an

easily completed NHW OWL Consent Form available from WLO Jill Dockley at Jill.Dockley@herts.pnn.police.uk

Once on line you can have a look at the "Fix my Street" link and you can let the council know about broken street lights, potholes, graffiti etc.

Reported Local Crime

Latest figures confirm Kimpton as a low crime area and all Herts crime is at a 10yr. low, but we must not be complacent as there have been local burglaries and theft from and of motor vehicles. Also please be aware that Bogus Callers and Identity Theft continue to be a threat and please be particularly alert when operating a cash machine and keep an eye on your handbags and wallets in supermarkets.

Theft of manhole covers and valuable cabling is a real problem.

Shed and garage security advice

Please remember not to leave your gardening equipment and DIY tools on view and follow some basic steps such as always lock your shed/ garage door securely and :-

Ensure that they have the right locks to enhance security.

Consider purchasing a shed alarm which is sensitive to vibrations.

Metal "up and over" garage doors can be secured with additional locks fitted to either side and/or a floor mounted closed shackle padlock

Wooden garage doors can be secured with two substantial hasps and staples and closed shackle padlocks (your local DIY store should be able to advise on the appropriate lock for your application).

Caring Neighbours

You should always check on elderly, vulnerable and neighbours living alone and remind them not to let unexpected callers into their house. If in doubt call the Police immediately on 999.

Reporting Crime

It is important that if you have any information about a crime you should now call the new national call line 101 (not 0845 33 00 222.) You can also contact Crime Stoppers on 0800 555 111 to provide information anonymously.

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Crime Prevention Items

Should you need advice or wish to purchase items please contact the North Herts Crime Prevention Panel on contact@nhcpp.org or Dennis Wall, email dennis.wall@herts.pnn.police.uk

We hold a small stock of items for sale at very modest prices and the good news is that some are free to the elderly and vulnerable. You can select required items by contacting Alan Smith who can provide a price list and place an order on your behalf.

Night Security and Absence

During absence ensure that your property is secure with all windows, doors, garages and sheds properly locked. Make it look 'lived in' if possible by

parking a vehicle in front of your garage or at least on the drive. If your absence is for more than a day give a neighbour your contact details. Use timer switches on a lamp fitted with an energy saving bulb of course.

Upvc doors with handle operated shoot bolts or claws must be double locked with the key. Don't leave any keys within sight of an open letter box.

Have a peaceful, safe and calm festive season

Alan Smith, Kimpton Village NHW Co-ordinator

01438 832749

margaret.smith5@talktalk.net

Does anyone know Jamie or Sandra?

I wonder if you would be able to help me. My husband was brought up in a children's home, but we do know that his father and half brother and sister lived in Kimpton. We have been able to ascertain from *kimpton.org.uk* website that his father died in 1956, but no one seems to be able to tell us where the brother and sister moved to.

My husband's father was Albert Symonds and he lived at 2 The Green. The children were Sandra and Jamie. I know there are some relatives still living in the village, but they have no idea of Jamie or Sandra's whereabouts. My only hope is that maybe some friends of theirs still live in the village. Even if someone could tell me Sandra's married name it would be helpful. Please get in touch with me if you can help. Thank you.

Margretta Symonds 07795 566625

Anyone for Badminton?

Is anyone interested in getting a few people together occasionally to play a game of badminton?

Or forming a more regular Badminton Club?

The Memorial Hall has a badminton court marked out (quite recently) and we have the uprights to hold a net, maybe even a net too somewhere.

All just waiting to be used.

The Hall is available most of the time on weekdays in the day, and is normally free on Tuesday evenings from 7.30 pm. The cost is £8.50 an hour.

Get in touch with me by phone or email if you are interested.

Bob Finch 01438 832497 k2jent@aol.com



ROYAL BRITISH LEGION *Kimpton Branch*

This has been a busy year for the Kimpton branch of the Royal British Legion. A massive fund raising appeal raised enough money to present a bench to the village between the football pitch and the bowling green to commemorate the 90th anniversary of the founding of The Legion with enough left over to make a contribution to the Poppy Appeal for this year. Last year's final total was £2855.99

There was an excellent turnout for the ceremony at the War Memorial on Armistice Day including the Kimpton Primary School Council; many thanks to them and the staff who brought them.

The Remembrance Day parade and service saw a large turnout of village organisations. Kimpton Branch would like to thank all young people's organisations and their parents and leaders for having taken part. We also thank the Churchwardens and Sidespersons for their contribution to the service and not least to Andy Morton for his excellent service and thought provoking address.

Membership is holding steady at 34 with about three application forms still to be returned. Anybody requiring information about the Legion and what it does, should contact our Chairman, Robin Wells (01438 832984) or our Secretary, Dave Gibbs (01438 832236) from whom application forms may be obtained. Remember you do not need to have served in the forces to become a member.

We thank Tom Grovestock who retired this year after many years as Standard Bearer and Malcolm Voss who retired as Chairman to be replaced by Robin Wells.

Dave Gibbs, Branch Secretary

Kimpton Heroes

In 2009, to coincide with the theme of the May festival, we published the details, as far as was known, of Kimpton service men who had gained recognition of meritorious acts.

At time I commented that the number was low as a percentage of the number who served.

A third award has recently emerged - Pte Arthur William Bigg, awarded the Military Medal in 1918. As with Sgt Day no citation was published.

I reiterate my comments of 2009 - statistically there should have been 8 awards.

Does anyone in the Parish know of an ancestor who received an award?

Dennis Clarke

Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal

Thank you to all those who helped with this year's collection for the Poppy Appeal. At the time of writing the amount collected is just over £2500.

Unfortunately some collectors have said they are unable to carry on next year so if anyone feels they would be able to help could you please give me a ring on 832637. I particularly need collectors for the Blackmore End and Kimpton Bottom areas.

Shirley Clarke

Kimpton Poppy Appeal Organiser



Autumn term at Kimpton Preschool

It's been another busy term, and we are pleased to welcome Emma Hawkins to our staff team. The children have been able to make the most of the good weather by enjoying all of the outdoor facilities in our garden, and the beautiful autumn leaves have provided some lovely additions to our 'Colour of the Week' table!

We're currently gearing up for the festive season and will be welcoming the parents and carers into a special singing and rhyme session, plus there's the excitement of our end-of-term Christmas Party to look forward to.

We're also sad to be saying goodbye to our older children in January, who will be moving up to Nursery, but we look forward to hearing all their news at our Lunch Club and afternoon sessions, which are open to Nursery children.

The fundraising team have been busy again, and we held a very successful Indulgence Evening in September which was enjoyed by many of the village ladies. We will be holding a special Jamie at Home fundraising party at the White Horse on 6th December and we're doing another Bag2School collection on 8th December.

Stay & Play

Our new Stay & Play sessions have proved very popular, and we look forward to continuing these into next year. These sessions run every Thursday afternoon during term time, from 1.30 to 3pm, and provide a fun and stimulating environment for parents to enjoy with their children. They are particularly beneficial for children who may be joining us over the next year, as it provides a gentle introduction to our setting and all our facilities.

All children of preschool age (0-4) are welcome, refreshments are available and we charge a small fee of £3 to cover our costs. We hope you can come and join us!

Upcoming fundraising events

Jamie at Home Live Party 7.30pm Tuesday 6th December The White Horse

Join us to watch Jamie Oliver present a special festive Jamie at Home party on the big screen, live from his London kitchen. There will be lots of interaction with the live parties taking place around the country, and Jamie will make phone calls to selected parties so who know, it might be ours! There will also be a quiz and raffle with the fabulous JME products up for grabs, and Jamie will be giving away signed products. Everyone is welcome to come along, and 15% of all sales will be donated to Kimpton Preschool. Jamie goes live at 8pm, so don't miss it!

Bag2School collection 2pm Thursday 8th December

Have a clearout of all your old textile items – clothes, bedding, shoes, belts, bags, toys etc - and instead of taking them to the charity shop, support a Kimpton charity by bringing it to Preschool instead! We'll receive a payment from Bag2School based on the weight of the donations we provide. Items can be placed in black bin bags, or alternatively you can collect a Bag2School bag from Preschool. All donations need to be with us before 2pm on 8 December.

If you are unable to bring your items to the Preschool, give us a call on 07810 898101 and we'll collect from you.

If you would like to see a copy of our prospectus, or arrange a visit, please contact Lesley O'Brien, Preschool Manager on 01438 833936 or visit www.kimptonpreschool.co.uk

The Bench Boys go out of their Familiar Environment



Photo: Andy Wright

A busy few months, as usual, some of it out of our familiar environment. A request came for Ayot St Lawrence Church (the modern one) - could we look at their gravestones and advise on their repair? This was no doubt as a result of Lorraine being responsible for both (ecclesiastical) Parishes. We went to have a look and ended up repairing them ourselves. It was a very enjoyable few Wednesday mornings, particularly because having mended countless gravestones in Kimpton churchyard, we now have some idea as to what to do. Ayot PCC gave us a handsome donation which more than covered our costs. We also renovated the benches outside the war memorial in Ayot, one of which was given by Lord Brocket to celebrate a royal jubilee - about 1937, so well worth preserving. (Once again, all costs paid for). We have been asked to repair some broken graves in the grounds of the ruined church too!

Back to Kimpton, we repaired the kissing gate and fence at the entrance to Park Wood, (thank you Simon and Emma Thomson for a donation to our funds) and renovated and refurbished many benches including several ex Probyn 'sweetheart' benches that are now installed outside the bungalows in Lloyd Way (thank you ladies for your donation). We have tidied up the Rec a bit - painted the railings at the top, improved the fit of the gate at the entrance, washed off some offensive graffiti from the brick wall, removed some overhanging branches from the footpath steps at the top. In the High Street area we cleaned the bus shelter outside the school and stained the notice board nearby, painted the war memorial railings ready for the Remembrance Parade, and cut away the grass and soil growth on the pavements of Park Lane and Canham Close. (We are working our way around the village, so hopefully all our pavements will get this treatment over the winter).

Another project we are engaged in is the repainting (and minor repairs) of Church House. This summer the outside wooden cladding and windows have been painted, and now - on wet days - we have started on the inside. Similarly we do regular maintenance work on the Memorial Hall.

There are a lot more things we have done around the village, but that must be enough to read for now. If anyone wants to help, we met every Wednesday morning, do get in touch. Finally, grateful thanks to the Horse Show for their recent donation - the village organisations are very kind to us, and it makes our job so much easier if we know we have funds to carry them out.

Bob Finch 01438 832497



....where everyone can sing!

With our first successful performance already behind us, at the candlelit Advent Concert in the church on December 4th, Kimpton Village Choir is now looking forward to the new year and some new repertoire. In the space of 8 weeks we developed from a dozen mostly inexperienced or perhaps rather rusty hopefule into a really musical, if somewhat nervous, performance group, singing confidently in harmony and with sensitivity and expression.

Well done for your persistence and hard work, singers!

NOW RECRUITING NEW MEMBERS!

Whether or not you have ever sung in a choir, or if the last time was 30 years ago, and whether or not you can read music, then this is the place for you!

You are most welcome to come to a trial rehearsal any Monday night, 8pm- 9.30pm, in Kimpton School. Term starts January 9th.

Call Anna Bosatta on 014328 832613 with any questions.

**Could you make a real difference to the lives of children and young people in your area?
Think about fostering for Hertfordshire.**

We really need people in your area who could offer a caring and stable home for children and young people in Hertfordshire.

At the moment we particularly need foster carers who have more than one spare bedroom in their home who could care for brothers and sisters to ensure that they can stay together while they are going through some tough times. In order to become a foster carer, you will need to have plenty of enthusiasm for working with children and young people and have at least one spare room in your home.

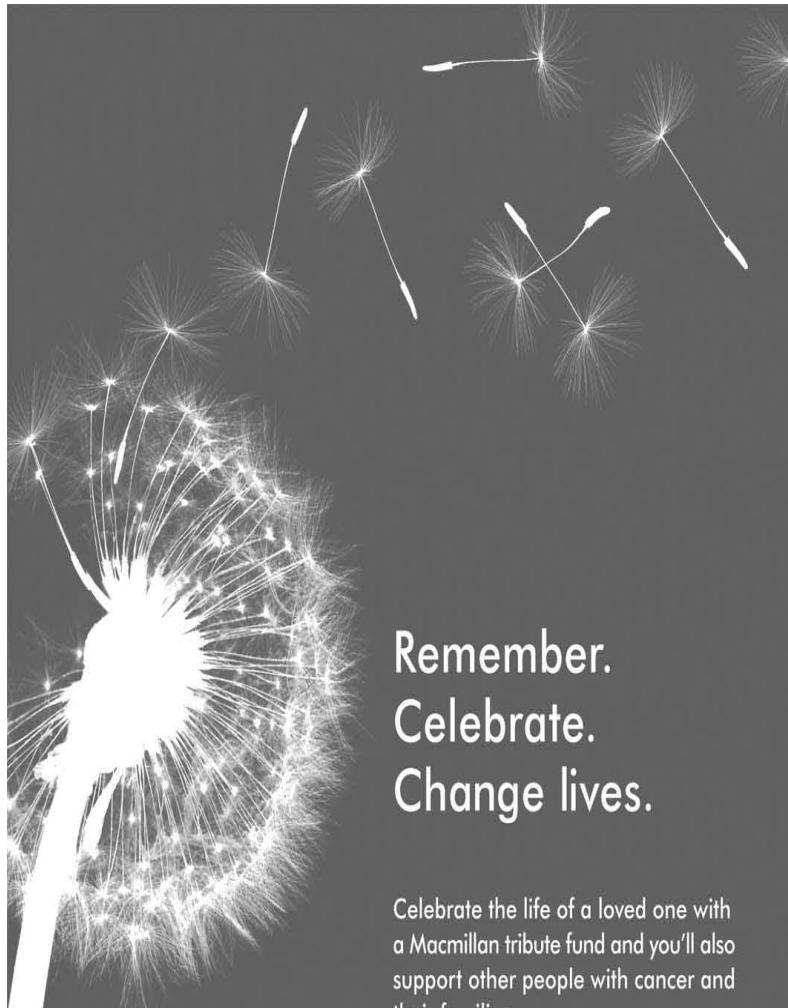
In return, you will receive a competitive weekly fee and allowance as well as ongoing training, access to support groups and a dedicated social worker.

Our foster carers come from all walks of life...to find out if fostering could be for you, please come along to one of our open evenings where you can talk to our staff and foster carers about what fostering involves.

Wednesday 25th January, 6.30pm to 8.30pm – Ramada Hotel, Hemel Hempstead Road, Redbourn, AL3 7AF
Thursday 9th February, 6.30pm to 8.30pm – Novotel, Knebworth Park, Knebworth, Stevenage, SG1 2AX

These are drop-in sessions, so please come along any time between 6.30pm and 8.30pm.

Call us on 0800 917 0925 if you'd like to come along. Or if you can't make it to an information evening but want to find out more about fostering, please give us a call or visit www.hertsdirect.org/fostering. You can also come along to find out more about supported lodgings and shared care for children with disabilities.



**WE ARE MACMILLAN.
CANCER SUPPORT**

**Remember.
Celebrate.
Change lives.**

Celebrate the life of a loved one with a Macmillan tribute fund and you'll also support other people with cancer and their families.

Create yours at macmillan.org.uk/tributefunds.

Together, we can change lives.



Macmillan Cancer Support, registered charity in England and Wales (261017), Scotland (SC039907) and the Isle of Man (604). MAC13086_AD_A5

**Please remember that the deadline for the spring edition of this magazine is Friday March 9th 2012
Please send copy and JPEGs as attachments to kimpton.editor@btinternet.com**

The Church in Kimpton

Parish Church

Vicar

The Reverend Lorraine Summers
The Vicarage
11 High Street
Kimpton SG4 8RA
01438 833419
revles@btinternet.com

Lay Minister

Mr Andy Morton
01438 832427
adewm@aol.com

Reader

Mrs Valerie Phillips
01438 832649

Church Wardens

Mrs Jeanette Bowers
01438 832503
jeanette.bowers@hotmail.com

Mr Ben Cole
07831 673382
cole.son@farming.co.uk

Baptist Church

Perry Green at Peters Green

Minister

Rev Michael Thomas
59 Oakley road
Luton LU4 9PX
01582 422635

Branch Leader

Miss Pam Greener
01582 604771

Roman Catholic Church

Priest

Father Brian Reynolds
01582 832114

Police Telephone Numbers

Urgent 999
Non Urgent 101

Hitchin Safer Neighbourhood Team

Rural Issues
01438 757604

Ward Constable Chris Suckling
01438 757604

Community Support Officer
PCSO Elaine Cuozzo
01707 354192 (automated system)

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 edition must reach us by March 9th

Parish Council

Cllr John Baughan
Cllr Ian Corbett
Cllr David Hardstaff
Cllr Jon Marsh
Cllr Sue O'Brien
Cllr Jon Palmer
Cllr Donatella Pirola
Cllr David Reavell

Parish Councillors can be contacted at
kimptonpc@btconnect.com

Parish Clerk

Carina Helm, Memorial Hall kimptonpc@btconnect.com
01438 832573

North Herts District Councillor

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

County Councillor

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

Helping Hand

HOSPITAL VISITING

Please phone the vicarage - 01438 833419 - if anyone from the village is in hospital.

NORTH HERTS COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER SERVICES SCHEME

Can provide transport to hospitals. For details ring 01462 459752

CANCER ADVISORY SERVICE

BACUP Link Line. Freephone 181199

THE SAMARITANS

If you would like to talk to the Samaritans or find out more about becoming a volunteer, please ring 01582 720666 or 08457 90 90 90 anytime day or night or email jo@samaritans.org

HITCHIN CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU

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

CARERS IN HERTFORDSHIRE

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

KIMPTON MONKEYS TODDLERS' GROUP

Come and meet local friendly faces and enjoy general play, craft, ride-on toys, baby corner, singing etc. for pre-school children and babies. Entrance is £2 and includes tea/coffee/juice and snacks. Kimpton Memorial Hall, Tuesdays 9.30 to 11.30am during term time.

Contact Sally Mayers on 07866 564167

KIMPTON PRESCHOOL

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

We are open during term time from 9am to 12noon, Monday to Friday. We also offer Lunch Clubs from Monday to Thursday, an afternoon session 1-3pm on Wednesdays and a Stay & Play session from 1.30-3pm on Thursdays. For more details, please contact Lesley O'Brien, Preschool Manager, on 01438 833936 or visit www.kimptonpreschool.co.uk

KIMPTON MEMORIAL HALL

For bookings contact Mrs Barbara Kazwini. 6 The Wick, Kimpton. 01438 832620

PETER'S GREEN VILLAGE HALL

For bookings please contact Pauline Massam 01438 833806

USEFUL LINKS

www.kimpton.org.uk

www.herts.police.uk

www.stalbans.anglican.org

www.kimpton.herts.sch.uk