

Kimpton Parish Magazine

*Winter 2016
Number 248*



Sandra and Mike Benson moved from Kimpton to New Zealand in 2011 and have endured two major earthquakes.

Their story is on pages 12 and 13

Our new gardening writer gives some seasonal advice on page 10



Sunday

9.30am

Parish Church

Family Communion
B.L.A.S.T.

2nd Sunday

11.30am

Ayot St Lawrence

Holy Communion

3rd Sunday

9.30am

Parish Church

Informal worship
followed by Parish Breakfast

Sunday

6pm

Perry Green Chapel

Evening Service

Tuesday

9am

Parish Church

Morning Prayer

Wednesday

9am

Parish Church

Morning Prayer

Thursday

9am

Parish Church

Morning Prayer

4.30pm

Parish Church

Evening Prayer

For special services please see Sunday pew sheet

Prayer Corner

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

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



Bonnie's Blog....

Christmas Sparkle

There is a point in the life of the parish church when the last of the major events before Christmas are over and there begins a new run

of all the beautiful services that take us to the climax of Christmas Eve and morning. Despite all the shops trying to draw us in with temptations of Christmas chocolates and decorations and the latest gadget – our attention has been on Harvest, All Souls, and Remembrance! But now we are here! Jeanette has collected 44 Christmas shoeboxes that have been filled with gifts for children living in poverty or conflict – and these have now been delivered for sorting. Soon we will have the Christingle service – a real favourite – which will also provide a chance to donate to the Children's Society.

Posters for the panto are up, Kimpton Community Choir are busy practicing for their evening concert in the church, and our church choir are preparing for the Carol Service! What a busy village we are! And that's what makes living here so very special. Life is so very full, and most people I meet, especially the retired (!), are so very busy!

But there is another side too. There is time to walk, to stop and chat, to have a cuppa and cake with a friend in the Dacre Rooms. In the midst of my own busy life, I am now finding, and I think this is the Kimpton effect, that I stop and stare, take time to slow down. So when I am in the hustle and bustle of Westminster or Luton or Bedford, sometimes to the consternation of those around me – I stop and stare, take in where I am, what I am doing. Those of you who are commuting will have experienced some serious disruption on the train lines – so frustrating for the tired who just want to get home to family. But amongst all of that, there have been small exchanges of humour and kindness, a willingness to help one another out, share taxis or lifts, a bite of food or simply a smile. Those little acts of kindness

make life precious and worth living. I came across a short blog written by someone who loves public transport for just this reason, spending their time imagining what kind of lives people have behind the commuter mask! And there is in that a real passion for humanity, to treasure the gifts each and every individual brings to this world and for which they were created.

It's ok to be busy – we need to earn our livelihoods and fulfil obligations to family and colleagues. But we also need to fulfil an obligation to ourselves, to stop every now and then, really look at the world around us, acknowledge the beauty we see not only in creation, but in the power of the human spirit. In Christian terms, there is a spark of the holy in each and every person, and the significance of Christmas is in acknowledging that spark within us, the spark of holiness each of us carries as Mary carried the Christ child within her and gave birth to a Love that would transform the world. Stop, look, see, and love that holy child in the people you meet, and within your own self.

And check out the list of services at the church too! We'd love to see you there!

Revd Bonnie Evans-Hills

Special Services in December

Sunday December 4th

4.30pm Christingle

Sunday December 18th

4pm Ayot St Lawrence Carol Service
6:30pm Kimpton Carol Service
both with the Parish Church choir

Christmas Eve

3pm Crib service – Nativity play
11.30pm Midnight Holy Communion
11:30pm Midnight Holy Communion,
Ayot St Lawrence

Christmas Day

10am Christmas All-Age Holy Communion



***Taking time out
Back in October, I
told the church
congregation that I
would not be
asking the Bishop
to renew my
licence as Lay
Minister, at least for
the time being.***

I will not here go into the reasons for my decision, which is one I make only with great sadness, but I have felt for some time that I have not been able to lead worship with as much joy and rejoicing as I would have liked and that it is time to find what God wants of me. He may lead me back to Kimpton. He may not.

I will continue to do my pastoral work – visiting people, being involved in ‘Loaves and Fishes’, taking Home Communions - but I will not be taking services.

I am immensely touched by the huge number of messages of goodwill that I have received and the prayers that so many of you have said for me and for Juliet. You are very special people and Kimpton is a wonderful place.
May God bless you all, *Amy Morton*

Christmas shoe boxes for Samaritan's Purse

A stack of boxes has been available in church for people in the village to fill with everyday items and toys for children across the world who would not get a present normally. These will be distributed in the next few weeks to give to children at Christmas.

We have taken 44 generously filled boxes to the distribution centre. Videos of the children opening them can be seen on the Samaritan's Purse website. Many thanks to all who took part.
Jeanette Bowers

Community Food Box

Kimpton Church has recently set up a Community Food Box for the benefit of the village. Please feel free to make use of it during the day, either by contributing non-perishable items, or by taking any of the items for your own use, as appropriate. The box is situated on the tables at the back of the Church.

50th Birthday for Luton, South Beds and Harpenden Samaritans

In October the Luton, South Beds and Harpenden Samaritans celebrated their 50th Year of working in the local community. As it's such a landmark event, we invited all our volunteers to a party in a Dunstable pub. And what a happy evening it turned out to be ! It was lovely to chat to colleagues new and old, and to reminisce about past times and talk about the future.

Could any of you be part of that future?

Samaritan volunteers give 3 to 4 hours of their time every week to listen to people whose lives have become so sad, difficult or lonely that they are struggling to cope. They may contact us by phone , e mail or text, or visit us at our centre in Luton.

Last year 16,000 contacts were made to our branch. The need is very great. We don't judge people or tell them what to do, but simply by listening can and do make a difference.

If you think you might be able to help us by becoming a volunteer please write to us at 33 Cardiff Road, Luton. LU1 1PP or email recruitmentsamaritans@gmail.com and we will get back to you.

The next Introduction / selection Day will be in January. We also need people to help with fundraising and publicity and would be equally delighted to talk to you about this.

Please contact us on 01582 720666 or visit our website

www.samaritans.org/branches/samaritans-luton-south-beds-and-harpenden

Stagenhoe Christmas Trees

Fresh British grown Christmas trees in all shapes and sizes and wreaths and garlands. Available from 27th November with local delivery available.

Please call Jo or Tim for more information
07979 398887 / 07778 519569

www.stagenhoe.co.uk

email: farm@stagenhoe.co.uk

www.facebook.com/stagenhoefarmers

Kimpton Church New Youth Group



The New Youth Group has got off to an amazing start, in September we enjoyed a fair trade breakfast and planned future activities. In October we helped to weigh, date and sort the donations at the St Alban's food bank warehouse in Harpenden. (Pictured left)

On 6th November we were very busy preparing for the Crib Service on Christmas Eve.



From January we will begin planning our amazing Yard Sale that will raise funds for homeless people locally. Look out for more information in the new year!

The New Youth Group meets at Church House from 10.45am to 12.15pm on the first Sunday of each month. Anyone aged from 10 to 17 years is welcome.

Please contact Kate James at katherinejames@gmail.com

From the Registers

Weddings

30th September 2016	Ami McLean to Barry Mehew
11th November 2016	Keliagh Parsons to Michal Lurka

Burials, Interments and Cremations

13th September 2016	Joan Ethel Cunningham
18th October 2016	Betty Barbara Messingham
20th October 2016	Brian Bigg
3rd November 2016	Janet Elizabeth Tysoe

We have also learnt that Shirley Derrick died at Harrogate on 7th October 2016

Brian Bigg - Skip

18th July 1937 to
28th September 2016

We would like to say thank you, to everyone for their kind words, cards and flowers.

This has been a very sad time for the family, but it has been a great comfort to us all to hear so many people in Kimpton say such lovely things about him. We heard stories of his younger days that we hadn't heard before, memories of long ago.

We were very heartened to see the Church filled with so many who came to pay their respects and say goodbye. A day to celebrate the life of a wonderful man.

We all loved him dearly and will miss him greatly. He will never be far way, Kimpton was his home and Kimpton he will always be.

Many thanks Doreen and Family

Magazine deadlines for 2017

Spring March 10th
Summer June 23rd
Autumn September 15th
Winter November 17th

Please make sure that your copy and images are in by those dates

kimpton.editor@btinternet.com

BLAST is back...

BLAST (Bible Learning and Sharing Together) is enjoying the Autumn term. It is all change as we said a very fond farewell to the lovely Amanda who has led BLAST over the past few years.

The children made a very glittery, and sticky, card and we all celebrated with cake. We are now sharing the responsibility for BLAST across our Church family... it is great to have some willing helpers and we have already enjoyed some engaging and creative sessions exploring key dates in the Church calendar. We celebrated harvest and helped with the auction of some wonderful produce in Church. We have even had a go at making our own bread. (Pictured below)

We are now preparing for our annual nativity play which takes place on Christmas eve. We are embracing the nativity story and have a fun script that includes dancing and singing (of sorts!). We would welcome more children to join in and are especially looking for angels, sheep and shepherds (or shepherdesses).

Do come and join us for rehearsals in Church House at 9.30am on Sunday mornings. We promise that BLAST is lots of fun and our children (age 3-10 years) really enjoy making new friends, taking part in our Church community and learning together.

Charlotte Knight



Auction of Promises

Kimpton Church is planning to hold another fund-raising Auction of Promises in the spring, date to be confirmed.

This is just to warn you to look out for notices around the village in the New Year, and to ask if anyone has a hobby or activity that they would be willing to share as an auction item, then please contact Jeanette Bowers (832503) or Liz Jamieson (832858) asap.

Kimpton History Group 2017

Wednesday 18th January at 8 pm in the Green Room

“Restoration of Wheathampstead Railway Station”

Patrick McNeill who is involved with the Heritage project in Wheathampstead will talk to us about the task of restoring the Station platform.

Wednesday 15th February at 8 pm in the Green Room

AGM for first 15 minutes, then “From the Archives”

John Pollington will give an illustrated talk, based on some of the information we hold in our archives about Kimpton.

Wednesday 15th March at 8 pm in the Green Room

“Poor Child’s Friend”

An illustrated talk by Andy Gibbs from the British Schools Museum at Hitchin

Visitors are extremely welcome to attend any of the talks, for which we charge £3 per visit. For more information about the Group please contact Juliet Morton (01438 832427).

Why not bring your little monkey to our fun and friendly baby and toddler group, "Monkeys!"

You can find us at the Memorial Hall every Tuesday morning (term time only) 9.30-11.15pm.

Loads of room to practise your parking on the cars and bikes and abundance of toys to play with.

£3 per child, additional children are 50p each. This includes a generous snack for the children and a coffee/tea with, of course a choccy biscuit for the grown ups!

Looking forward to seeing you soon.

The Monkey Team!



Kimpton Bowls Club

This report precedes the Bowls Club's AGM so anything of importance agreed at that meeting will be mentioned in the next edition. Sadly, one of our "retired " members, Pat Jones, has died. She and her late husband, David, were very loyal club members when able. Pat's bread pudding was legendary and featured during May Festival.

Next year will be the 70th anniversary of Kimpton Bowls Club, having been founded in 1947 and played continuously since then, on what was, before the war, the tennis club. Hopefully the club will celebrate the milestone event during May Festival.

The trophy winners this season are as follows

Roving Jack:	Angus Lennox
Drawn Pairs:	Beverly Pate and Angus Lennox
Triples:	Audrey Hill, Pat Flury and Marian Ginn
Fixed Jack:	Beverly Pate
Three Woods:	Pat Flury
Two Woods:	Phil Matthews
Ladies Singles:	Pat Flury
Mens Singles:	Phil Matthews
Handicap:	Robert Matthews
Veterans:	Jane Robinson
Yardstick:	Margaret Porter

Club Member of the Year, by ballot was Jane Robinson.

Members will enjoy their annual Christmas lunch at The Boot in December.

We wish all readers the compliments of the season, and a happy and healthy 2017.

Book now for the seniors' Christmas party



Once again The Boot is hosting a Christmas party for villagers over 65. This year it is being held on Sunday January 8th 12.30 for a 1pm start.

Guests will be served a full three course Christmas meal.

If you would like to go please contact Craig or Treena at The Boot on 01438 832438 or pop in and see them.

The event is funded by proceeds from the regular Wednesday night quizzes and other events at the pub.



As mentioned in the last edition, a considerable amount of work has been done in the Wren Close Play Area, and we were disappointed to see that some vandalism had taken place shortly after the installation. However, when we attended with the supplier, in order to repair the damage, we found that some anonymous 'Good Samaritan' had already fixed it! Many thanks to the community-minded individual responsible for that.

On an associated topic, there are once more reports of a growing amount of anti-social behaviour in certain parts of the village. This is obviously not acceptable, and reduces the quality of life for many residents.

It is important, however, that all incidents are reported. It isn't so much a question of the police being able to call and deal with incidents, unless they are ongoing, but it's a matter of logging the occurrences.

In order for action to be taken against Housing Association tenants, for example, there needs to be a log of incidents over a period of time. We have met with North Herts Homes, and the Police, in recent weeks, and it is apparent that they are unaware of the extent of the problem because people are not reporting things.

In all probability, this is because they think that there will be no action, or alternatively they feel that there may be retribution from the perpetrators. If you feel able, however, and you witness any anti-social behaviour, please contact the relevant authorities as soon as you can:

If an actual crime is in progress (criminal damage or something of that sort) call 999;

For less urgent police matters, call 101;

For North Herts Homes call 0330 343 0016 or email customer.service@nhh.org.uk

Doing this will mean that a full log is kept of what is happening, and then appropriate sanctions, from behaviour orders through to evictions, can be imposed on those responsible.

There has also been a spate of damage caused to vehicles on the High Street, by either agricultural contractors or other oversized vehicles, in recent months. There is now a village Facebook group (search for Kimpton Village Group), which of course attracts a lot of visitors, and it may well be that the sharing of incidents makes it look as if there has

been an increase, or it may be that there has been an increase – it's hard to tell, but it seems clear that it is unlikely to get any better unless we are able to take some action.

The Parish Council is not a Highways Authority, and we have no power or authority to do anything ourselves, although we could potentially be asked to fund or part-fund an initiative if it should be approved by the County Council, but we do lobby constantly and will follow up any suggestions from residents.

Thanks are due to a number of residents who are setting up a DriveSafe group to monitor speeds on the High Street, but it's important to stress that there are two very distinct problems that we face – one is potential speeds, but the other is the size of vehicles. From what can be seen, it's the latter problem that has been the cause of most of the recent damage experienced by residents.

Unfortunately, our options are a bit limited in terms of vehicle sizes – we are already supposed to be in a no-HGV zone (except for access and deliveries, of course) but it is effectively unenforced, and non-commercial satellite navigation systems guide lorries through the village. We have lobbied our MP (and will continue to do so) to make it a matter of law that commercial vehicles should use commercial navigation systems, which are readily available, and would not guide traffic down the lanes.

It's clear that the situation has to be addressed somehow, so we continue to try and find a way. We have to be aware, though, that the County and District Councils have once again had many millions shaved off their budgets for the coming year, and more cuts are in the pipeline, so it will not be quick or easy to get funding for anything. This is realism, not pessimism!

As ever, please keep an eye on our website at www.kimptonpc.org.uk for any updates and important news that may be relevant, and I hope it isn't too early to take the opportunity to wish everyone an enjoyable Christmas and a happy and prosperous 2017!

David Hardstaff

**The deadline for the spring edition of the magazine is
Friday March 10th
kimpton.editor@btinternet.com**

Kimpton has a Rugby Club!



Touch Rugby has been played informally in the village on Thursday evenings since March 2012, but this year the group decided to formalise and take over the lease of the football pitch and the club house. As part of this we have become an associate club of the RFU.

The membership fees have allowed us to purchase portable floodlights so we can play on the football pitch in the winter. These floodlights have also been lent out to the Ladies Wednesday night netball.

Our games are very informal. As long as we have at least four players on each side and the pitch is fine, we will play. There aren't many rules, we just aim to have a good run around. The ages range all the way up the 50's and many of us haven't played since school.

If you fancy coming along, please drop Tim Randall an email tim.d.randall@gmail.com



The Zoku Shotokan Karate Association have been raising money for 'Breast Cancer Uk'

October being Cancer Awareness month, they thought it would be a great idea to do something for charity. Students have been

donating money and in return they were given a pink karate belt. The students and instructors have been wearing their pink belts to all the karate lessons within October, to raise awareness of this amazing and worthwhile charity.

They managed to raise a fantastic £215.00 for 'Breast Cancer Uk'.

Zoku's Kimpton/Whitwell club takes place in the Whitwell New Fellowship Hall on a Wednesday evening from 6-7pm.

Instructors are Sensei Sarah Fullarton, Sensei George Fullarton and Sensei Alan Turner
www.zokukarate.co.uk sez69sez@hotmail.com

Our new Gardening writer *Lee French*, of Buds Gardens, gives some seasonal advice

As I scoop the last pile of leaves I had collected from the lawn into the back of the van, I take a minute to lean on my rake and contemplate on another job well done. Although it's not. Far from in fact as for every leaf I collect, another thousand still cling to the branches of the trees desperate to fight another day. I won't complain though, there is an undeniable beauty in the throws of golds, oranges, yellows and reds that adorn the landscape at the moment and certainly one to savour. It's the perfect time to wrap up and get out.

Now it may seem like the gardening year is over, the evenings are gradually drawing in and winter is fast approaching, but it's not. So what can garden owners look forward to in the autumn? Preparing for winter of course!

Myself and my team will be busy over the coming months ensuring that our clients gardens are looking their best heading into winter before it all takes off again in the spring, and so can you. It seems to be a popular misconception that once the temperature drops into single figures that gardens can be left to their own devices. Do so at your own peril! There is much to do and below is a short list to help you get started.

Leaves. I know it's not the most appealing of jobs on the 'to – do' list but leaves need to be cleared from the lawn. It's an exceptionally important task if you want to prevent dead

patches of grass and encourage moss.

Bulbs. Spring bulbs such as daffodils, tulips and crocus can be planted now. Do so and you shall be rewarded with enviable clusters of colour in borders and containers come March! My top tip here is to plant the tulip and daffodil bulbs in bunches of odd numbers. 5's and 7's are best. With the crocus, grab a handful and throw them, planting them where they land. It makes for a more natural swathe and looks much better this way!

Pruning. Roses and fruit trees (such as apples) should really be pruned annually to keep them healthy and winter is the time to do this. Fruit trees can be difficult so do consider using a professional if the task seems to big. Prune your rose by cutting an outward facing bud to encourage an open-centred shape. Also ensure to remove any criss-crossing branches to ease congestion and the risk of infection. For roses with a spreading habit, prune some stems to inward - facing buds to encourage more upright growth.

So there we have it. No excuses! Get wrapped up, get outdoors and embrace the season that awaits us. The work that you do now will pay dividends come the spring I assure you.

Check out our website www.budsgardens.co.uk or search Buds Gardens on Facebook for further ideas and tips!

Kimpton Garden Club

At the AGM in October the Committee were re-elected unanimously and subsequently have finalized our programme of speakers and outings for 2017.

Day trips by coach and half days using members cars are always fun and an inexpensive opportunity to visit and admire unusual plants and shrubs.

Since the Garden Party in August we went on the wild side and enjoyed interesting talks on the "Hertfordshire Wild Life Trust" and "Wild Life in Scotland".

We meet on the first Wednesday in the month in the Green Room at 8p.m. when new members and visitors are most welcome.

Meetings are free to members, visitors £2, annual sub of £12 due in January.

We plan to hold our Christmas Party on 7th December in the Memorial Hall when members and partners will enjoy Mulled Wine followed by a three course meal and then some light entertainment.

For more details of the club please contact Mary on 01582 832110.



Let the children play... at Peter's Green Village Hall

If you are looking for a hall where children can run around, play, dance and even bounce in an open indoor space that can take a 12ft x 12ft bouncy castle and still allow plenty of room for catering, entertaining your guests and for more sedate activities, Peter's Green Village Hall is the bright and cheerful venue you want.

We welcome children's parties at reduced hiring rates throughout 2017 as we believe that the charm of this Hall within our Parish remains undiscovered by many who would find it the

perfect economic solution for family and friends to enjoy. The main Hall floor area is 11mt x 6mt.

The Hall was refurbished in 2014 with funding from North Herts DC, when essential structural repairs were extended to a new ceiling and wall insulation.

There is parking within the grounds and no parking restrictions outside, but the level grounds surrounded by beautiful landscape are also ideal for marquees and as an outdoor play area.

Booking enquiries and hiring rates from Mrs Barbara Kazwini

barbara.kazwini@btinternet.com

Website: www.petersgreenvillagehall.co.uk

Reporting anti-social behaviour

Following a recent multi agency meeting between North Herts Homes, Police and Kimpton Parish Council it became apparent that there have been some incidences of anti-social behaviour in Kimpton. From the meeting it emerged there is some confusion over what should be reported and to whom. Both the Police and North Herts Homes records show little recent activity which was contrary to what was being said at the meeting.

For the Police and North Herts Homes to consider imposing any sanctions they require accurate current information. The information should contain as much information as possible about individuals, time, location and nature of the anti-social behaviour. This will build a picture of what is happening.

For the Police phone 101

For North Herts Homes call 0330 343 0016 or email customer.service@nhh.org.uk

A very happy Christmas from New Zealand

Sandra and Mike Benson moved from Kimpton to New Zealand in January 2011 to be nearer their children. Here's a snapshot of their life there.



Cheers! Sandra and Mike enjoy a glass of wine in their garden on Christmas Day and below, the Kaiapoi Santa Parade.



Our son Steve, his wife Sarah and their two daughters and a son (born 2012) live in Auckland (North Island) and daughter Sharon and her husband Andy live in Christchurch (South Island).

We arrived just in time to be caught up in the Christchurch earthquake but fortunately we and our family were safe. We decided to set up home in Kaiapoi, a town on the Kaiapoi River about 15 miles North of Christchurch. Conveniently we are about 5 minutes walk from the local golf course and about 15 minutes drive from some lovely beaches.

Parts of Kaiapoi were destroyed in a 2010 earthquake but rebuilding is now nearly complete.

Our Church, St Bartholomew's, is the oldest wooden church in the area (1855). It required new foundations after the Kaiapoi earthquake and has recently been jacked up and moved 50 yards to allow this.

The Southern Alps can be seen from Kaiapoi and it takes about an hour and a half to drive to some wonderful scenery. Mount Cook, (pictured on the cover), the highest peak in NZ at 12,316ft, is about 5 hours away.

Christmas in NZ is a bit hectic since it coincides with the summer holidays. Kiwi Christmas lunch is generally lamb and/or ham followed by Pavlova. We usually BBQ and have trifle and home-made mince pies.

Kaipoi has market stalls and a "Santa Parade" in the town in December and on Boxing Day we try to go to a Black Caps One Day International cricket match at Hagley Park in Christchurch.

A niece of ours and her husband and two children moved to Wellington (North Island) in 2014, so there are quite a few of us in NZ now.

We have been lucky to have had many friends from Kimpton visit us – please let us know if you are coming down under.

Sandra and Mike Benson



St Bartholomews 19th century Church is jacked up ready for a new foundation after the earthquake. A farmer with a sense of humour? Horse riding is enjoyed on one of the local beaches. The nearby Southern Alps provide some beautiful scenery and the Kaiapoi Rivers flows gently throught the town. Sunshine for Boxing Day cricket at Hagley Park.



Please turn to page 14 to read Sandra's recent letter.

A letter from New Zealand after the November earthquake.

We were fast asleep in when the quake struck at 3am it lasted 2 minutes and was very 'rolling' as if on a ship.

The after shocks here are not very strong as they are centred about 50 to 70 kilometers north of Kaiapoi.

They started to evacuated the tourists by helicopters to the next village to kaiapoi landing by the village school and you can imagine great excitement for the children.

Everyone here have been organizing getting food parcels for the residents of Kaikura plus the surrounding villages as we all know how difficult it is for people with no water, electricity etc.

We are OK but saying a prayer for the residents trying to cope in very difficult circumstances. *Sandra and Mike Benson*

entertained, lots of fun and laughs had by all. The girls are practising for our Christmas concert where they will be singing Wham's Christmas song "Last Christmas", they are all very excited about this. This is a concert we have held for the past few years with the Rainbows and Brownies, a chance for us to show case talents of all our girls. We serve refreshments at the event and all money donated goes to a charity that the girls choose. Some of our Guides and leaders are visiting a London theatre to see Charlie and The Chocolate Factory, in December this is a Guide Division event and 80 girls and leaders will be attending.

We are hoping to end the term with an evening out with the Guides having dinner.

We are always looking for new ideas and opportunities to offer the girls, if you have a talent you would like to share with our Guides, in the past we have had talks about life as a Barrister, a Financial banker, a hotelier, we have also had an artist, sewing and music. Please contact me if you would like to visit. I would like to say a Huge Thank you to Kelly and Pam, for all the help and support they bring to Guides and Simon Adamyk who has visited the unit on several occasions and runs the evening for us. The last time Simon visited we made bubbles, huge bubbles that even I was able to stand in. As you can imagine this was a very messy evening but the girls loved it.

*Donna, Kelly and Pam
1st Kimpton Guides*



1st Kimpton Guides

The Guides have had a very busy term. We

have worked on the Fashion for Passion Go For It, where the guides designed outfits and they have also worked on the Chocolate Badge, that was a very yummy evening.

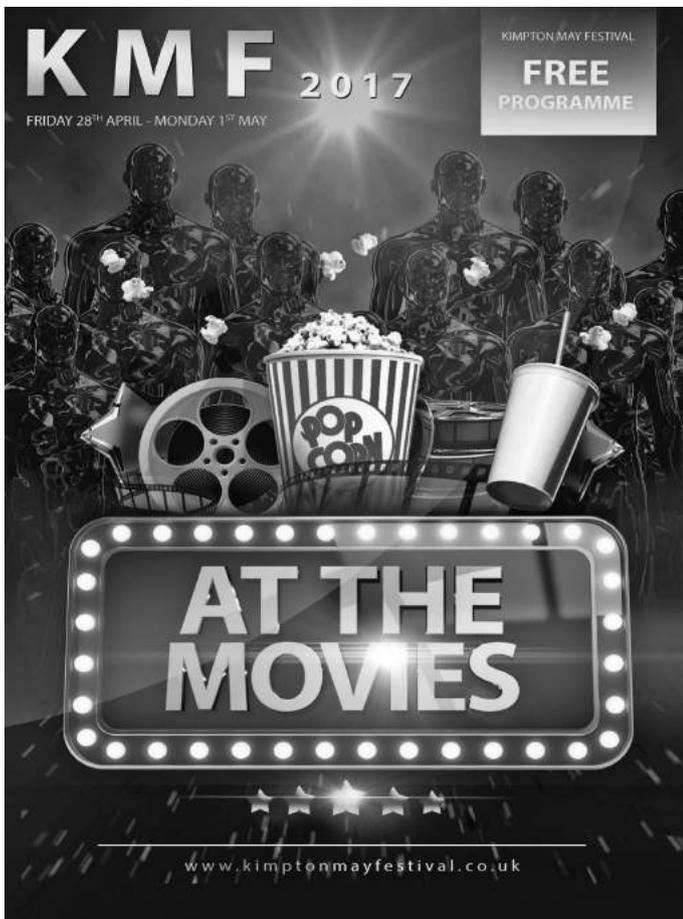
The Guides attended Kimpton Remembrance Parade and Kayleigh had the honour this year of leading the parade carrying the Union Flag escorted by two of our scouts. Evie carried our unit flag and was escorted by Lucy. Its always wonderful to see so many young people from the smallest Rainbows to the biggest scouts attend this event, to pay their respects.

Kimpton Bowls club kindly organise a yearly visit, for our Guides and teach them technics on how to bowl, the girls always enjoy this, and we are very grateful for the time they spare us in their very busy season. We have the Bowls club visit guides, In past years the Guides have served evening tea and cakes, we've had a Bingo night, this year we made Christmas decorations, was a wonderful evening watching the guides help Audrey and Marion and the other ladies, Angus their captain kept us all

The Parish Magazine Team is trying to help the environment
The Parish Magazine is now printed on recycled paper.
The production team acknowledge with thanks a donation received from Kimpton Environmentalists

Kimpton Friendly Bridge Club

meets every Thursday evening in Church House for a 19:30 start



Lights, camera, action!

Plans are well underway for Kimpton May Festival 2017 and we are delighted to announce that the theme for next year is 'At the Movies.'

Following a record-breaking 2016, the committee are hopeful that we will be able to surpass figures for funds raised and all the fun that was had.

Due to our theme we are planning some surprises both during the build up to May Festival and across the weekend itself. Updates on all events that are confirmed will be going up on our website from early 2017 so check out www.kimptonmayfestival.co.uk for all the latest.

The website will also have details for those who would like to join the committee or provide much needed support ahead of the weekend.

Our ever popular programme will also be produced once again and as with last year we are delighted to once again announce that it will be delivered free to residents and businesses in the village.

If you wish to sponsor a page or take out advertising we would be delighted to

speak to you, please contact James Clayton 07772 325568.

You can get into the mood for our theme for 2017 with the chance to win four tickets courtesy of Cineworld Stevenage. To enter our competition for these tickets simply follow us on Twitter [@KimptonMayFest](https://twitter.com/KimptonMayFest) or on Facebook [@KimptonMayFest](https://www.facebook.com/KimptonMayFest)

John Hills

Kimpton Village choir

The autumn term has sped by. We have welcomed new members and are fast approaching the Winter Concert which will be held on Sunday 11th December at 7pm. Look out for the posters in Kimpton and surrounding areas. Tickets can be booked in advance this year and children up to 16years are free.

So do come and join us for an evening of seasonal music, a glass of mulled wine and a mince pie in our lovely, atmospheric Parish Church.

If you suffer from the winter blues and summer seems far away we have another solution. On Saturday 21st January there will be a singing workshop in the Memorial Hall led by our new musical director Tim Armstrong-Taylor and his brother Roly. Both are talented musicians and well known for their May Festival performance. Information will be available in December.

Meanwhile anyone is welcome to join us for a free taster session on a Monday evening from 8pm in Kimpton school, it would be good to see you.

Janet Cook

Come to the village Carol Service

Come along and hear your Parish Church Choir and join in some favourite and well known carols at the candle lit village carol service on Sunday December 18th at 6.30pm in the church.

After the service the choir will be serving glühwein and seasonal nibbles.

A wonderful festive occasion not to be missed.

Andy Wright



Royal British Legion, Kimpton Branch

In the Autumn edition of the magazine, I mentioned that we would soon be making arrangements for the Poppy Appeal and the Remembrance services at both the War Memorial and our Sunday Remembrance day.

Now they have come and gone also, and both services were a great success.

Firstly, we were blessed with the weather being dry and fresh on our Armistice Day service at the War Memorial. This was very well attended, approx 57 people, and good to see so many villagers there. Our thanks to Vicar Bonnie for officiating at the

service and laying a wreath on behalf of the Church. Many thanks also to the School for their wreath which was presented by two young pupils and their Teacher.

After the short service, many people walked along to the Dacre Rooms for refreshments and other goodies etc, with some contributions going to the Poppy Appeal.

On Remembrance Sunday morning we were blessed again with another dry, fine, fresh morning. We would like to take this opportunity to express our many thanks to all the village organisations, the Parish Council, Police and North Herts DC, especially the young peoples groups, their leaders and parents for the part they played in the Parade and the Church service. We feel it is so important to encourage young persons to get involved and participate in the Church service, so many thanks for their contribution. Also grateful thanks to our musician John Blackshaw for his part in the service, and to Sue Burns for her grand display in the Church which maps out large areas of France and the battlefields of the Somme where each of our men of Kimpton lost their lives in the first World War.

The Church service went off very well, and thanks to the Churchwardens and side-persons for organising and seating a large congregation which numbered well over 300. A massive thank you to Andy Morton for officiating at the service, and his most informative address and presentation on screen, which not only prompts us to remember the men and women who lost their lives in wars, but to remember also those who returned home with broken bodies and minds. A most memorable and solemn service.

In the last Autumn magazine, we reported that the Royal British Legion in their wisdom were disbanding the Women's Branch of the RBL. Now we understand that this decision has been reversed, and the Women's section will continue in a very similar format as before.

We currently have two Women who have now joined the Men's section, so if you are interested in joining the Legion, you do not have to be ex military, please contact our Secretary Dave Gibbs on 01438 832236.

We take this opportunity to wish everyone a very Happy and Peaceful Christmas. *Robin Wells, Chairman*

Poppy Appeal plea for youth - youth is anyone under 60!!!

We are an aging and rheumatic, but determined and dedicated group of volunteers with many years of experience - but we need help.

This year, in order to cover vacancies, one volunteer covered 3 residential routes. Our wider parish/farm route also needs to be shared and we are specifically looking for someone who is free in the daytime as understandably accessing farmyards or isolated houses at night, is not an ideal situation.

We are looking for volunteers who can give a portion of their time in the 2 weeks leading up to Remembrance Sunday in November. Heading out to start your collection on the very first weekend is the best opportunity to meet your neighbours and gain their donation. Each route is approximately 50 houses. This year we collected £3,337 for the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal and I would specifically like to mention the sterling effort made by Kimpton Primary School for raising £347.

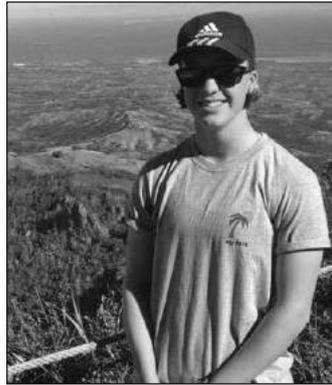
I would be very grateful if you could consider bringing your energy and vigour to this volunteer team. Our average age is 65 with several volunteers in their late 70s. They would, by no means, want to be seen as anything less than 'up to the challenge' and I sincerely thank them for this year's Poppy Appeal work. However, we need the next generation to step up and step forward.

PS. I have found a silver token in one of the money collection boxes. If you have lost a distinct item from your purse please contact me. Thank you

*Sue Burns, Poppy Appeal Organiser, Kimpton
01438 832960 burns200@btinternet.com*

Kimpton WI

Since our last report, we have had a talk by Andrew Waite who introduced us to Gem Stones, particularly amber and diamonds – he tested some of our members' rings to see if they were genuine or not – thank goodness they all were! In November our village's own Daniel Hubbard and his fellow student Ellen Hume (pictured below) gave a well prepared and presented talk about their experience in Fiji where they helped in the community.



Three of our ladies attended the HFWI Autumn Council Meeting in Letchworth and, after the business, Ingrid Seward, Editor of Majesty Magazine and Royal Biographer gave an interesting and amusing insight into the Royal family. At our December meeting we will be having a fun evening with Christmas carols,

recitations, songs, mince pies and wine and later that week getting together for a Christmas lunch at The Boot.

We are then into 2017 and at our January meeting Juliet Archer will be talking about Jane Austen in the 21st Century and in February we will be celebrating Kimpton W.I.'s 98th birthday. Maggie Taylor will be coming to our March meeting to tell us about the Donkey Sanctuary in Devon and in April, Len Little will be talking about Training Police Dogs.

As you can see, we have a varied programme to suit all tastes, interesting speakers and outings, a thriving book club, table tennis on a Friday afternoon in the Green Room of the Memorial Hall and we often help and take part in events in the village. A warm welcome awaits you at our meetings so do come along.

Look out for posters around the village. We meet on the second Wednesday of the month in the Lounge of the Memorial Hall at 7.45 p.m. If you would like to know more about us please contact Janet Holmes-Walker (President) 01438 832597 or Sue Newman (Secretary) 01438 601.

May I take this opportunity of wishing you all a merry Christmas and a healthy and happy New Year.
Janet Holmes Walker

The White Horse - Now is our chance!

Exciting progress has been made and we are getting close to acquiring the freehold of The White Horse. Now we all have the opportunity to become actively involved in the successful future of our village asset. Through comprehensive research and advice from several sources, a robust Business Plan has been produced. This document outlines the plans for the revival of Kimpton's historic pub as a professionally run, food-led, traditional yet contemporary establishment, offering a choice of venue to our ever increasing community. It also outlines the benefits to our community, and to those who may wish to invest in it. The next stage is to gauge the level of financial support among the community by asking you to register your interest to buy shares in The White Horse. Pledges for both small and large investments will be equally welcomed.

A copy of the 'Registration of Interest' form to enable everyone to have the opportunity to pledge support, is inserted inside this Parish magazine.

Please read this as:

it outlines the current situation

enables everyone to provide an indication of their likely level of support

leads to subsequent participation in key decisions in the project

and gives everyone the opportunity to help bring The White Horse back to life.

The Business Plan and 'Registration of Interest' form are available for further reference online at www.saveourwhitehorse.co.uk or you may view both documents at the Parish Room, Memorial Hall.

Together we can reclaim our much-loved building, bring it back to life and create a successful business for the benefit of the whole village.

For further information contact Neil Burns 01438 832960 burns200@btinternet.com

Kimpton Autumn Show

Next year will be the 41st year of the Kimpton Autumn Show, it is an amazing traditional Show where you can enter your home grown produce/blooms, creative arts, floral arrangements, baking and photography, for all ages.

The judging takes place in the morning followed by a wonderful lunch and then the public arrive for an afternoon of sideshows and fabulous homemade cakes with a nice cup of tea whilst viewing all the wonderful exhibits. There is a great raffle with super prizes and everyone loves the exciting tombola. The presentation follows the raffle and then the sale of produce.

I have been involved with the Show on and off ever since living in Kimpton when my Son was young and used to enter....he is now 30, How time flies. I originally got involved when Pat Dyer (one of the founder members) was stepping down and basically a new committee was needed to save the Show. Pat still enters the Show along with his wife Anne and generally win with their exhibits, they also join us for a lovely lunch and Pat sponsors the raffle.

I have been the Chair for a good few years now and have bought the Show up to the 21st century, still keeping it traditional, but with a few modern twists to keep it fresh and exciting. The team, some new and some old committee members have helped do a fantastic job also. I am stepping down from Chair and also a few other members are also stepping down, so this is a plea for some new members with fresh ideas to help keep the Show going, otherwise this great Show will fizzle out and we really do not want that! Look forward to hearing from you.....Sandra and team xx

Please get in touch with Sandra Berti email.... bertidesigns@tiscalli.co.uk if you think you can help in any way.....jobs include Chair, raffle, stewards sec, minutes sec, judges lunches..... look forward to hearing from you.

The editor, production and delivery teams wish everyone a very happy Christmas and good times in 2017



Santa comes to Kimpton and Blackmore End

Rotary in Harpenden
the charity arm of Harpenden Village Rotary Club
will escort Santa between 5.30pm and 8.30pm on ...
Thursday 15th December, in Blackmore End
Friday 16th, December around Kimpton
For the roads to be visited, see our website www.hvrc.net

Also, see Santa on Thursday evening, 24th 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.

Rotary in
Harpenden

Proceeds from our collections will go to
Wheathampstead Community Group,
Wheathampstead Thursday Club, CRY Cardiac Risk in the Young
and other charities and good causes supported by Rotary.

Rotary in Harpenden CIO is a charitable incorporated organisation, Registered Charity No. 1163420, and the charity arm of Harpenden Village Rotary Club. Website www.hvrc.net



Liz Jamieson spent two weeks earlier this year working with Mission Direct in Zambia

As some of you will know I recently spent two weeks in Zambia with Mission Direct, a local Christian organisation currently involved, amongst other projects, with the street children of Lusaka. Many people in Kimpton village, as well as the Church, kindly donated clothes, school stationery, medication and other goods and also helped me raise £1071.53p, either through donations or by generously purchasing my baking. This money enabled two

classrooms to be built, decorated and equipped so that the Crown of Life School, on the outskirts of Lusaka, can accept Year 9 children, as from January 2017. I just want to thank you all for the support which you have given me and tell you a little of what I got up to during those two weeks back in September and October. I was part of a team of 7 people from the UK, and the sixth and final team to go out this year.

Our mornings were spent painting (in temperatures of 30+ degrees) the two classrooms, which earlier teams had built from scratch over the summer. So we had the privilege of seeing the



excitement on the faces of the children, as well as the Head Teacher, as the rooms were formally handed over to the school. In the afternoons we visited the premises of various charities also working to alleviate the suffering of the street children – a home for abandoned babies where we were allowed to pick up and cuddle any of the gorgeous babies lying in their mosquito netted cots; a drop-in centre for boys offering food, shower facilities, clothes and a safe haven during the day; a

newly built (also by Mission Direct) hostel for girls who were delighted to have shower facilities.

We also sat in the street at the back of the bus station and talked to many of the children for whom this was home and family as they'd never experienced before! Most of them were inhaling 'striker', a drug which enabled them to be oblivious to the horror of their daily lives. We rescued two teenage girls who were willing to be taken to the girls' hostel. But they only stayed one night as the pull of their friends and 'family' on the street was too great, hence the need for experiencing a drop-in centre before they are able to make the transition to residential life.

We daily experienced the discomforts of no electricity or water, and frequently had spiders, geckos, and cockroaches scuttling across the floors and up the walls of our two bedroomed cottages! But we did have the treat of a visit to the Victoria Falls (which were dry because of no rain since April), a safari ride and a sunset cruise on the Zambezi river.

Should anyone of any age wish to know more about countries that can be visited with Mission Direct, please contact me. liz@jamieson21.plus.com



Kimpton Memorial Hall

Management Crisis at the Hall Charitable Status at Severe Risk!

Those of you, who read my report in the last Parish Magazine, thanking the many village organisations that have so generously supported our Hall financially, may be surprised to read this headline. What Crisis? The Hall still stands! It looks fine. It is an excellent venue, well used and financially sound.

However, The Memorial Hall is a self funding Charity operating as set out in a trust deed, effectively our constitution. Six Officers, four of whom who double as Trustees, are elected at an AGM. They make up an Administration Committee, which handles the day to day running of the Hall.

At our last AGM, in April of this year we were unable to elect a full committee. (A sign of our times?). We had a 'Chair' (Me), Booking Secretary, (Barbara Kazwini), Treasurer (Jane Coles): and Bob Finch agreed to stay on as an ex officio member, but not as a Trustee. He would really have liked to have retired, as would I, having announced at the AGM that I would serve just this one more year as Chairman. The other posts, Vice Chairman, Secretary and Minute Secretary, we were unable to fill.

Since then Jane Coles, our treasurer, has left the village, but will remain in office until 31st December. An employed book-keeper will hold the fort.

However we have an AGM in April, and 'no Trustees, no Trust'! So if a few volunteers, hopefully with appropriate abilities, do not come forward before then, the whole system could well collapse, and the Village will be left to pick up the pieces. So we have but a short time to sort this out. The tasks are not onerous; perhaps 4 meetings in a year, and tasks taking less time in a month than many people, claiming busy lives, waste in a day on social media! (Grumpy old git! They will say!!)

So, old or young, person of leisure, working or retired, if you have a sense of Social Responsibility, just a little time to spare, and you share my view that the Hall makes a vital contribution to our village life; do please give me a call *Roger Nash 01438 832101*

Kimpton Memorial Hall

For booking enquiries please contact

Mrs Barbara Kazwini

01438 832620 barbara.kazwini@btinternet.com



Winter Concert

*Kimpton Village Choir
plus guests*

SUNDAY

11

DECEMBER

7PM

ST PETER AND ST PAUL
CHURCH, KIMPTON

ADULTS £10
(INCLUDES
MULLED WINE AND
MINCE PIE)
CHILDREN FREE

CONDUCTOR
TIM ARMSTRONG-TAYLOR
PIANIST
CHARLOTTE
VICKERSTAFF

FOR TICKETS PLEASE CONTACT

Yve Harper 01582 834208 / yharper@progress-projects.com
(limited tickets available on the door)



Neighbourhood Watch Update

Community Policing

To contact our Ward Constable PC Chris Suckling or our PCSO Heather Burrows please use the automated system at Herts Police HQ on 01707 354192 and clearly identify the officer you wish to speak to.. Or e-mail e.g. Chris.Suckling@herts.pnn.police.uk. See inside the back cover of this magazine for other contacts

OWL (On line Watch Link)

Having just celebrated 10 years of active service OWL continues to add to the 10,000 properties already enlisted to receive crime alerts direct from the police throughout the County and North Herts in particular.

I am pleased to report that a number of new residents in Lloyd Way and Corbyn Close have recently signed up. You can enlist by visiting www.owl.co.uk

Local Crime

We continue to be a relatively low crime area which is most reassuring.

HSBC Scam

You receive an e-mail requesting you to logon to HSBC Safeguard to protect your on line a/c by pressing an "update now" button otherwise your a/c will be temporarily locked down. This a scam and for more information contact terry.morris2@herts.pnn.police.uk

Breaking into your Bank.

Caller claims to be from your bank saying that your account has been hacked and you must transfer your money into a safe a/c and give you a number to contact ... which is theirs!

Alternatively, they say they need to put you through to the police and after a short pause another voice comes on, obviously in the same office, claiming to be a policeman and asks for your Account and Pin Nos. Police officers would never ask you to do that so put the phone down immediately.

Fraud Prevention

Numerous examples of fraud can found on the police OWL website *Fraud Prevention Update*. Also be aware of bogus bills from British Gas.

Nuisance Phone Calls

These pests are still with us despite attempts to block by various means such as the Telephone Preference Service (TPS) or built-in blockers as fitted to the latest generation phones.

This is a national blight and we understand that the responsible authority is actively involved in tracking down and prosecuting those responsible.

Computer Attack

Do ensure that your computer is loaded with the latest security software to avoid attack by cyber criminals. Don't get involved with callers claiming to represent 'Computer Software Technical Support' using the name of a company like Microsoft saying you have a problem which they can put right if you give them certain details. Once again, don't get involved!

Distraction Burglaries

The elderly and those living alone need to be extremely wary of and challenge unexpected callers at their door and if they can't provide identity evidence don't open your door. Always ring the police on 101 to report your suspicions. If the caller is persistent and/or aggressive ring 999.

Caring Neighbours

Please be kind enough to check on elderly, vulnerable and neighbours living alone and in particular remind them not to engage in conversation with any dubious phone caller.

Night Security and Absence

If you intend to leave your property unoccupied in the coming weeks please do ensure that you have secured all windows, doors, garages and sheds. Use timer or PIR security lights. If your absence is for more than 2 days do please give a neighbour your contact details.

Don't leave any keys within sight of an open letter box. Our free Letter Box Deflectors prevent 'peeping toms' having a quick look. Please let me know if you would like one.

For any suspicious activity Call Crime Stoppers on 0800 555 111. You can use 101 for non-emergencies or if you prefer you can join the new constabulary online web chat facility. www.herts.police.uk/contact_us/contacting_us.aspx

Finally, please be aware of and report any suspicious activity and don't let some of the worries above spoil you having a peaceful winter in particular the festive season.

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

The Church in Kimpton

Parish Church

Vicar

Revd Bonnie Evans-Hills
The Vicarage
11 High Street
Kimpton SG4 8RA
07548 687504
bonnie.evans-hills@hotmail.co.uk

Church Wardens

Jenny Kelly
07818 613143
genkel@btinternet.com

Juliet Morton
01438 832427
julietmorton@aol.com

Pastoral Care Co-ordinator

Liz Jamieson
01438 832858
liz@jamieson21.plus.com

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 Heather Burrows
01707 354192 (automated system)

Hitchin Safer Neighbourhood Team
Sergeant Steve Oliphant
01438 757604 (usually voicemail)

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

Parish Magazine

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

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Kimpton SG4 8SD 01438 832249

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Parish Council

Cllr Ian Corbett
Cllr David Hardstaff
Cllr Lewis Hawke
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 Helmn, 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

Member of Parliament

The Rt. Hon. Peter Lilley feedback@peterlilley.co.uk

Helping Hand

NORTH HERTS COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER SERVICES

Can provide transport to hospitals. For details ring 01462 689400

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 freephone 116 123 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

barbara.kazwini@btinternet.com

PETER'S GREEN VILLAGE HALL

For bookings please contact Mrs Barbara Kazwini. 01438 832620

barbara.kazwini@btinternet.com

USEFUL LINKS

kimpton.org.uk

herts.police.uk

stalbans.anglican.org

kimpton.herts.sch.uk

kimptonchurchherts.wordpress.com



Kimpton Church Hertfordshire