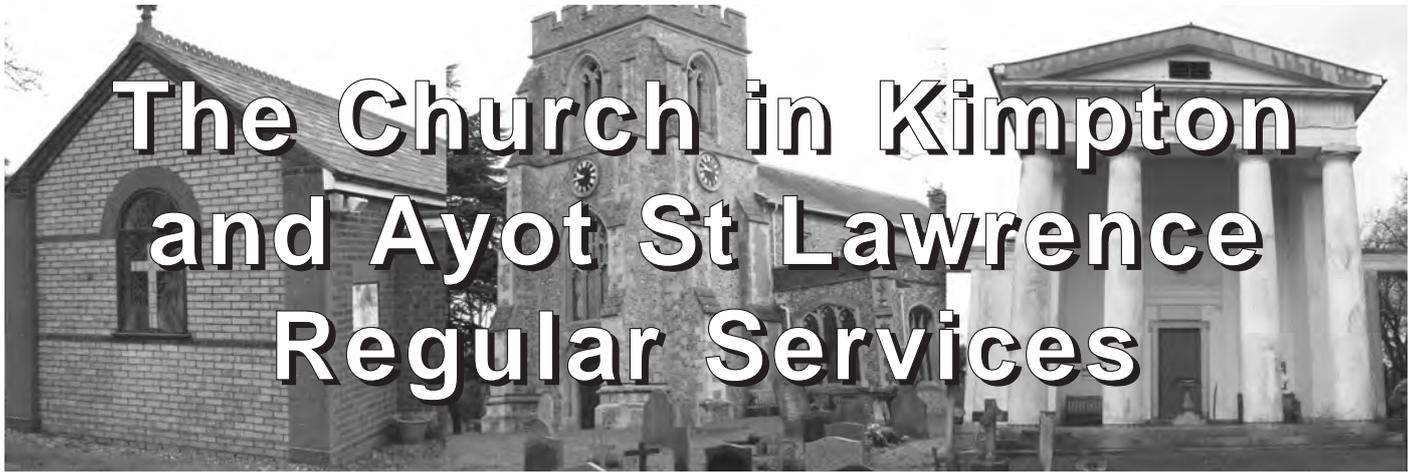


Kimpton Parish Magazine

*Winter 2013
Number 236*

**A very happy and peaceful Christmas to
everyone from the Parish Magazine team**



The Church in Kimpton and Ayot St Lawrence Regular Services

Tuesday

8.45am

Parish Church

Morning Prayer

5.30pm

Parish Church

Evening Prayer

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

4th Sunday Morning Prayer

9.30am

4th Sunday Family worship

8am

Parish Church

other Sundays Holy Communion (Common Worship)

9.30am

Holy Communion followed by coffee

11.30am

Ayot St Lawrence

Mattins with Holy Communion

2nd Sunday each month (BCP)

6pm

Perry Green 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,
I have been
Canonised! That is,
I have been made
Honorary Canon of
St. Albans. I was
nominated by the
Archdeacon of St.
Albans who wanted
some recognition
for clergy who have
a “dual role”, as
well as for those in

rural ministry and hospital chaplaincy,
and I fit into all three groups. The hope
is that through Hon. Canons greater
links can be built between the Cathedral
and parishes and chaplaincies. It means
that my title has changed to Revd.
Canon, I have my own stall in the Abbey,
the privilege of being invited to preside
at Holy Communion at the Shrine of St.
Alban, and to preach at Abbey
Evensong, and will be invited to various
other functions held in the Abbey, though
how I will fit all that in remains to be
seen! *(photo on page 5)*

It was a great surprise and is a great
honour, not just for me but for you, my
parishioners and for my colleagues in
the hospital Chaplaincy Team. Most
honour must go to God, though, as He
called me to this ministry and without
whom I could not hope to do what He
asks of me. This is true for all of us. He
calls each of us to follow Him and gives
to each whatever gifts and talents
needed for whatever role we are called
upon to play, but then He allows us to
decide for ourselves whether we use
those gifts and talents for the good of all
and the building of His Kingdom, or use
them for our own selfish ends. We can
see the different ways human talents are
used when we watch the news or read

the papers, which show humanity at its
very worst and its very best. At its worst
in acts of greed or violence, and at its
best in the outpouring of aid for the
victims of natural disaster.

It was into this world of contrasts that
God chose to come as a helpless baby
in order to show us how we should live
and to bring us back into fellowship with
Him through the Cross. What a great
and wondrous act of Divine love!

I hope very much to see you at one or
more of the special church services
which are being planned for Advent and
Christmas, and whatever you are doing
to celebrate the Lord's birthday, I pray
that you and all those you love will know
His peace and love in your homes and
hearts this Christmas. *Lorraine*

Church Services for Advent and Christmas at Kimpton

Sunday 8th December 4pm
Christingle Service

Sunday 22nd December 6.30pm
Carol Service

Christmas Eve
3pm Crib Service
11.30pm Midnight Communion
(Revd. Susan Marsh Presiding)

Christmas Morning 10 am
Family Communion Service

Ayot St. Lawrence

Sunday 22nd December 4 pm
Carol Service

Christmas Eve 11.30 pm
Midnight Communion
(Canon Lorraine Presiding)

All are welcome to any of the services.
Christingle, the Crib Service and the Christmas
Morning Service are all especially suitable for
children.



Photo: Juliet Morton

Villagers from across the generations took part in the Remembrance Day procession through the village ending at the Parish Church.



Kimpton Poppy Appeal

Thank you to all who supported this year's Poppy Appeal. To date the amount collected stands at just over £2600.00. If anyone would like to help with the house to house collection next year, please give me a ring on 01438 832637.

Shirley Clarke

From the Registers

Baptisms

- 29 Sep 2013 Cameron Joseph Clarry
- 05 Oct 2013 Luke John Mayling
- 17 Nov 2013 Matthew Simon John Richardson

Weddings

- 21 Sep 2013 Samantha Jade Shellie to Sebastian Martin Hutchinson

Burials and Cremations

- 16 Nov 2013 Maureen June Robinson
- 16 Nov 2013 Andrew Gordon Seymour



Revd John Green, Revd Lorraine Summers and Revd Lynda Klimas are pictured with Rt Revd Dr Alan Smith, Bishop of St Albans, before the Choral Evensong service in November where they were made Honory Canons of St Albans Abbey.

Ruin your Christmas!!!

Once again, the Christmas Quiz is making its appearance for its 20th consecutive year!

You can get a copy from the Church, the Corner Stores or from me and spend the Christmas Season with your family and friends trying to work it all out! If you can't complete it, you can at least be comforted by the fact that your £2 goes to help keep our lovely church standing!

Andy and Juliet Morton

Your Parish Church Choir needs you!

We are looking for both men and women to swell our numbers. No experience is necessary and there will be no auditions!

Come along to the church on a Friday evening at 7.30 in the church or contact organist Andy Wright on 01438 820929 or kimpton.organist@btinternet.com



One of the charities supported by the Church is SHELTERBOX, which sends packages of ready-to-use relief equipment to disaster areas, like the Philippines. In a special service, which linked the charity with the Jewish Festival of Sukkot, which Jesus is known to have attended (John Chapter 7), the children helped to make a shelter in the Church and also to unpack a Shelterbox. Leading the service, Churchwarden Jeanette Bowers commented on the generosity of the British public in its response to the Typhoon disaster.

Thanks for a great village

In late October, we held the first Village Thanksgiving Service for years. I remember we used to have such a service back in the early '80s and I can't think why we stopped. Quite clearly, it really hit the spot. In a very informal service, we had displays from almost half of the 50 or so groups, societies and organisations in the Village and we had a full church with a lovely atmosphere.

Thank you to all who put up a display. Next year, I hope we will have displays from ALL the organisations and I also want to concentrate particularly on the businesses in the village, so if that is you, please let me know!

It's great to have an opportunity to give thanks for the privilege of living in the best place in the country!
Andy Morton

Shop local first

Help your community

We're going to produce the fourth edition of the 'Directory of Kimpton's Goods and Services' in early 2014 and need your help. All the information must be updated and this time we've been asked to include contact email addresses. Also, we're aware of change of ownership or new groups and businesses that have been created in the parish so please come forward. This initiative has been very successful in promoting local suppliers and benefiting the residents of Kimpton.

For an entry in the directory contact Carina Helmn kimptonpc@btconnect.com or 01438 832573 with the following: name, brief description, email address, telephone number and website.
Thank you Bob Finch

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**

Kimpton Memorial Hall



Hiring Strategy Storm!

In the previous edition of this Magazine I imparted a '**Bleak Warning**' that hiring fees would have to rise. I also explained that the Administration Committee was proposing a new hiring strategy, and I outlined what that might be. (That the 'Main hall and the lounge' might only be booked as an entity)

I did this well in advance of the then forthcoming Management Committee Meeting in the hope that my explanation might encourage attendance at that meeting. Indeed, I arranged for that Management meeting to be deferred for two weeks so that everybody would be aware, and that users would have the opportunity to consider the effect on their organisation, and arrange to make appropriate representations, if they wished. We had expected a lively meeting! In the event the meeting was attended by just 10 people, five of whom were Officers of the Administration Committee, and just five more, who were representing various organisations.

At the meeting, the Memorial Hall's financial predicament was outlined in detail; a brief summary of which is as follows -

The Parish Council had very generously funded the total cost of the recent improvements to the Green Room area, (£50,000) but had indicated that its traditional annual subsidy of the Hall (Circa £3,500) would cease forthwith: the expectation being that that the improved facility would generate increased rental income in future.

The Hall's day to day running expenses, Electricity, Gas, rates, cleaning, consumables, repairs etc. had exceeded letting income by £3,094 over the first 9 months of our financial year. (A loss of £3 for every hour the Hall had been let). Again for every hour the Hall had been in use, the energy costs alone had amounted to over £6. Our hiring fees were less than half of those of any comparable local Hall and were unsustainable. Letting fees in the single figures (less than £10/hr), that we had been charging, did not even cover basic costs.

The Committee reiterated that hiring fees are never used to fund improvements and then outlined its proposed new hiring strategy, which was adopted following a discussion, but without any dissent, as was the new proposed fee structure.

Those organisations who now complain so vehemently at what was done, should perhaps consider whether they should have participated more actively in that process? They were given every opportunity to do so.

Those of us who run the Hall do it for you, the users, but we do have to make ends meet, and at the end of the day the users have to meet the running costs. That means adopting a viable letting strategy and hopefully that is what we have done, openly and democratically. Organisations which failed to send a representative to that meeting (the vast majority: five attendees from well over 20 users), or whose representatives were inadequately briefed, have only themselves to blame if they do not like the decisions that were taken.

Roger Nash 01438 832101



A big thank you to those who came and spoke with Councillors at the Neighbourhood Plan “open evening” in October – a Plan would be a very useful thing for the Parish to have, and it is something that can carry real weight when making planning decisions in the future. There appears to be support in the community for such an undertaking, so we have registered our intention to develop a plan and will be publicising further events, so if you would like to be involved, please keep monitoring Parish Council communications, whether by notice board, website or social media – remember that we also have a Facebook page where people have contacted us to raise local issues.

Although, despite many months of waiting and false starts, there is still little activity regarding the development at the Probyn House site, it seems there may be interest in the other Lloyd Way site again. We understand that some private developers are assessing the site, and are looking to move a lot faster than North Hertfordshire Homes, so there may be more news on this in the New Year.

Having waited some months in anticipation of obtaining some funding under the Section 106 Agreement alongside the Probyn House development, we have decided at our recent budget meeting to move ahead with the creation of the footpath alongside Hall Lane. This can be funded under the same loan agreement that has covered the Memorial Hall work recently completed, and represents a good opportunity to add a valuable amenity to Kimpton without having the uncertainty of how and when it “might” ever get funding from these other sources. We have previously referred to this path as the Jubilee Path, but we seem to be well beyond that point now so for the time being it will just be the Hall Lane footpath, until such time as it requires christening!

Over recent months, the Parish Council has received a number of communications from residents concerned about the traffic on Kimpton High Street. As many people will be aware, this has traditionally been a difficult issue for the Parish – as a Council we have no powers or authority to do anything, and can only lobby Hertfordshire Highways, who have historically been reticent to do anything unless there has been a track-record of problems.

So an initiative that is in hand at the time of writing is to examine the introduction of a 20mph speed limit on the High Street. In practice, this would probably encompass the entire village of Kimpton, because of the geography, but the High Street would be the focus. It’s early days, as this was only resolved at the meeting at the beginning of November, so I have little to say on the matter, but again if this is an issue that has particular relevance for you then please keep an eye open for further communications.

On the subject of driving through the village, another initiative that has been proposed is that we do something to smarten up the “entrances” to the village, especially at the East and West ends. We would therefore like to hear suggestions from anyone that may have ideas as to how the village boundaries might be marked. Currently we are considering renovating the “gateways” that exist on the verges, but please get in touch with any ideas and suggestions.

As weather permits, we have been continuing the tree work around the village, especially on the Recreation Ground, and that work is ongoing. Finally, a couple of “Parish Notices”. Firstly, we are planning on producing another version of the Kimpton Business Directory in 2014. If this is new to you, it is simply a record of all the many and varied businesses that operate within the village, and is aimed towards getting the community working together – why do business in Stevenage or St Albans if there are people locally who can provide the same services? If you have any updates to your existing entry, or if you are not yet listed, please contact the Clerk at kimptonpc@btconnect.com

Secondly, a reminder that there are still some vacant allotment plots – we have availability of plots in all sizes from a full plot, through to a half or a quarter-size plot. Again, if you want to work off the Christmas excess by digging in preparation for the Spring, please contact the Clerk.

Very best wishes for Christmas and the New Year from the Parish Council.

David Hardstaff, chair



All terms are eventful but this one has been more eventful than most, thanks to a surprise visit from our friends the Ofsted inspectors! I was expecting them to visit us some time after February 2014 so I was somewhat surprised to take a phone call from a Martin Beale of Ofsted at lunchtime on 23rd October telling me that he and a colleague would be arriving the next day to inspect our school.

Such short notice is nerve wracking but leaves little time to do anything but tidy up a little and make sure that tea, coffee and biscuits are plentiful – a bit like having unexpected visitors drop in at home, although my visitors generally don't ask to see my household paper work as well!

Staff spent time ensuring that their lessons were thoroughly polished but I had no worries about the teaching; I know how fantastic the staff at Kimpton Primary School are. Mrs Caner and Mr Hubbard made sure that all practical arrangements were in place and at 8.00am on Thursday 24th October when the inspectors arrived, we felt as ready as we could possibly be.

The inspection process was rigorous and the first day in particular, felt a little like a speeded up film. The inspectors have so much to find out in a very short time. By the end of day one, we knew that the inspection was going well and the inspectors used day two to confirm their judgement.

At the end of the process, we were very pleased to be judged a 'good school.' We were delighted that, thanks to the quality of teaching and the fantastic behaviour of children both in lessons and around the school we were given a judgement of 'outstanding' under the category of Behaviour and Safety.'

The inspectors said many very positive things about Kimpton Primary School and gave us a few things to work on. If you would like to know what they thought of your village school, do take a look. Go to www.ofsted.gov.uk and search for Kimpton Primary School. Alternatively drop into school and ask to see the report. We are very proud of it and would love to share it with you.

We are now busily preparing for Christmas, with our infant children beginning rehearsals for their Christmas play. If you would like to come and see the play, we are hoping to make the afternoon performance on 11th December a community performance for the more senior members of our community who may no longer have any direct link with the school. If you would like to join us, please drop into school or telephone Bev Caner in the office (01438 832394). *Marion Stewart-Smith, Head teacher*

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



They rode from miles around!



Once again the world came to Kimpton. Well, perhaps not the world, but riders and their horses travelled from Cambridge, North London, Essex and most of Hertfordshire to our very own and very popular annual village horse show in July, which has been going since 1944. Local traders took the opportunity to show their wares, like the ever-popular dog treats!

Once again the sun shone, and even if the economic clouds were still there, we have been able to donate the proceeds to village organisations like Kimpton Rovers, the Bench Working Party, the Noise Project and the Memorial Hall, as well as other worthy causes which will benefit the people of the parish - Herts Air Ambulance and Macmillan, for example. It's all due to new Secretary Charlie Read and long term Chair Sallie Wilson and their dedicated team too numerous to mention (I'd miss somebody out, that would never do). Contact the show committee through www.kimptonhorseshow.co.uk.



Now that we are in Winter, Kimpton Garden Club is concentrating on plans and projects for next Spring. There will not be a meeting in January because the first Wednesday in the month will be January

1st. Afterwards we shall be trying out the Green Room as our venue.

On February 5th our meeting will be dependent on favourable weather but hopefully we shall have an interesting talk by Margaret Easter, a very experienced gardener from Harpenden. Margaret is the holder of three National Plant Collections and her THYMUS, Scientific Status, Garden Nursery, is well worth a visit.

Our March 5th meeting will be held at Church House. We shall have a presentation by a very well respected show judge, David Empson. David will explain the intricacies of preparing vegetables and flowers for judging.

Our April 2nd meeting will be a talk and demonstration on "Perennials and Propagation", by Tom Cole. This will be followed up by the Garden Club's May Festival stall, which we hope will continue to receive your support.

We are a very friendly club and welcome visitors and/or guests to our meetings on the first Wednesday of the month at 8 o'clock.

Joan Amoss, 01438 832776 for more info

Santa comes to Kimpton and Blackmore End

In December Harpenden Village Rotary Club will escort Santa between 5.30pm and 8.30pm on Monday 16th around Blackmore End and Friday 13th around Kimpton

Kimpton Bowls Club

Not much to report this time, it being closed season for outdoor bowls. However the Greenkeepers and their teams are busy carrying out essential maintenance work and improvements to the facilities.

The Club has it's AGM in late November; any significant changes in contact details will be highlighted in the next edition.

As reported before, members are looking forward to our trip to Potters Leisure Centre in the New Year. Following that we will be distributing flyers to all households in Kimpton and close surrounds, outlining our activities and giving out the address of the Kimpton Bowls Club Website ! We hope to up-date the site regularly with details of activities, match results etc. Meanwhile please contact Beverley Pate on 01582 834014 if you require information regarding the club's activities. *Dud Ginn*

The Art Show

Preparations for next year's Art Show at the 50th May Festival have begun

A couple of people have stepped down from the Committee and we are keen to replace them. In particular we seek someone who has an interest in IT and could help us to ensure our simple database and website are ready to take artists submissions in March/April.

We also need someone who could help us to market the Art Show to local people and businesses including the media. Ideally this person would have time during the day as we approach next May's event. If you are interested please speak to Ted Frith (Art Show Chairman) on 07881787630 or ted.frith@aspectcapital.com.

The Committee are aiming to have their best sales year yet in 2014 so please tell family and friends at Christmas to come to Kimpton next May and see what we will have on display.

**For booking Peters Green Village Hall
please contact Mrs Lesley Lark
01438 831189**

Two Great Golden Celebrations

The May Festival and the Kimpton Players'

Old Time Music Hall are celebrating their 50th anniversary

Back in 1964 the roof of the Dacre Chapel, in the Parish Church, fell down and the villagers looked for ways to raise money for the very costly repairs.



Ron Hyde, founder of the May Festival and member of the Kimpton Players.

MayFestival 2014

Prepare for the Big One!

2014 will see the Golden Anniversary of the Kimpton May Festival and to commemorate this amazing milestone the theme for the event will simply be '50'. This should give you all plenty of scope for interpretation...for example, you may want to look back at how Kimpton was in 1964 or look ahead to how it could be in 2064; please be as creative as ever!

The Committee is planning for next year's Festival to be bigger and better than ever and to achieve that we need your continued help and feedback. Here are three opportunities:

1. Any village groups that have been in existence for 50+ years; please could you put together a couple of paragraphs that can be included in the Programme?
2. If anyone has access to a 'cherry picker' for before and after Festival...we need you!
3. The auction 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?

Please contact us via the website (www.kimptonmayfest.co.uk), the Facebook page or below. We are always keen to welcome new members to the Committee and we would encourage anyone of any age who would like to get involved to do so, but if you would like to volunteer to help with an aspect of the Festival without wishing to join the Committee...please just let us know.

*Andrew Ackrill, KMF Committee Chair
(andrew.ackrill@gmail.com)*



In 2014 from 26 February to 8 March The Kimpton Players present the 50th Old Time Music Hall.

We're mining the archives to bring together the old (songs), the familiar (faces) and the new (talent) in a show that celebrates a very British tradition.

Watch out for posters giving details of how to get tickets or visit the website www.thekimptonplayers.co.uk

Charles Skeats, above, the first Music Hall Chairman with members of a 1960's cast and our present Chairman Laurie Barker, left. Last year's cast are pictured below.





The Village Hall in Peters Green has qualified for consideration for the 2013/14 North Herts Rural Community Halls Funding Scheme, which could provide funding for improving the heating system or for other capital projects.

During November the Hall was used for the birthday party of a young resident of Kimpton. The family echoed the opinion of previous hirers, praising it as a lovely hall.

The management committee thanks everyone who, during 2013, chose it as the venue for their celebrations or for their meetings and classes. We wish you all a Very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

It's all change at The Bright Star!

Sally Richardson enjoyed working at The Bright Star so much she bought it!!

Sally, who was Head of Kitchen under the previous management, her husband Andrew and son Jack recently took over the management of the Peters Green pub.

They'll be serving home cooked food from 12noon 7 days a week and will guarantee a warm welcome in the dog friendly pub.

Andrew will continue working as a gardener and Jack is still studying.

To reserve your table call 01438 832351

Grateful Thanks

The Editor and Production Team would like to acknowledge with thanks donations received from Kimpton Parish Council, Kimpton Autumn Show & Kimpton Horse Show towards the cost of printing the magazine.

Kimpton Environmentalists

We have had quite a busy year, with lots more events coming up. We are having an Xmas Party in the New Year; will be doing more seeding and planting on the Bee World at Parkfield; and have various wildlife and nature walks planned, including our regular litter pick. We are looking for volunteers to help clear the old cress beds at the Kyme and the Working Bench Party will be helping us with that, but we do need lots of volunteers as it is a large job. So if you are hale and hearty and can spare a morning or a few hours in February, please let us know. Keep an eye out for posters around the village giving more details as these events come up.

We also had a splendid crop of apples this year and would like to thank everyone that donated their time, efforts and trees. Those of you who have had the apple juice before will know just how delicious it is, and it makes a wonderful little gift at this time of year, at £2.50 bottle. We sold out previously, so place your orders with Davina quickly!

*Activities / Kyme Working Party - Dalia Wyatt
01438 831293*

Apple Juice - Davina Malcolm 01438 832309

Transition Streets Kimpton

Transition refers to making a move towards more sustainable ways of living.

The first group in the village has completed a structured programme of meetings and actions to see what we can do in our daily lives to address key issues facing our environment. But no hair shirts here! We have had a lot of fun and plan to carry on meeting informally to continue sharing ideas and finding ways to reducing our energy usage.

The Kimpton May Festival has generously agreed to fund two more groups and we hope to get these started early in the New Year. If you missed our Tea Party but are interested in participating or simply want more information, please get in touch with Davina Malcolm: 01438 832309

See more about it on the web at:
www.transitionstreets.org.uk



ROYAL BRITISH LEGION *Kimpton Branch*

Earlier in the year, we had to report that, due to ill health and other commitments, we did not have sufficient officers to continue running the Kimpton Branch. As the Branch was formed in 1922, it was a frightening thought to even consider that we may have to disband. We are now pleased to report, that thanks to John Hills volunteering to take over the Treasurers roll, and Dave Gibbs willing to continue as Secretary for another spell, we can thankfully carry on the Kimpton Branch and hopefully increase our membership to a stronger and more active force.

Of course, to enable us to continue in future years, we desperately need to recruit more younger and active men to join us, and you do not need to have previously been in the armed forces. Anyone wanting information about the Legion, should contact our secretary Dave Gibbs on 01438 832236, or myself on 01438 832984.

Remembrance Sunday has come and gone, so we would like to take this opportunity to express our thanks to all the village organisations, especially the young peoples groups and their leaders for the part they played in the Parade and Church service. Fortunately this year, the weather was again kind to us, and this helped in making the Parade a great success. Our thanks also to Andy Morton for leading the Church service and his address, also the Sidespeople and the Churchwardens for organising the seating for a large congregation which numbered over 300. Thanks of course go to our Kimpton Church choir for their part in making Remembrance Sunday a solemn and memorable service.

The following day, Monday 11th November, the weather was not so kind, but this did not deter a good number of villagers and a small group of school children meeting at the War Memorial for a short service when two minutes silence was observed at 11:00am. Many thanks to our Vicar Lorraine for taking the service, and to all for attending.

Robin Wells, Chairman

A Pedestrian Path to the Memorial Hall

At their early November meeting, the Kimpton Parish Councillors voted unanimously to fund the new pedestrian path to the Memorial Hall. Many thanks to them.

At last we will not have to bury ourselves in the hedge to avoid oncoming cars or wade through mud after heavy rains. Bliss.

The story so far. For the last year or so, a small subcommittee of the Memorial Hall has been working on the plans for this path and obtaining approvals from landowners. So, now we have the funding, it will happen quite quickly.

Almost certainly it will be useable within a few months. The path will run from the pavement to the left of Hall Lane up to

the Memorial Hall car park. It will run through what is part of the school grounds, with the existing Hall Lane hedge on the right and a new fence and hedge to the left. The surface will be similar to the footpath opposite the Corner Stores (the one leading to Park Lane). It will have metal barriers at each end for safety, and will be adequately lit. There are three of us working to get this up and running as soon as possible – Bob Malcolm (project leader), Paul Butcher and myself. If you want any more information ask any of us.

This is a very worthwhile project for the village and we are most grateful to the Parish Council for making it possible.
Bob Finch 832497

Kimpton Women's Institute

The end of another eventful and busy year. We have had some excellent speakers – Wild Flowers of the Chilterns; REMAP – about a group of retired men who make useful items for people with physical disabilities; Shen Yun Performing Arts; the history and music of the harp; help available for those suffering from dementia; a royal journalist who worked for the Daily Express for two decades and had many tales to tell of his encounters with Mrs. Thatcher, Princess Diana, Eric Morecambe, etc. and finally Eric Morecambe's daughter telling us about "life with her father".

We have had outings to theatres ("Follies" and "Vienna to Broadway"), places of interest (Cutty Sark and Greenwich) and attended the W.I's Denman College near Oxford for various enlightening and interesting courses. We've been involved and attended various County events such as Russian and Scandinavian evenings; art from different countries; handicraft workshops (some of our members have knitted hats for the Sailors' Society and blankets for the elderly); illuminated letters workshop; play readings for fun; and taken part in the County Quiz (we also won the Brains of Kimpton this year – congratulations to Liz, Joan and Sue).

Our cake stall at the May Festival was a sell-out and we were able to make a large donation to the May Festival Committee for worthy causes in the village. We made delicious tea and cakes for the Autumn Show and gave the profits to the Memorial Hall.

Our various groups – table tennis, book club, handicrafts – are all thriving. The speaker at our January meeting will be Claire McKenna on Osteopathy and at our February meeting Angela Collins on A Puppet's Story. So you see, we have something for everyone. Why not come along to one of our meetings on the second Wednesday of the month, in the lounge of the Memorial Hall. A warm welcome will be waiting for ladies of all ages.

For further details please contact Janet 01438 832597 or Shirley 01582 833285

Janet Holmes-Walker

In Search of a new generation of Women's Institute Members

As you may have heard the WI has started a nationwide campaign to set up Young WI groups. If you are interested in WI but feel you are too young to join a traditional WI group then why not come along to the first meeting of a Young WI for Kimpton and help to shape how the group will run. We are hoping to become a fun group of like minded ladies in the village who can learn and share a range of different skills and crafts in a lighthearted fun atmosphere

If you think you would like to be a part of this group then please come along to the first meeting on January 15th at 7.45pm in the Dacre Rooms.

For more information please contact Emma Yates on elyates@btinternet.com or Jenny Crellin at Jenny.crellin@btinternet.com

Clean dogs in Kimpton

I was talking to the man that empties the dog-poo bins, who seemed very happy in his work! He told me that in North Herts alone, he and his team collect ONE TON of dog-poo from the bins in the area EACH WEEK! Just think what things would be like if dog owners were not as thoughtful as they are!

Well done the dog-owners of Kimpton. Thank you for being so considerate. *Andy Morton*

The Reverend Canon Patience Purchas

As we go to press the sad news has emerged of the death of Patience Purchas. She was a great friend of our Parish Church and our condolences go to Tom and her family.





Dear Kimpton

We first met 35 years ago and our lives have been intertwined ever since but now is the time for us to move on and go our separate ways.

You have introduced us to some wonderful people and very good friends we have supported each other through some good times and some difficult times

We joined you just before a May Festival when Ron Hyde and Grace French knocked at our door in Parkfield Crescent when they first delivered the milk and told us about the celebrations. To us the floats were amazing and great fun was had along the High Street watching the tractors trying to turn into the recreation ground.

We remember when the old brewery, later craft centre was being knocked down for housing, the trees were in full blossom, their petals falling like tears as the bulldozers moved in and knocked them over.

We saw the opening of Probyn house and then the closing of it too. In my mind I can see May Carter and Bob Wilding on their old fashioned bikes going along the High Street, maybe to the Methodist Chapel now a lovely family home.

We have seen you through these times and supported each other at times of fire, first when the village hall burnt down, later the petrol

garage and more recently D.A.G.s, but each time you have come up smiling.

You saw our boys start school here and us being involved in bonfire night, letting off the fireworks and building bonfires to raise money. Then later Neil and Mark joining cubs and scouts with dad John as a leader. About this time I was involved with helping at the school then began working at the doctors surgery where I met a lot of you, what a great community and place to live.

Who can forget our keep fit sessions in the school hall with Bunty Waters, then lads of the village helping us move plants and pet guinea pig to our next home in Dacre Crescent and the flood, what seemed to be all the village promenading along Claggy Road in their wellingtons as the road had turned into a river.

Now it is time for us to say goodbye as we move to Wiltshire to be nearer our son Neil and family, Mark having moved to Australia. Kimpton will always be the home they remember. So thank you for being part of our lives with laughter and tears and all the wonderful people we have met.

Next time you see the bench party leaning on their spades putting the world to rights or hear the church bells ring, John will be one member missing but hopefully ringing again in Wiltshire.

Thank you for our fond memories of Kimpton.

Jan and John Richardson

Put this in your diary now!!!!

**The deadline for the spring edition of this magazine is Friday March 7th
Please send copy and JPEGs to kimpton.editor@btinternet.com**



As Christmas draws near, our children are having lots of fun getting in the festive spirit, with parties and a

visit from Santa to look forward to! A number of our children will be moving on to nursery in January and we wish them well in their new setting, alongside welcoming some new little faces into Preschool.

We are pleased to announce we are now able to offer funded places for two-year-olds, for those who meet the government criteria. If you feel that your family is eligible for this funding, please drop in or call us for more details.

We are concentrating on improving our garden at the moment, to ensure the children get as much from their time outside as they do inside, and hope to get this done as soon as possible – any help or assistance from willing volunteers would be most welcome!

We'd also like to express heartfelt thanks to our fundraising team, who have done us proud with their wonderful 'West End comes to Kimpton' night recently held at the Memorial Hall. The talented cast, including some of our own Preschool parents, have starred in the West End, TV and films, and brought a sprinkle of West End magic to our Kimpton stage. We were treated to a selection of favourite songs from hit musicals, along with some very entertaining anecdotes about life on the West End stage. They very generously gave up their time for free, with Adam Rowe even taking time out from his role as musical director of the national tour of Wicked to join our performance, and we are hugely grateful. The evening included a licensed bar and raffle, and raised an amazing total of £1,700 for Preschool.

If you would like to find out more about Kimpton Preschool, or arrange a visit, please contact Preschool Manager, Lesley O'Brien on 01438 833936.

We are open during term time from 8.50am to 11.50am, Monday to Friday. We also offer Lunch Clubs (11.50am to 12.30pm) and afternoon sessions (12.30pm to 3.30pm) from Monday to Thursday.

Kimpton Scouts

As the magazine goes to press many Scouts in Kimpton are still basking in the glory of yet another successful Green Beret competition. This annual, county-wide event comprised 150 teams of 6 Scouts who embarked upon an array of challenges over a crispy November weekend. Teams had to complete a compulsory assault course, orienteering course and as many day and night 'bases' (activities) as they could. Points were awarded for successful completion, placing and also teamwork. This year we had 3 teams in the top 20 and the teams comprised of scouts who had never been to GBC before pretty much in the top half. Again, Kimpton had the highest placed team in our District, with one team coming third overall. That's amazing! They will shortly be presented with a District trophy which acknowledges this great achievement.

We would like to thank all the parents who turned out to help: Matt, Lynne, Rainey, Sue B, Sue S, Suzy, Jenny, Hayden, Julian and Tim. And of course the Leaders without whom it would not be possible: mark, Christine and Kate.

All Sections paraded for Remembrance and once again we were so proud of our children and young people who represented the village so well. Many compliments were received about their conduct and presentation.

Please visit our website at www.kimptonscouts.org.uk to register your child on our waiting list. Unless you get names down early we cannot guarantee a place in the future.

We are very keen to recruit new leaders, particularly for the Scouts. It is a tremendously rewarding experience and you would be joining a very supportive and enthusiastic team.

Please contact us should you be interested in taking on a role within this great Scout Group.

Annie New
Group Scout leader
01438 833421

A caring County? Helping you prepare for the cost of care

Our latest volume of Hertfordshire history, just published, is *A Caring County?: Social Welfare in Hertfordshire from 1600* and gathers together new research into aspects of care for the sick, poor, elderly and vulnerable in Hertfordshire across four centuries. Focusing on towns and villages across the county, including Ashwell, Cheshunt, Hertford, Pirton, Royston and St Albans, the book asks how well Hertfordshire cared for its needy. With chapters on madhouses, workhouses, certified industrial schools, the Foundling Hospital, pensions and medical care, the book covers a broad range of topics. It seems that Hertfordshire was relatively nimble and sensitive in discovering and treating its people's needs and evidence is beginning to emerge that it was in essence a 'caring county'.

Co-edited by Prof. Steven King, Director of the University of Leicester Centre for Medical Humanities, and Gillian Gear of the Hertfordshire Association for Local History (HALH), the book's chapters have each been written by a local researcher, making this an unusually collaborative volume. The book was launched at the HALH annual symposium and we were delighted to be joined by almost all the eleven authors.

The painting on the cover of the book is *Our Village Nurse* by Sir Hubert von Herkomer. Painted in 1892, the painting was purchased by Bushey Museum and Art Gallery with the help of the Art Fund and is a portrait of Bushey's nurse of the time making her house calls. Sir Hubert helped raised funds to pay for Bushey to have its own village nurse. You can buy the book direct from University of Hertfordshire Press (call Gill Cook on 01707 284654) priced £16.99, or order it from any bookshop or online book retailer. For more information, see our website, www.herts.ac.uk/uhpess.

**Please remember that the deadline for the spring edition of this magazine is Friday March 7th
kimpton.editor@btinternet.com**

The cost of social care and how we pay for it is an issue that isn't going away. We are all living longer and we need to think about our future and how we want to be cared for.

Anyone with assets over £23,250 is responsible for the full cost of their care. It is therefore important that you seek information and advice to ensure that you make informed choices about your care and how you pay for it before you enter into any arrangements. Many people today face huge bills for their care and are selling their homes to fund it. This may not always be necessary.

Hertfordshire County Council has introduced a new initiative to support older people in this position. It is working with a not-for-profit organisation, *PayingForCare*, to help people who are responsible for paying for their own care costs access information and advice on all aspects of long-term care.

Information from *PayingForCare* includes:

- Information on state benefits you may be entitled to and how to claim

- Information on the different types of care that is available

- Guidance on topics such as setting up a Power of Attorney or Will

- Access to specialist advice on the best way to fund your long-term care

Where required, *PayingForCare* can put people in touch with specialist care fees advisers who can advise on the various ways to pay for your care for as long as you need it.

For a free chat call *PayingForCare* on freephone 0808 208 9994.

Cllr Colette Wyatt-Lowe, Cabinet Member for Adult Care and Health said: "By getting sound independent specialist information and advice, we believe that many people can protect their savings and assets for longer and help to leave a legacy for their loved ones."

Police & Crime Commissioner Visits Kimpton

Fancy meeting your local Police & Crime Commissioner and asking what they are doing in your community? Now's your chance!! David Lloyd is visiting Kimpton on the 11th December to have a chat with the community to discuss what he can do in your area and to answer any burning questions you may have.

Come and have a coffee and a chat with the Police & Crime Commissioner at Kimpton Memorial Hall on 11/12/13 between 9:00-9:30am.

Refreshments provided.



Neighbourhood Watch Update

Community Policing

As you know are classified as a low crime area so our PC Chris Suckling and PCSO Elaine Cuozzo have been diverted to higher crime areas reducing presence in Kimpton. However, it would be reassuring to see a uniform occasionally other than in a passing beat car.

Chris and Elaine do maintain regular contact with the Parish Council and NHW meetings where Chris supplies detailed crime data.

If you need to contact Elaine or any other officer please use the automated system at County HQ on 01707 354192 clearly identifying the officer you wish to speak to. Other useful contact nos. are inside the back cover of this magazine, including the new Police & Crime Commissioner.

Local Crime Alert

Police recorded crimes for the last 12 months fell to 55 from 85 in the previous period, which is good news. However, there have been recent break-ins at Whitwell Post Office, Lloyd Way and Canham Close, so we must not relax our guard and the police have issued the following timely reminders:-

Doors, Windows, Garages, Sheds and Gates, Lock them at night or on departure and don't forget to lift the handle and key lock PVCu doors.

De-icing your Car don't leave it unattended with the engine running and invite a casual thief to drive off.! Heating Oil Theft, If you have an oil storage tank fit a padlock to the cap and/or an audible warning device or ensure the tank is within range of a security light.

Scams on the loose

Be very wary of the following scams operating in this area.

One Day Sales. Trading Standards warn that flyers through your door invite you to a one day sale in a local hall with very tempting offers. These offers are usually bogus and if you must buy, use a credit card. If you pay cash there is no comeback. If you have a problem call the Citizen's Advice Bureau on 08454 040506.

Breaking into your Bank. Caller claiming to be from your bank says that your account has been hacked and they need to put you through to the police and after a pause another voice claiming to be a policeman asks for your Account and Pin Number. Put the phone down immediately!

Winter Sale!

If you need Personal Alarms, Door and Window Alarms and Letter Box Deflectors at knockdown prices please contact Alan Smith.

Metal Theft

Precious metal thieves continue to steal electric cables and diesel catalytic convertors from light commercial vehicles that are left unattended overnight.

Vehicle Speeding in the High Street

There is some progress. The Commissioner's office is training the Lead Volunteers followed by coaching for the other Community Drivesafe team members.

We would welcome more volunteers so if you are concerned about speeding, contact Alan Smith. The Peter's Green scheme has also reached the training stage.

Recently outside Kimpton School a white van driver swerved past the lollipop lady. Keep your eyes open for this hooligan.

Caring Neighbours

Please check on elderly, vulnerable and neighbours living alone and in particular remind them not to let unexpected callers into their house or engage in conversation with any dubious phone caller. If they are in any doubt put the phone down or if they are on the doorstep and are unsure about their identity advise them to call the Police immediately on 999.

Night Security and Absence

If you are leaving your property unoccupied especially over the festive season make your property look 'lived in' by parking a vehicle on the drive .and installing timer operated security lights. Give a neighbour your contact details. Double lock PVCu doors with handle operated shoot bolts with the key, if you don't the door can be jemmied! Don't leave keys in sight of the letter box .Our Letter Box Deflectors prevent this.

Have a peaceful and enjoyable winter and festive season.

Compiled by:

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

KIMPTON AUTUMN SHOW 2013



WHAT AN AMAZING SHOW!!

IT WAS A HUGE SUCCESS WITH OVER 500 ENTRIES – DONATING WELL OVER £1,000 WHICH GOES TO YOUR MEMORIAL HALL FUND. THANKYOU FOR THE LOVELY COMMENTS. THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND I SET OUT TO MAKE THE AUTUMN SHOW MORE OF A COUNTRY SHOW EVENT AND I THINK WE ACHIEVED THAT, ESPECIALLY WITH GUESS HOW MANY BALLOONS IN THE TRACTOR! – THANKS TO CLIFF HARLAND – NO. OF BALLOONS WAS 84! THE WEATHER WAS KIND, SO THE OUTSIDE GAMES WERE VERY POPULAR. CARA WHO SANG & PLAYED GUITAR MADE IT A SPECIAL SHOW INDEED. OUR CHILDREN'S FARM ACTIVITY DAY WAS GREAT FUN – MAKING HAND-HELD SCARECROWS, EVEN THE PARENTS JOINED IN. NEXT YEAR WE ARE HOLDING BEST KEPT ALLOTMENT/ FLOWER/VEG GARDEN – SO LOOK OUT NEXT YEAR FOR POSTERS. NEXT YEARS SHOW WILL HAVE EVEN MORE NEW IDEAS – SO GET PLANNING!! DATE OF NEXT SHOW – SAT 6TH SEPTEMBER 2014. THANKS AGAIN TO EVERYONE WHO HELPED AND ENTERED.

Sandra Berti x

& team



**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.

**WE ARE
MACMILLAN.
CANCER SUPPORT**

give with confidence

Macmillan Cancer Support, registered charity in England and Wales (218101), Scotland (SC039907) and the Isle of Man (504), MAC1308A, AD, AS

The Kimpton Bench Working Party

Over the last months we have been busy on Wednesday mornings, as usual. Maybe you have noticed us at work – or some of us anyway, while the others watched (or supervised as they would say). Our workforce is now 17 strong, which is just as well because the work keeps coming in – at the time of writing we have an outstanding job list of about 30 items!

So, what have we been doing? Well, it would take a long time to list everything but here is a taste. We have erected a loggia on the school playing field for the children to use (with a cover over it perhaps) in the summer. At the Recreation Ground we dug holes to fix in another picnic table – next to the existing one, fitted new brushes to the boot scraper at the entrance, cleared lots of foliage hanging over the Vicarage fence, and installed railings up though the centre of the football ground steps. We cleared lots of overhanging branches along the pavements at Peters Green and stained the bus shelter there as well as repairing its roof. At the Memorial Hall we have helped with maintenance, erected the marquee lining for Weddings, and moved stuff around to facilitate the Green Room works. We filled all the village salt bins ready for the bad weather, levelled 5 graves in the Churchyard and turfed them too. At the Church we managed to open the two wall safes where the keys had been lost - and made new keys for them. We have stained all the Parish benches, the West End bus shelter, and Parish Notice Boards. At the allotments we made and installed a new numbering system, cut back hedges and cleared rubbish off unused plots – and had many bonfires. We ventured to Ayot Old Church where we mended a broken cross and resited a couple of grave stones (thank you for the donation). We helped at the Autumn Show, and the Horse Show, and we rehearsed for at least 10 hours for our 1 minute of glory – doing the Hakka at Kimpton Entertains. And there's more, but that's enough!

Many thanks to the Horse Show and May Festival committees for their donations – it allows us to buy nuts and bolts and stain for benches, etc.. Anyone who would like to join us do get in touch, lots to do! *Bob Finch 832497*

The Church in Kimpton

Parish Church

Vicar

The Reverend Canon 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 Andrew Gale
01582 422635

Branch Leader

Miss Pam Greener
01582 604771

Police Telephone Numbers

Urgent 999 Non Urgent 101

Ward Constable Chris Suckling
Community Support Officer PCSO Elaine Cuzzo
01707 354192 (automated system)

Hitchin Safer Neighbourhood Team
Sergeant Martin Turpin
01438 757604 (usually answerphone)

Police and Crime Commissioner
David Lloyd
commissioner@herts.pnn.police.uk 01992 556600

Parish Magazine

Editor: Andy Wright

email: ***kimpton.editor@btinternet.com***

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Kimpton SG4 8SD 01438 832249

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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@hertsc.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 £2.00 plus 50p for each additional child and includes tea/coffee/juice and snacks for all. Held at Kimpton Memorial Hall on Tuesdays from 09:30 to 11:30 during term time.

Contact us at kimptonmonkeystoddler@gmail.com www.facebook.com/KimptonMonkeys

KIMPTON PRESCHOOL

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

We are open during term time from 8.50am to 11.50am, Monday to Friday. We also offer Lunch Clubs (11.50am to 12.30pm) and afternoon sessions (12.30pm to 3.30pm) from Monday to Thursday. For more details, please contact Lesley O'Brien, Preschool Manager, on 01438 833936.

KIMPTON MEMORIAL HALL

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

PETER'S GREEN VILLAGE HALL

For bookings please contact Mrs Lesley Lark, 01438 831189

USEFUL LINKS

www.kimpton.org.uk

www.herts.police.uk

www.stalbans.anglican.org

www.kimpton.herts.sch.uk