

Kimpton Parish

Magazine

Winter 2014

Number 240

“We will remember them”

see pages 11 to 14



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	<i>4th Sunday</i> Morning Prayer
9.30am		<i>4th Sunday</i> Family worship
8am	Parish Church	<i>other Sundays</i> Holy Communion (Common Worship)
9.30am		Holy Communion followed by coffee
11.30am	Ayot St Lawrence	Mattins with Holy Communion
		<i>2nd Sunday each month</i> (BCP)
6pm	Perry Green Chapel	Evening Service at Peters Green

**Times of weekday services may vary
Please check the weekly pew sheet for details**

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.



From the Lay Minister...

It's all happened so fast! When Lorraine left, I expected, with something of a heavy heart, that we would be without a Vicar for a long time – maybe even till next summer. Yet here we are, barely two months after thanking Lorraine for all that she achieved, getting ready to welcome Bonnie into the Vicarage. I have no doubt that God has been holding us in the palm of his hand as he has everyone, and we are very thankful that we have been so blessed.

Yet that blessing should also make us wonder 'Why?' Why should Kimpton be singled out to be so favoured? A very short gap between vicars. Someone of Bonnie's calibre being appointed. It all seems too good to be true!

Maybe we ought to wonder if God has something special for Kimpton – a particular task, a call that we should respond to. Maybe we have been a sleepy little parish for long enough and we need to wake up and ask ourselves what God's will is in this place.

A new start, certainly. A new direction, I hope. A new resolve to spread God's Word of love not only around the village, but in a wider context. What is God's will for us in the next few years?

And YOU could be part of this new ministry, this new initiative. God's call is for everyone. Now is a great time to help build his kingdom in Kimpton, as it is in Heaven.

May God bless Bonnie in her ministry here and may He also bless us all as we work with her.

Andy Morton, Lay Minister

Special Services and events

Saturday 13th December

10am Pathfinders Walk
Kimpton School

Sunday 14th December

4pm Christingle
Kimpton Church

Wednesday 17th December

12.30pm Loaves & Fishes Lunch
The Boot

7.30pm Carols at The Boot

Sunday 21st December

3pm Carol Service
Perry Green Baptist Chapel

4pm Carol Service
Ayot St Lawrence Church

6.30pm Carol Service
Kimpton Church

Monday 22nd December

8pm Carols at The White Horse

Tuesday 23rd December

6.30pm Carol Singing
Perry Green

Christmas Eve

3pm Crib Service
Kimpton Church

11.30pm Midnight Communion
Kimpton Church

Christmas Day

10am Christmas Communion
Kimpton Church

**You are very welcome at all these services and events
Please contact Andy Morton on 01438 832427 for any further details**



HERTFORDSHIRE
CONSTABULARY



North Herts Community Safety Partnership
Working together to keep North Herts a safe place to live, work and visit



Road Safety

Great news for speed monitoring in our Villages

The role of Lead Volunteers of the DriveSafe Schemes in Hertfordshire is going to be made much easier to manage with the administrative burden taken on centrally by the office of the Police and Crime Commissioner. There will no longer be any need for time consuming training on the use of complex computer systems and for time to be spent at Police Stations processing all the data gathered. Hopefully this will help the Kimpton Scheme to get off the ground.

Only a few weeks ago the PCC, David Lloyd, announced his plan to centralise the administration of DriveSafe so that Volunteers could spend more time on the roadside. Now this plan is being put into action.

Peters Green will be piloting the new centralised system together with four other schemes in the County.

It is envisaged that the pilot will run until Spring 2015 ahead of implementing it county-wide, but through the piloting period the records of speeding vehicles will actively accumulate in the Police database and drivers will be notified accordingly.

Volunteers in Peters Green are passionate about the need to slow traffic not only because residents and visitors, children and adults are always at risk throughout the village, but also because we are all too aware that in a very small space we have three extremely dangerous spots: Two junctions with limited visibility (at the Pub and at Lawrence End Road, which are passed by so many with total disregard for the risk of vehicles or cyclists crossing their path) and a blind bend for traffic entering the village from Kimpton, where again we see total madness prevailing regularly. Please... **THINK! ROAD SAFETY**

Grateful Thanks

The Editor and Production Team would like to acknowledge with thanks, donations received from Kimpton Autumn Show, Kimpton Horse Show, Kimpton Parish Council and Rev. Canon Lorraine Summers.

From the Registers

Burials & Cremations

23 September	Tony Kennedy
14 October	Peter Tansley
12 November	Arthur (Ken) Wilson



Photo: Andy Wright

A warm welcome for Bonnie!

My dear Friends,

How do you try to introduce yourself in a few sentences? Maybe I shouldn't try to tell everything! Leave a little mystery, some stories to share as we get to know one another? There has been a story about me in the diocesan newsletter, See Round, that tells a little - so I will try not to add to that! I have spent the last several years in parish ministry, serving my curacy in the Parish of Oadby, Leicester, as well as working with the national church on interfaith dialogue, and as bishop's interfaith adviser in the Diocese of Leicester. So I am quite used to a double role! I am so looking forward to getting to know everyone here in Kimpton and Ayot St Lawrence. Everyone has already been incredibly warm and generous, and full of good humour and laughter. I will have much to learn from you about busy village life, anticipating all the events around Christmas, Holy Week and Easter – and especially the May Festival! I also gather there are cream teas out of the vicarage once a year – yum! My two daughters, Zahra & Elva, are equally excited. They won't be with me the whole time as they live and work elsewhere, but coming to visit or stay for a time on occasion – and are especially looking forward to coming at Christmas. We are all eager to settle, and to make Kimpton with Ayot St Lawrence our home – such a blessing you have given to all three of us!

*With much blessing,
Bonnie
Revd Bonnie Evans-Hills*

The village says goodbye to Lorraine

Lorraine and Malcolm were showered with presents and good wishes from parishioners after her last service.

Lorraine is pictured with Anita and Sanjay from the Corner Stores, receives a bouquet and present from church warden Jenny Kelly and a hug from organist Andy Wright. Another present from bell ringer Sue Hammond and an emotional moment while BLAST children prepare to make their presentation.

Lorraine says “thank you for the wonderful gifts and cards Malcolm and I received. We were both overwhelmed by the generosity of church members and non-members alike”



Kimpton Memorial Hall



The ‘bleating’ must stop!

Ever since the current hall was built in 1982 successive Chairmen (including me!) have ‘bleated’ about the low attendances at the meetings of its managing body, ‘The Memorial Hall Management Committee’. Some Chairmen have even interpreted that as a lack of support for the Hall itself. That is an unfair accusation because we clearly have one of the very best village halls in the area (if not the best?), and most of the money to pay for the host of recent improvements, which have made it so good, has come from you, ‘The Village’.

What no more than half a dozen of you will do though, is to traipse up to the Hall at 8.00pm on a cold winter evening to attend a meeting, and amongst other things, to listen to a series of admittedly pretty boring reports from the officers. (Though that is not their fault, they have a duty to report, so that is what they do!). The Trust deed under which we operate basically states that we must have an AGM once a year which all residents of the Parish can attend, at which we elect the officers. Thereafter the hall is managed by those elected plus one representative from each of about twenty named village organisations. Traditionally we also invite one, or two, representatives from the Parish Council to join us. All in all, about 30 people are elected to the Management Committee, though less than half that number has ever attended a single ordinary Management Meeting. In practice that committee then delegates the day-to-day running of the Hall to a smaller ‘ad hoc’ Administration Committee, comprising primarily

the elected officers, which meets very regularly. Our outdated rules, written long before the age of instant communication, say that we must hold the AGM, and no less than four ‘Management’ meetings per year, so five meetings in total. A couple of years ago we combined The AGM with one of the four Management Meetings, and we decided to hold just one other meeting, in October, so two meetings in total. Yet still, nobody wants to come, especially to the ordinary ‘Management’ meeting, which is hardly surprising, because (blowing our own trumpets!) the Hall really is generally pretty well run. We get very few ‘gripes’, and attending un-necessary meetings really is pretty boring!

I suggest therefore that we cease fighting the unequal battle, and that in future that we hold just the one combined meeting per year, at the time of the AGM. However to protect the rights of the users, I further suggest that that any three user organisations should be entitled to call a ‘Management’, meeting at any time, giving say, one months notice.

We would still keep the organisations up to date with information concerning bookings, finances, projects etc., but we would do that by way of regular emailed reports, and via the good offices of this excellent magazine. The alternative would be that the organisations seriously commit to supporting our meetings, and realistically that is never going to happen!

Roger Nash 01438 832101

Kimpton WI

Autumn started with a talk on Historic Herbal Remedies which reminded many members of their childhood and the remedies concocted by their mothers to relieve various ailments. Did they work? Well, we are all here to tell the tale!

In 2015 the Women's Institute will have achieved the great age of one hundred years. To commemorate this our W.I. planted a rose called Inspiration in the Memorial Hall garden, at the start of our November meeting. This was followed by an excellent illustrated talk on Victorian East London by Jean Fullerton, author and herself an East Ender.

Our book club, table tennis and handicraft groups are all thriving as is the Kyme Valley Singers choir. A number of members went to see "The Witches of Eastwick" in Harpenden and a group of us went to the County International Evening where we learnt about life in Portugal and a group demonstrated some national dances.

We are now looking forward to our Christmas meeting on Wed. 10th December, 7.30 for 8 p.m., in the Memorial Hall, when Roly and Tim will be entertaining us with music and sketches. This meeting is open to the general public and tickets are £6.50 for non W.I. members and include a drink and mince pie (available from Liz Haynes 832500). We look forward to welcoming you.

In January our speaker will be talking on Nutrition and in February an ex-police officer will regale us with tales of Village Bobbies in the 1960's.

There is something for everyone in the W.I. so why not come along to one of our meetings on the second Wednesday of the month at 7.45 p.m. in the Lounge of the Memorial Hall when you will be given a warm welcome. For more information contact Janet 832597 or Shirley 01582 833285.

**Please remember that the deadline
for the spring edition of this
magazine is Friday March 6th
Please send copy and JPEGs to
kimpton.editor@btinternet.com**

Well done Oecos!

A coffee morning was held at the Memorial Hall on the 8th November for the Ebola appeal. We raised an amazing £1408.19.

Many thanks to everyone who donated homemade cakes, helped on the day, came along to support us or sponsored the event in any way. We received the certificate, below, from the Red Cross.

Jackie Davies



Peters Green Village Hall re-opens!

The Hall is available again for hire after essential floor maintenance and extensive insulation work.

Ideal for family parties, exercise and dance classes, other social events and for long term hire.

it has a lovely new ceiling, new lighting and a whole new layer of internal walls to keep you warmer!

**YOU ARE INVITED on Saturday 24th
January (2 - 5pm)**

Refreshments, homemade cakes, stalls of local interest and some fun for the children.
(Call Donatella on 07879 425879 if you would like to have a Stall)

From January 2015, Booking enquiries to Mrs Barbara Kazwini 01438 832620

Kimpton Scout Group



Our village Group continues to thrive, with good numbers in all Sections. Our presence is evident in a variety of village events, most recently in the Remembrance Parade. If you saw us there then I'm sure you would be as proud as we were that so many joined us, smartly presented and respectful, to mark this important event.

All Sections have enjoyed nights away with Beaver sleepovers, Cub weekend camps and in mid November many of the Scouts braved the most appalling mud to participate in the County-wide Green Beret Challenge. This is THE event in the Scouting calendar and comprises a comprehensive range of both day and night challenges, an orienteering and assault course. Our teams, once again, did spectacularly well. We were placed 3rd, 14th and 69th, the last team being made up of our youngest Scouts who have 3 more years to hone their skills. With 131 teams taking part this is an awesome achievement. It goes without saying that the young people put in a tremendous effort, displaying teamwork, commitment and a fair amount of resilience to achieve so well. Many thanks to our leaders, Mark, Christine and Kate

for their unstinting support and also to the band of willing parents who gave up their time to cook, clean, and clear the camp away.

All our leaders provide wonderful opportunities for our children and young people, with the Beavers and Cubs all having a great day out at Duxford Aircraft Museum recently; the time, energy and enthusiasm our leaders give to ensure all members of the Group have a truly memorable experience is wonderful and much appreciated by all.

Our biennial Family Camp took place in September. A fantastic weekend at Well End, with a plethora of activities on offer (supported by our wonderful District Active Support) was thoroughly enjoyed by 22 Kimpton Families. We managed to camp during the mother of all storms, with text messages and Face Book updates circulating in the wee small hours as everyone was checking that neighbours were alright. It was astonishing to learn that some had actually slept through the whole thing! The weekend provided such great memories and we thank all those who joined us to make this such a fantastic event.

As always, please register your interest in the Scout Group by completing the Family Information Form on our website www.kimptonscouts.org.uk.

As always, we are looking for new leaders. In 2016 our Scout Troop is threatened with closure if no-one comes forward to join our team. *Annie New Group Scout Leader 01438 833421*

The Dacre rooms are still available for use although, as you probably know, the Youth Club no longer exists. If you have any proposals for the use of the building (which was originally given to the men of Kimpton) or want to use it for meetings etc. please contact Patsy on 01438 832446



Fit and Fantastic comes to Kimpton

October saw the launch of Fit & Fantastic in Kimpton. An 'ease back into exercise' class designed for over 50's in our own village!

The class is on Thursday Mornings at 10am in the Memorial Hall and is a great mix of exercise to get you active, get the heart rate up, get the limbs moving, shape the body and improve coordination, posture and flexibility.

Our very experienced and friendly instructor leads you through the Fit & Fantastic work out at a pace to suit you. The sessions are 45 minutes long, very friendly and a lot of fun!

Already we have a great bunch of men and women taking part in Fit & Fantastic, enjoying the class and having fun.....but we do have room for more, so it'd be great to see the whole of Kimpton enjoying getting fitter together, so do think about giving it a go!

All you need to do is turn up dressed in comfortable clothing. We have kept the cost really low, kept it affordable, so that as many of us as possible can come along to get fitter.

Classes are £3 each if you book 4 classes in advance, or £4 if you would prefer to pay weekly.

Why not come along? We have classes every week in the school term time so just turn up and join in!

If you'd like more information then please call Lorry Edwards on 01438 831281 or email me lorryedwards@active-creative.com

Kimpton Belles WI

What a year! We ended last year reading a report from Kimpton WI about the great year they had had and that the National Federation of WI was running a campaign to get new young groups of WIs set up across the country.

Our President Emma Yates and Vice President Jenny Crellin took this as a challenge and began canvassing friends and neighbours. With the help of the Kimpton WI committee by

January we had engaged enough ladies aged between 21 and 63 from the village, and beyond, to set up our own Institute and 'Kimpton Belles' was thus born!

We meet on the third Wednesday of the month and as it was our first year we have been rather nomadic fitting into whichever village venue we could book at short notice, this has all aided to the camaraderie!

Our rather relaxed 'bring a bottle' to the meeting philosophy has proved a great success as has ensured many laughs whilst we have listened to speakers discussing things from Ghost Hunting to Cheese Making. We are ending the year with a Cocktail Challenge and a Christmas craft and mulled wine making session.

We welcome new members with open arms so please get in touch if you would like to join us.

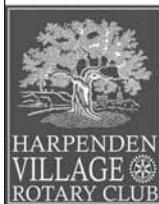
Contact Our Secretary Sarah McCarthy on 07941052915
facebook.com/Kimptonbelles
Kimptonbelles@gmail.com



Santa comes to Kimpton and Blackmore End

In December, Harpenden Village Rotary Club will escort Santa between 5.30pm and 8.30pm on ...

Thursday 11th around Blackmore End
Friday 12th around Kimpton



Also, see Santa on Thursday evening, 27th November at 6.00pm at the switching on of the Wheathampstead Christmas Lights! Join him in the grounds of the MacIntyre Home, at the rear of Charlie's Coffee Shop.

Proceeds from our collections will go to Wheathampstead MacIntyre Home, Wheathampstead Community Group, Wheathampstead Thursday Club, Keech Cottage, and other charities and good causes supported by Rotary.

Harpenden Village Rotary Charity Trust, Registered No. 1032626

Remembrance at Kimpton Primary School

Children the school marked Armistice Day in a variety of creative ways for this special anniversary year. You may have seen the creative talents of every single class of you have visited the Church, where our striking poppy display has adorned every available inch of space! Each class was represented at the war memorial during the village act of remembrance. Meanwhile, the whole school community gathered to watch the ceremony at the Cenotaph live online. Lexi read a poem that she'd written inspired by the Poppies, helping everyone to reflect during the two minute silence.

Outside of school, children from



**Leading us to victory
Ear-splitting sounds of the guns
Soldiers, leaving their families
Trenches filled with toxic gas
War is upon us
Every man for himself
Forced to fight
Ought to live
Resting in peace
Graveyards full of brave young men
Everlasting memories
They gave us their tomorrow.**

Year 6 and their families read The Ode of Remembrance by Laurence Binyon. Pupils responded to it with their own thoughts and creative endeavours.

“By ‘they shall not grow old, as we that are left grow old’, the poem means that children not much older than me went to fight, meaning that they wouldn’t grow up to have their own lives. We should remember them because they made the ultimate sacrifice. The least we could do is remember what they did”, said Year 6 student, Frank.

“Our world might have been very different if these people had not fought in wars,” says Lucy, in response to the Ode of Remembrance. “Poems are a good way of reminding people about it and how it made soldiers feel.”

Katie took inspiration from the poem to create her own acrostic poem as her tribute of remembrance.

Other works included sculptures representing the Tower of London, fighter planes, No Man’s Land, the trenches, and war memorials. Will spent hours carving a poppy into a cross-section of tree trunk, and Archie learned and performed ‘I vow to thee, my country’ on the violin. We’re very proud of the respectful and artistic ways in which our children have chosen to commemorate those who lost their lives fighting for their country, along with their charitable donations.

Turning now to the weeks ahead, we are looking forward to Christmas. Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 are busily practicing their festive productions. The choir are rehearsing ready for the Carol Service on the 18th December. First, though, the KSA Christmas Bazaar on the 28th November includes the Switch-on of our Christmas lights. Father Christmas will be in the grotto, with lots of stalls and games to try. We hope to see many of you there for a mince pie!

We will remember them

A hundred years on and still the world is at war. It was a wise man who said that 'those who do not learn from the mistakes of history are bound to repeat them'.

When we gathered round the war memorial and packed into the parish church for the Remembrance Service, we resolved to learn as well as remember.

It was a very poignant service, with poppies made by every child from the school decorating the window-sills and the pillars, and special poppies that we all held up as the names of the fallen were read out. The Brownies had made red windmills – each with a name from the war memorial.

It was an opportunity to remember that the casualties of war are not only the soldiers, but also civilians and refugees of all sides and Doug Jenner's very moving song about an Australian soldier at Gallipoli was most powerful.

At the end, we all trooped out into the sunshine to plant the poppies as a red corridor down the path.

'When you go home, tell them of us and say
For your tomorrow, we gave our today'.

Andy Morton

photos: Juliet Morton





Above, Andy Morton shows Kimpton School children the grave of one of Kimpton's WW1 fallen and below a Beaver and Rainbow at the Remembrance service. The children are pictured, left, with the poppies they made.





ROYAL BRITISH LEGION *Kimpton Branch*

As always, there was an excellent turn out for the parade and Remembrance Day Service. Kimpton Branch would like to thank all young people's organisations and their parents and leaders for making such an enormous contribution. Andy Morton kindly officiated for the short service at the War Memorial on the 11th itself. We were grateful to the School staff and children who joined us that day.

The Branch continues to recover from the difficult time we have had over the last 18 months, but we are still looking to recruit new members.

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.

Dave Gibbs, Branch Secretary

Tower Poppies

Liz Haynes has purchased one of the poppies from the Tower of London display and it will be put in the church as a permanent memorial. Liz would like to know if anyone else in the village has bought one and would be happy for it to be in the church. Liz will co-ordinate this, so please contact her on 01438 832500 if you would also like your poppy to be in the church.

Kimpton Church Auction of Promises

I would like to thank everyone in the village who recently supported our fund-raising event in the Memorial Hall. Many catalogues were sold, many Lots were offered up for auction and on the night many people gave generously of their time and finances. A cheque for over £480 has been sent to Mercy Ships, a Charity in Stevenage which provides free operations and treatment on board ship to the very poor in Africa. This figure represents ten percent of the amount raised. When final accounts are checked the total will come to over £5,000 so there will be a little more to send off. This is an amazing result, for which I thank you all.

Liz Jamieson

Kimpton Village Choir

During the last 3 years, our choir has found its feet as well as its voice and we have settled into an enjoyable pattern of activity; meeting on Monday evenings in Kimpton JMI School,

performing during the May Festival, and hosting and singing in the two local concerts; the summer concert at Ayot Church providing a wonderful venue for an evening of music. In September we were 1 of 9 local choirs singing in 'A Concert of Village Choirs' held at Princess Helena College in support of the Lister Macmillan Cancer Centre. It was a worthwhile and uplifting experience.

As a community choir, we welcome new members. Some of our members read music but many do not, and we are encouraged and aided by Anna, our musical director, to sing by ear and enjoy the experience! Singing in four part harmony, we can produce a great sound... If singing appeals to you - perhaps you already sing in the shower or around the house! – we are holding an open evening on Monday 26th January 2015 when you are invited to come along and sing with us. The evening will start at 7.45pm in our usual venue, Kimpton School, and we look forward to welcoming you with a glass of wine or soft drink.

In addition we have a 2 for 1 offer on subscriptions between January and July 2015 so if you are tempted, come along with a friend or family member until the summer break.

It's official: Singing is good for your health! So if you want to lower your blood pressure, reduce your stress and raise your spirits we look forward to seeing you!

For more information, please contact Janet Cook 01438 832310 or Anna Bosatta 07796 342620.



Kimpton Bench Working Party

We have been beavering away in the village. Lots and lots of things have been achieved, and of course many of the world's problems solved over coffee and cake.

We tidied up the bottom of Cooper's Hill and installed a bench there (pictured above). This is an excellent example of a Kimpton community project. The bench was supplied by the relatives of Alistair McCrae, and is dedicated to his memory; the attractive paving stones under the bench were paid for by the Parish Council; several hundred bulbs have been planted under the trees – these funded from the profits of the monthly coffee morning in the Dacre Rooms.

Push chair rails and bike racks have been installed at the Memorial Hall. We erected a lamppost and lights on the new Hall pedestrian path, and installed new floodlights in the car park, as well as other maintenance work. We flattened and turfed several graves in the churchyard, cleaned and painted the War Memorial railings ready for November 11th, and helped put the Christmas lights up in front of the school. For the Horse Show we ran the gate and car parking, and at the Autumn Show we ran the games in the garden. As usual we repaired and painted the many benches in the Parish.

We commissioned our own first aid course in the Green Room and most of us now have a "First Response" certificate. Last year we had a lifting and handling course. These precautions were essential once we heard the news that doctors are paid a bounty of £15 every time they diagnose advanced senility, so making us extremely nervous of visiting the surgery. We would like to thank the May Festival for funding the first aid course and making a further donation for our work, and the Horse Show too for their donation.

The list of activities – such as hedge cutting, ivy removing, kissing gate installation and repair, bonfires on the allotments - is too long to recount here, and is enjoyable outside work. Do join us if you like to do such things and want to help keep Kimpton such a lovely place for us all to live

*Bob Finch 01438 832497
Bench Working Party Coordinator*

The Bowls Club

The Green has now been “put to bed” for the winter, although grass cutting and other maintenance works will be carried out through the closed season.

Our next event will be our Christmas Lunch at The Boot in mid December; as usual a sell-out.

The Club’s AGM took place on 18th November when the following officers were elected.....

Chairman	Hal Boshier
Hon. Secretary	Beverley Pate
Hon. Treasurer	Roy Willetts
Club Captain	Angus Lennox

We hope that those interested in gentle exercise and friendship will contact Beverley for details, on 01582 834014, or visit our website www.kimptonbowlsclub.blogspot.com

Open Day 2015 will be Sunday 19th April.

Kimpton Guides need your help

1st Kimpton Guides are looking for new leaders. This is not as daunting as it sounds. Wendy left Guides after being with us for 10 years in the summer, and unfortunately, Pam who has been our unit helper for many years has had to stand down for the foreseeable future. We have been very lucky that we have Kelly and Hollie helping us at Guides most Tuesdays but they both have young children and are not always able to attend.

Running Guides is fun and rewarding. Some of you know the sort of activities the girls do, but it all takes planning and a lot of work is done behind the scenes.

We meet on a Tuesday, from 7.15 till 8.45, at The Memorial Hall during term time. In the past the Guides have visited Kimpton Bowls Club, have been to Wheathampstead where they made rope bridges across the river. They have made dens in the woods and cooked their meals. We have been swimming and bowling in Stevenage, ice skating in Hyde Park, and a trip on the London Eye. They work in the unit on

badges and Go For Its. They challenge themselves.

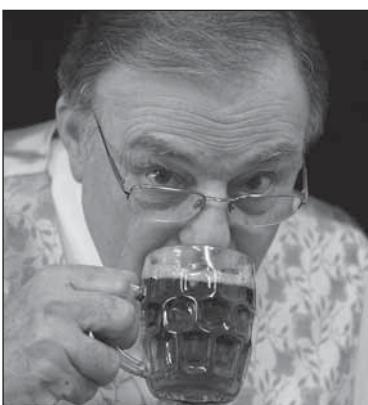
Please help continue the tradition of 1st Kimpton Guides. Adults that join Guiding are usually amazed at how much fun it can be and are surprised that it leads to friendship and fulfilment.

We are holding a Christmas concert with the Rainbows and Brownies in the Memorial Hall on Tuesday 9th December, come along and see what the girls are up to and have a chat or email me. donna.guides@hotmail.co.uk

*Donna Bigg
Guide Guider
1st Kimpton Guides*

Ladies and gentlemen Good evening!

By the time you read this, we'll have just finished our Pantomime, ‘Puss in Boots’. (“It's behind you! – Oh, Yes it is!!”). Both rehearsals and ticket sales have gone well, and we look all set for another huge success.



We're now starting on rehearsals for our 2015 Music Hall. Performance dates will be 27th & 28th February, and 5th, 6th & 7th March next year. Tickets will go on sale on January 17th, and full details will be on the posters which should be going up just after New Year.

To our great good fortune, we have a number of new members who have joined recently, and the future is looking bright. So why not come and join us? We always eager to welcome new performers or carpenters or hammerers or sewers or painters or whatever! It's fun and creative and inclusive, and we'd love to see you. Contact Mike Taylor (mike.taylor@mtis-ltd.co.uk) for more information.

Arthur South, chairman



They've been together for 50 years!

Thelma and Roger Nash were married 50 years ago on the 21st November 1964, in Kimpton Parish church. Both have taken an active part in village life. Roger was a Parish Councillor for 20 years, between 1982 and 2002 and he served three terms as Chairman. He is the current Chairman of Kimpton Memorial Hall.

Thelma, nee Butterfield, was born in Kimpton, and was the third generation of her family to attend Kimpton JMI, since extended to five generations, by their younger son Adam, and all five of their Grandchildren.

Roger and Thelma first met at a rugby club dance in 1959 when she was seventeen, and he was nineteen. When first they were married they lived in Flamstead, where, before their marriage, they had saved for, bought, and rebuilt, an old cottage. Although they had furnished the cottage before they were married, they had not occupied it : "Such things were not done in those days! -- The swinging sixties: my foot!!" says Roger. So they returned from their honeymoon before moving in. They still feel that gave them a very good start to their married life.

In the process of renovating the cottage they found that they had enjoyed the process, and felt that perhaps they had a bit of a flare for it? So subsequently they did the same with a couple of other houses. Roger had always vowed never to live in Kimpton, which he regarded as an isolated, slightly backward, hamlet in the wilds of North Hertfordshire. However, when Kimpton Bury came on the market in 1975, with a few acres of land, where Thelma, and their two sons might be able to enjoy their growing passion for horses, they bought it, despite the fact that it was in pretty poor repair. They lived there for nearly 18 years, by which time their two sons Andrew and Adam (both well known in the village) had fled the nest, and as Thelma says they were "rattling around the house like two peas in a jam jar!". So they moved down the High Street to Wren's Cottage, where they have now lived for over 18 years.

When asked to what they attribute 50 years of happy marriage? Roger's answer was "that we have been, and still are, best friends, and we have never, never squabbled over money!" Thelma's answer was more simplistic, "picking the right partner". Love perhaps adopts a different guise later in life, but it is clearly still very much a part of the equation.

Your Parish Church Choir needs you!

We are looking for 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

The deadline for the spring edition of this magazine is Friday March 6th

Please send copy and JPEGs to kimpton.editor@btinternet.com

Previous editions as PDFs can be seen at the village website kimpton.org.uk

As you know, the theme for the Kimpton May Festival 2015 is....

All the fun of the fair

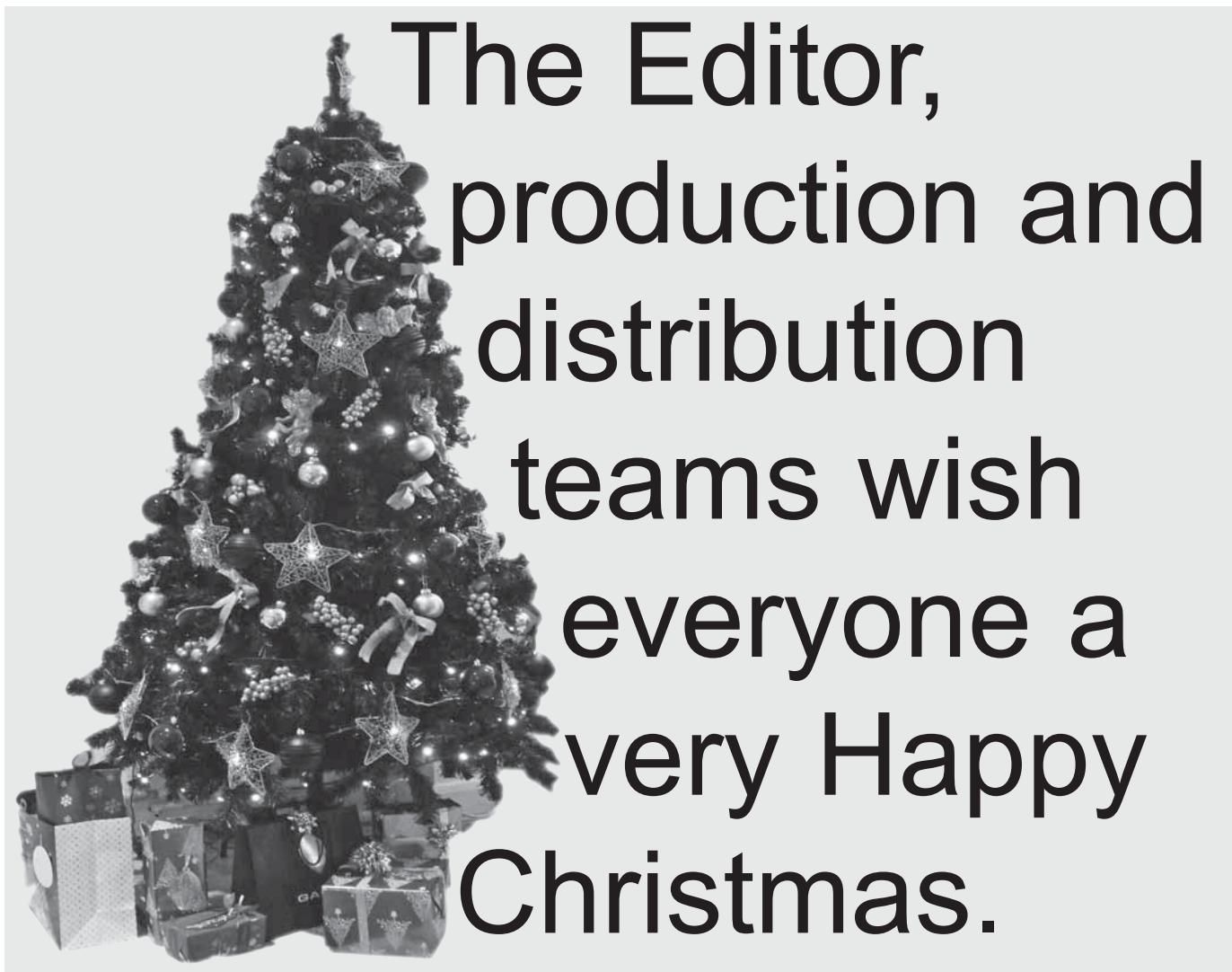
Please be as creative as ever!

We would like to ask for your help in continuing to put on a great Festival:

1. Festival is the success it is largely because of the many people who contribute, visibly or 'behind the scenes', their time and effort. A number of people have expressed interest in helping out over the Festival weekend but have limited time available and/or don't want to have to 'join' anything...well, don't worry; we are planning to launch a scheme where you will be able to 'sign up' to offer as little as one hour of your time at a given point over the weekend.
2. 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'? Maybe you work for a company or organisation that might be willing to donate? Maybe you have a famous friend? Please do give it some thought and let us know.

Please feel free to 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.

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



Kimpton Flood Investigation Update

In July 2014 Hertfordshire County Council commissioned an investigation into flooding in Kimpton. The study was required following flooding to the village in 2001 which was caused by high groundwater levels. Groundwater levels have been recorded since 1963 at a nearby well at 'The Holt' and these show that levels during February 2001 were the highest on record.

Whilst this event is still fresh in many people's memory, a review of flood history also shows that this was not the only time the village has been impacted by flooding. Flooding experienced in 1916, caused by high groundwater levels and in contrast flooding in 1947 was experienced due to snowmelt and rainfall running off frozen ground – this occurred throughout much of England. The aims of this study are to understand how and why flooding has occurred in the village, and to assess potential flood mitigation options in Kimpton.

Since July, the environmental consultants contracted to undertake the study (ESI Ltd & Thomas Mackay Ltd) have been gathering and analysing data, including records of flooding from 2001. This information has been used to build two computer models to understand flooding in Kimpton: a groundwater model and a surface water model. The groundwater model uses rainfall data, geology, ground elevation and river locations to calculate the groundwater levels and spring flows in the valley upstream of Kimpton. These spring flows are then put into the surface water model to investigate flooding impacts on Kimpton.

Initial results show that both models generally give a good representation of the 2001 flood, although the surface water model is awaiting some key drain and elevation data which are still being collected.

These initial results of the project were presented at a workshop held in Kimpton Memorial Hall on 19th November. After an introduction from Emma Ryder of Hertfordshire County Council and a summary of the 2001 event from local resident Andrew Morton, the groundwater and surface water specialists presented the project findings to date.

The next step is to run these models with different severities of floods to show the range of likely impacts on Kimpton. Once this is completed, different flood risk mitigation options can be investigated.

A cost-benefit analysis will consider damages caused by floods of varying severity and compare them to the cost of different flood risk mitigation options. This analysis will indicate which options are viable and will allow funding to be applied for where required.

A wide range of mitigation options are currently being considered. Options include:

Make permanent arrangements for pumping to drains as used in 2001.

Extend surface water drainage system to permanently lower the water table in the village.

Provide diversion routes for flood water around the village.

Provide flood defences for Enterprise Industrial Park.

Maintain existing water storage areas in the land above Kimpton.

Reinstate groundwater abstraction for public supply

Update and maintain the current emergency plan.

Maintain Environment Agency flood warning system.

Use planning to prevent further development in the flood zone.

The study is due to be completed in early 2015. If you have any other questions or suggestions for managing flooding in Kimpton, the project team would be keen to hear from you. Please either contact Carina Helm (kimptonpc@btconnect.com) who will pass the information onto the team, or contact Emma Ryder at Hertfordshire County Council on 01992 556476 or email emma.ryder1@hertfordshire.gov.uk.



On the 19th November, residents were treated to a presentation on progress to date with the flood risk project that has been undertaken on behalf of the village. You may recall from earlier newsletters that Hertfordshire County Council had successfully bid for some funding, and two firms of consultants – one specialising in groundwater flooding and the other in surface water flooding – were engaged to assess our exposure.

Longer term residents will be aware that a sump has been in place since the 2001 incident, and we are all aware of the fact that the groundwater rose fairly close to the point at which a flood may occur in February this year. What may not be so well known is that there is another monitoring point up near The Holt, and this has been monitored since the 1970s, so provides a rich source of data.

Amongst other things, it shows that there have been several years in the last 25 or so where the groundwater levels have been pretty much where they were this February, so it is important that we do all we can to attract funding and support against the risk of an incident in the future.

It has to be said that any project undertaken would be expensive (it's estimated that the 2001 response cost £600,000 in today's money) and this is where some calculations come into play. In simple terms the consultation will determine the likelihood of a flood event, and the frequency, and also the potential damage costs. This data will then be used to calculate an average annual 'cost' of a flooding event – for example, if an event cost £100,000 in terms of damage, and occurred on average every ten years, then a cost of £10,000 per year would be used.

Hertfordshire County Council will then determine the measures that are required to protect against this, and come up with a cost for that, also averaged out to an annual figure. So if the cost of a scheme is £50,000 and will last for ten years, then that is £5,000 a year. This is set against the risk cost above, the logic being that it will cost £5,000 per annum to prevent a potential loss of £10,000 per annum – in these circumstances the scheme will probably go ahead. On the other hand, of course, the sums may work out the other way – if there is a cost of £10,000 annually to prevent £5,000-worth of damage then we will not receive anything.

This is a simplification of the process, of course, but outlines the principles under which the decision will be taken. On a positive note, we have retained some useful infrastructure from 2001, so if something similar should occur in the future we will be better prepared, and also there is a lot of local knowledge that we can call upon as well – even if we do get a repetition, we should be better prepared.

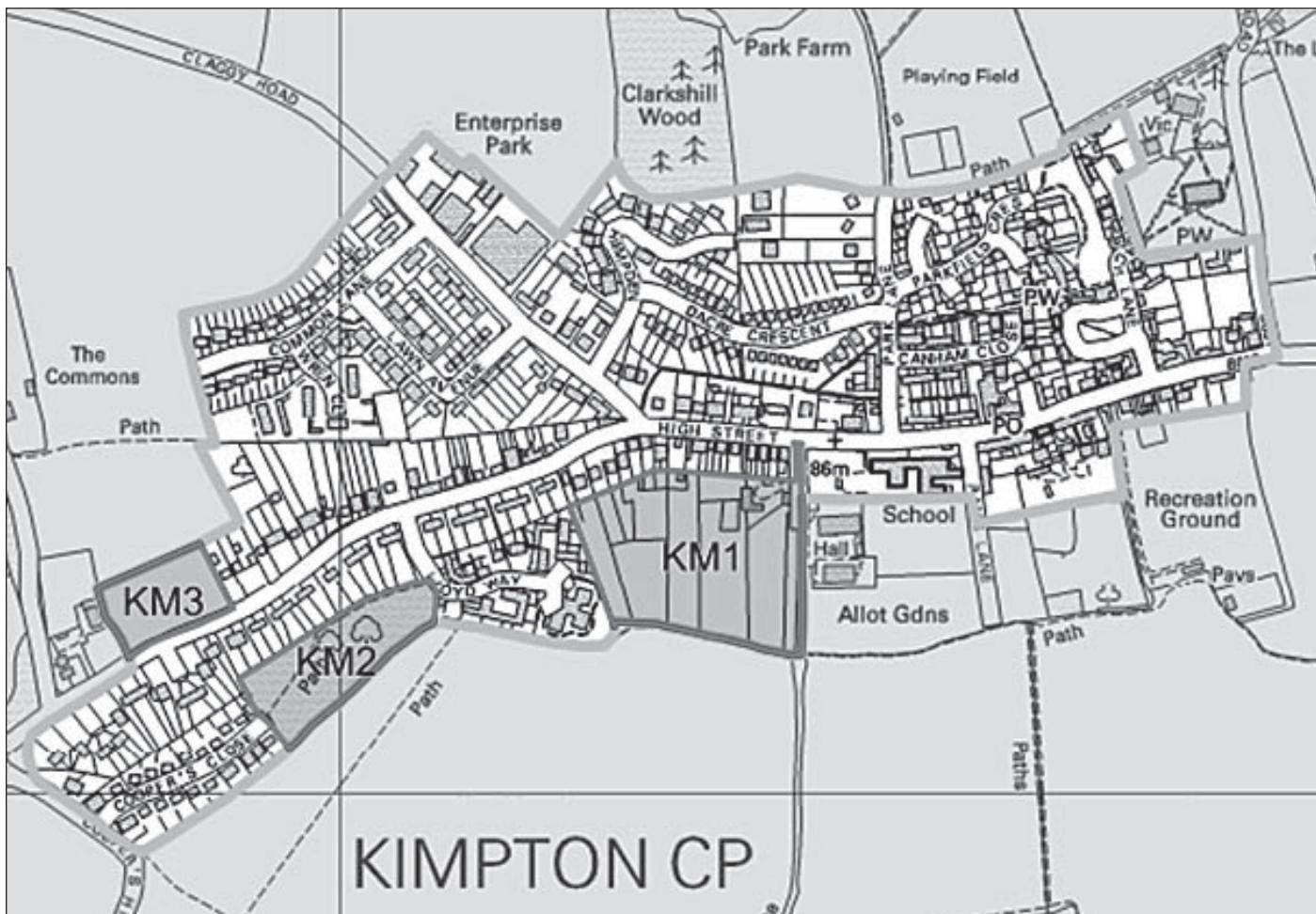
I apologise for taking up so much of the newsletter with one item, but I'm sure you will agree that this is an important initiative for the village. Another important project is the development of Lloyd Way, and a planning application for the latest scheme on this site is due shortly – we understand that submission is expected in January. If the scheme is approved, then we expect the work to begin in the Summer or Autumn of 2015.

Work has, of course, already started on the Probyn House site.

North Hertfordshire District Council have also put out for consultation some proposed sites for development in Kimpton, and for revised settlement boundaries (green belt) as shown on the map.

These areas have been proposed by independent consultants and the Parish Council has had no input at this stage. We are expecting consultation to begin shortly, so please keep monitoring the Parish Council's website, as well as North Herts District Council, for the latest information. You will note, of course, that the site designated KM2 is the Lloyd Way site that is already scheduled for development.

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Other activity in recent weeks has included tree work around the cricket pitch at Parkfield, and sincere thanks are due to the Kimpton Bench Working Party for the work that they have carried out at the junction of Coopers Hill – that triangle of land now looks immeasurably better – so much so that a few weeks ago I saw a couple of visitors sitting on the bench enjoying a picnic, having parked up nearby!

We are also grateful to the Kimpton Coffee Morning for donating and planting bulbs – we should benefit from a fine display of daffodils and crocuses in the Spring.

Finally, may I remind you to keep an eye on the Parish Council website (www.kimptonpc.org.uk) and also please follow us on Facebook as well, at www.facebook.com/kimptonpc

David Hardstaff

Kimpton Rights of Way Working Group

Dog fouling continues to be a problem. With the help of Herts County Council and the Bench Working Party we now have some laminated A5 signs on posts that anyone can place by the side of any mess they see to remind owners of their responsibilities. If anyone would like a supply, please ask. And if you see anyone allowing their dog to foul a public space you can report it to North Herts District Council. Go to www.north-herts.gov.uk and click on 'Report it' on the right side of the page.

Also note that if you allow a dog to run free in a field, off the footpath, then technically you are trespassing. I don't know of any prosecutions around here but I do know the farmers don't like their seedbeds, the source of their livelihood and our food, being used as latrines.

Winter gales are on their way so we can expect trees or at least some branches to come down on the paths. Usually we can get them cleared reasonably quickly, though I know we still have some branches across footpaths from late summer storms. If any problems, let me know or tell Tom Goldsmith, Countryside Access Officer at Herts. County Council (tom.goldsmith@hertfordshire.gov.uk). *Bob Malcolm* 01438 832309 bobm@ideo.co.uk

A black belt for Leyah



Zoku karate Association is celebrating its youngest black belt, with Leyah Fullarton-Turner being only 9 years old. Leyah, from Kimpton, started karate at the age of 4 years old and attends the Zoku Karate club in Whitwell and Baldock. Leyah attended her black belt grading exam on Saturday 8th November and performed amazingly. As well as all the physical karate aspects to perform, she also had to pass a Japanese written exam, anatomy written exam, produce an in depth portfolio and complete a Japanese History Oral.

Not only is this a fantastic achievement but she has also now created three generations of black belts in her family. Her grandad George Fullarton 5th Dan and her mum Sarah Fullarton 5th Dan are joint chief instructors of Zoku Shotokan Karate Association and Leyah's dad Alan Turner 4th Dan, is the senior instructor of the association.

Only a few months ago Leyah was also awarded with Level 3 Cadet Instructor qualification through the Martial Arts Instructor UK programme. We were very surprised to hear of the news that the Governing Body had awarded this to her, as she was three years too young to qualify for it. But with her dedication and enthusiasm to teach and pass on her expertise, this award is very deserving.

The Kimpton and Whitwell Karate Club takes place on a Wednesday evening at 6pm, at the Whitwell New Fellowship Hall, Bendish Lane, Whitwell.

The club accepts children and adults from 6 years old and continues all year round.

Please email sez69sez@hotmail.com for more information or visit the Zoku website www.zokukarate.co.uk

Cards for Good Causes Christmas Card shop in Harpenden

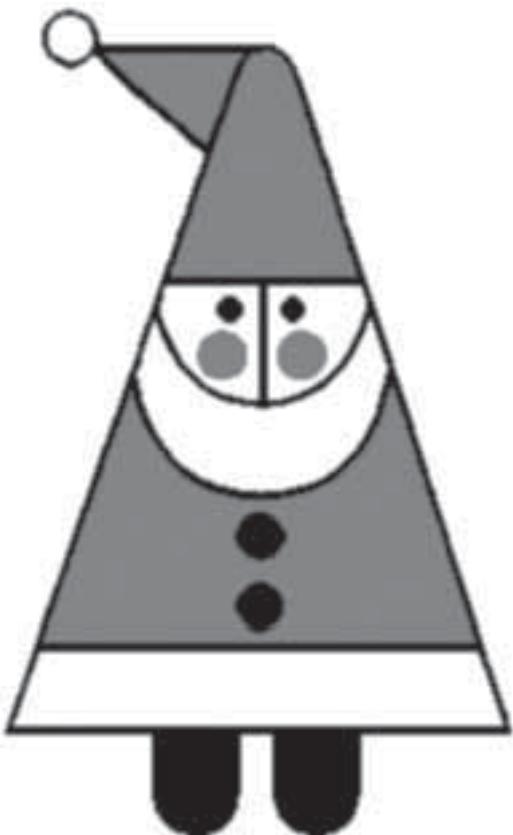
Cards for Good Causes - which sells charity cards across the UK every year - is open in Harpenden at The United Reformed Church in Vaughan Road. It offers shoppers the chance to buy Christmas cards from more than 25 national and local charities.

As part of the UK's largest multi-charity Christmas card organisation, we offer a wide range of designs to choose from and a convenient way to support more than one good cause. We're sure just one visit to our shop will also help you with wrapping paper and gift tags this season, helping to cross a few festive jobs off the list in one go.

You'll find us from our distinctive triangular red Santa signs in Vaughan Road, Harpenden.

The shop, staffed by local volunteers, is open until Tuesday 16th December from 9 30am to 4 30pm every day.

Look out for the red triangular Santa sign!



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, Monday to Friday, with morning sessions from 8.50am to 11.50am and Lunch Clubs from 11.50am to 1.20pm. 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 Barbara Kazwini. 01438 832620

USEFUL LINKS

www.kimpton.org.uk

www.herts.police.uk

www.stalbans.anglican.org

www.kimpton.herts.sch.uk