



KINGS LANGLEY

Village News

ISSUE 15
JULY/
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YOUR ONLY LOCAL Village NEWSPAPER



PHOTOS: NATALIE CHIVERTON, BARRY KEMP

Back in bloom!

The village flower beds and troughs are full of colour once again, dispelling the gloom of the lockdown. *Village News* caught up with our warden Paul Savin planting out the Great Park flower beds and Alison from Sunnyside Rural Trust planting up one of the troughs with beautiful flowers from their nurseries.

Sunnyside Rural Trust is a charity and social enterprise based across three sites in Hemel Hempstead, Berkhamsted and Northchurch offering training and work experience for vulnerable people, helping them to acquire skills in a number of rural activities. These include beekeeping, looking after chickens, growing a wide range of plants and produce, landscaping and garden maintenance.

The Sunnyside Hemel Food Garden is located off two Waters Road – behind the K2 indian restaurant and adjacent to the canal. The team there grow and sell fresh produce in their farm shop, promoting local organic and fair-trade food as well as their own eggs and honey.



The plant nursery there stocks a range of perennials, hanging

Next to the nursery is the Sunnyside Up café – their outdoor seating is very popular with passers-by along the canal. The café provides Sunnyside

trainees the opportunity to learn all the skills required to run a café, such as customer service, handling money, barista, cooking and stock control.



baskets, shrubs, food, herb and salad plants to purchase, and at the moment they have had a large number of plants on sale following cancellation of RHS events. It's an amazing place!

Sunnyside has the contract with Dacorum Borough Council to grow 90,000 plants for the flower beds around the borough, which includes the beds and troughs along Kings Langley High Street.

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100th Birthday

Avice Young was born on 1 July 1920, one of four children. During World War II Avice was a Wren, after which she married and had two daughters, Vanessa and Jan, and now has four grandchildren and eight great grandchildren.

During her married life she was an active member of the WI, always making cakes and jams to sell in the market, and she loved walking holidays around England with her husband and the dog (always a Labrador).

Avice would enjoy scrabble, crosswords and a good quiz. Now she loves to sit in the Friars Mead garden on a summer's day and watch the world go by. Happy 100th Birthday!



PHOTO: FRIARS MEAD

Avice 100 years Young!

Village News contacts...

All enquiries, articles, images, advertisements, and Prize Xword competition entries should be sent by email to: kingslangleynews@gmail.com or by post to: The Editor, Kings Langley Village News, c/o Kings Langley Parish Council, Charter Court, Vicarage Lane, Kings Langley, Hertfordshire WD4 9HR.

Advertising sizes/rates and an order form can be found on our website www.kingslangleyvillagenews.co.uk where you can also view back issues.

The next edition of *Village News* will be available in September/October 2020, the deadline for copy and advertising will be Friday 14 August 2020.



Portraits in isolation update

In our previous issue we shared the story of Natalie Chiverton taking photos of village families on their doorsteps during lockdown, hoping to raise £2,000 for NHS charities together.

When the lockdown relaxed sufficiently for Natalie – a professional photographer – to travel further afield, she continued with the project, and after photographing over 200 families she has donated over £3,500!

She now provides this doorstep photography service as part of her business which is providing her with a small income, as her usual wedding and family portrait photography options are obviously on hold.

York Close extra round of applause

York Close residents turned out in numbers at 8pm on successive Thursday evenings along with the rest of the nation to applaud the work of NHS and other key workers providing vital services during the lockdown.

Many service providers have been thanked personally and publicly, but it is more difficult to express appreciation to the waste collectors who usually visit while many of us are asleep.

The service is taken for granted normally, but Dacorum residents have been lucky to have green wheely bins emptied fortnightly throughout lockdown, when other councils have suspended this service. Since so many are spending more time in their gardens, with a consequent increase in green waste, this service is doubly valued.

So York Close residents, photographed below, decided to show their appreciation by laying on an extra round of applause on 4 June – clapping and donating small cash tokens of their appreciation. Early the following Monday morning, the refuse collection crews were intercepted to receive their gift – evidently surprised, and pleased, to see that their efforts were not taken for granted.



Thanks from Village News!

Village News would like to say two big 'thank-you's... firstly to Dalling & Co who kindly made a financial contribution to *Village News* at the time of the last issue – you may recall that we didn't feature any advertising (or take any advertising income) in the 'lockdown' edition. And secondly to an anonymous donor who generously made a further financial contribution in the last week of June. *Village News* is extremely grateful for these donations which will help to keep the paper coming through village letterboxes!

A profile of Rev. Matthew Cooper



We caught up with Rev Matthew Cooper, Minister at Christ Church Baptist in The Nap, to find out a bit more about him. Here's what he told us...

I have lived and worked in the village for almost 14 years as the minister at Christ Church Baptist. Before this I was minister at a Baptist Church near Rugby in Warwickshire. I grew up on the outskirts of Slough and knew Watford quite well but don't recall ever having been to Kings Langley before hearing that the church was looking for a new minister.

I love the community atmosphere of Kings Langley, the rural feel which is great for my walks and also that it is so quick and easy to get into London.

As I was growing up, Sundays were for sport and not church. My dad was the sports editor on the local newspaper and so if we weren't taking part we were more than likely watching a match or game somewhere. In our mid-teens my brothers and I realised there were more girls in church than on the sports field. That was the start of me attending the local C of E church and thinking about spiritual matters.

I ended up as a Baptist minister for a few simple reasons. For me it's important that in Baptist Churches we don't baptize anyone until they are old enough to make their own decision about it. I like that Baptist Churches are well established, growing out of the Reformation along with other protestant denominations; yet that we do not place too much emphasis on tradition.

Charlotte and I have two adult children and, although growing up in the church is not always easy with the spotlight on you, the church here has always been very supportive. Apart from not having to commute, I enjoy that my days and weeks are varied and often unpredictable. The part of my job that I enjoy most though is exploring the Bible with people.

During the COVID-19 lockdown we have been keeping in touch with one another, especially older members. Of course, encouraging people to look out for neighbours and, if they weren't already, to sign up to help with Good Neighbours. Services and other activities have moved online both to maintain normality and to make sense of this strange time.

I've been asked to say something surprising about myself. Perhaps, given the popular myth that science and religion are opposites, it is my love for both science and philosophy that will be surprising to some!

Update from Waterside Baptist

Waterside Baptist Church are currently providing audio sermons for each Sunday, recorded by Pastor David Chapman, and by church members John Chipperfield and Paul Messenger as well as several guest preachers, which can be found on the church website: watersidebaptistchurch.org

Like most institutions the church has been closed throughout the lockdown, meeting each other through the wonders of modern technology, and with some church members singing at home along with YouTube quarantine hymn singing resources!

Physios on the move

After more than 30 years in the village, Kings Langley Physiotherapy Clinic have moved from the foot of Langley Hill to their new home at 2 Hempstead Road at the junction with The Nap, pictured below.

Due to Covid-19, the clinic had to shut its doors in March for all face-to-face contact. However, the team have continued to offer first-class support remotely, including physiotherapy assessment and treatments, via Facetime, WhatsApp or Zoom and live streaming of Pilates classes on Zoom. The classes are open to existing participants or those looking for a new activity to maintain or improve flexibility and fitness.

Jill Moore, Di Hewetson and the team would like to thank all their clients for the many kind words, messages of support and generosity at a difficult time for everyone. 'It has been a difficult time for all the High Street businesses like ours,' said Jill, 'but we are local people determined to keep going because we understand the importance of having links to the community at times like this.'

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Will there be a cricket season?

Following government guidelines Kings Langley Cricket Club closed the club for the foreseeable future. All training halted, matches were cancelled and all clubhouse bookings stopped. However, with a gradual easing of the lockdown, there is hope that there will be some cricket this season.

The club is listening to the advice from the government, the England Cricket Board, and the Hertfordshire League. The Committee meet regularly via Zoom to ensure they are ready for Senior and Junior cricket to get going again once it is safe to do so. What form that will take is difficult to say... but they will be ready!

Meanwhile, as pictured above, pitch maintenance work on the Common and at Langley Hill School is continuing (following relevant guidelines) and the wickets have never looked so good.

If you are keen to get involved with the club please get in touch. New players are welcome for the senior teams and to the Junior Section (5 years and up), as are sponsors, supporters, volunteers and anyone who fancies being able to pop in for a drink on a summer's evening.

Friars Mead take on their own challenges

Friars Mead has been a sanctuary for both residents and staff over the last months, thankfully managing to avoid some of the chaos going on outside.

Manager Karoline has had to make some difficult decisions, and in doing so she has helped to keep Friars Mead as safe as possible, with staff working tirelessly covering shifts, and the support of a voluntary committee on call throughout.

Everyone has felt the effects of the isolation and missing seeing loved ones, but both staff and residents are weathering the storm and have taken a leaf out of Captain Tom's book by setting themselves some challenges. This has included walking 20 laps of the landing, running 20 miles, giving up chocolate for 20 days, skipping round the home for 20 minutes, a 20 metre egg and spoon race,

wearing a hat for 20 hours, counting 2020 bits of pasta and lots more, having a lot of fun along the way!

The money raised will be used for a reunion party for the residents, staff and families once the world gets back to normal, and donations will be shared with The Hospice of St Francis who may have lost critical funds during this time. You can make a donation at www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/friarsmead2020

Friars Mead thanks all their supporters – kindness and thoughtfulness has been around every corner, long may it continue.



Left; Rowland completing his laps of the landing and Eve with the hat that she wore for 20 hours



Football Season Null and Void

Kings Langley Football Club's late push for the play-offs was sadly stopped in its tracks by Covid-19. Prior to lockdown, the Kings had a fantastic unbeaten run in the league which had stretched for the whole of 2020.

The team had one last home game before the matches stopped, a 2-0 cup semifinal defeat against higher division team St Albans City which, despite the loss, showed how well Chris Cummins has his current team set up since his arrival. KLFC are looking more than ready to reach for the next level when football returns.

Sadly the cancellation of the game on 14 March away to Biggleswade also stopped a supporters' sponsored walk to the match in support of the local charity Druglink – hopefully this can be rescheduled for next season.

The club is now readying itself for when football can return to the village – you can keep up to date on Twitter [@KLFCofficial](https://twitter.com/KLFCofficial) or Facebook [Kings Langley Football Club](https://www.facebook.com/KingsLangleyFootballClub)

Kings Langley history makes front page news for Dacorum Heritage Trust

The Spring 2020 edition of the Dacorum Heritage Trust newsletter had a fabulous story on the front page about the May Day traditions of Hertfordshire and in particular Kings Langley. You can find the article and newsletter online at bit.ly/KLVNdht98



PHOTO: BRYAN MCADAM

All Saints: Lockdown and beyond

Lockdown has forced All Saints online – broadcasting services at 9.30am on Sunday morning and during the week on Facebook and YouTube – while continuing to offer pastoral care to the community.

And the easing of the restrictions hasn't translated into a straightforward 'back to normal' for the church, which is now offering new things as part of their community support.

Since 15 June the church has been open every day 9.30am – 5pm for private prayer. All are welcome to spend time there in prayer or quiet reflection, with signs and reminders to help you visit safely and hand sanitizer at the doors.

The church has started an 'open table' unattended Foodbank (*above*) at the back of the church. Anyone finding themselves in need of provisions should feel able to go into All Saints and help themselves to what they need. If you can donate to the foodbank then items of non-perishable food and toiletries would be welcome and can be left in the basket provided. Surplus donations will be sent on to DENS Dacorum foodbank.

All Saints is also offering a 'buddy system' to the community – if you are isolated or in need of a friendly chat with someone on a regular basis then please call or email the Vicarage (details below) to be linked up with a volunteer. If you need practical help contact Kings Langley Good Neighbours (klgna.org or 07790 668672).

By the time you read this it is possible that (small) public services will be allowed in churches but these may look different due to social distancing.



PHOTO: JAMES McDONALD

All Saints would be pleased to hear from anyone who would like to have a child christened, celebrate a wedding, or say farewell to a loved one with a funeral service in the beautiful building. Sunday worship will continue to be broadcast online even after the return to church for those who want to join in from home at a convenient time. More details online.

Finally, the parish church needs your help to continue to be there to support the community – it costs £1,450 a week to keep the church running and look after the building, usually met through regular giving, hiring out the hall and fundraising events. These last two haven't been possible recently and may not be for some time. If you are able to donate to All Saints it would be much appreciated – scan the QR code here to donate.



Website: beneficeoflangelei.org.uk/allsaints
 Vicarage: 01923 903531
james.a.mcdonald@live.co.uk
 Baptism, wedding and funeral enquiries: Admin office 01923 266596

Christian Aid week – a thanks

Christian Aid Kings Langley want to thank all those who shared in Christian Aid Week this year. Because of coronavirus restrictions, the house to house collection was not possible but around £2,000 was still raised.

Volunteers approached neighbours (at a safe distance!), and contributions were received through the local 'Just Giving' site and directly to Christian Aid.

The United Service, which was to be held at All Saints, became a 'virtual' one and was led by Father James, with input from local church members. The main speaker was Deborah Auty, Head of Communications at Christian Aid, and after the main part of the service she participated in a Zoom question and answer session.

There were some challenging questions, how is it that a third of the world's population don't have access to soap and clean water? Why is it that 7,500 children under the age of 5 die every day from preventable diseases for which we already have treatments and vaccines?

There is much to be done but all those who shared in this Christian Aid Week are part of meeting these needs.

Young children in Kenya collect water for their family in the drought



NHS Scrubs

Back in April as the coronavirus spread, hospitals and medical facilities found themselves struggling to get hold of personal protective equipment (PPE) including scrubs – clothing worn by those involved in patient care in hospitals.

In response, professional and home seamstresses found an outlet for their talents; a Hemel group was coordinated by TV costume designer Lucia Smith who was linking with Downton Abbey costume designer Dulcie Scott raising money for fabric, getting it cut into sets of scrubs – tunics and trousers – and despatching them to groups around the country.

Lucia liaised with Watford Hospital and with Watford FC who offered to collect and wash the scrubs (they have to withstand commercial laundering at 60 degrees). A small local group was formed through Kings Langley Matters; Ann Johnson, Carol Preston, Charlotte and Felicity Lopez, Alison Williamson, Glenda Seal, Deborah Sherring and other helpers got together and, with sewing machines revving, the group started to sew – working safely, hygienically (and rather magically) within lockdown guidelines.

They purchased six rolls of fabric for about 60 scrubs sets, plus the necessary haberdashery, and received donations of bedding. 'I'm surprised anyone had any bedding



left locally' said Glenda. In addition, donated sheets and pillowcases were sent direct to Watford FC, who converted directors' boxes into hospital staff bedrooms.

On the day sewing was to start, the group's cutter Wendy Knight fell ill. Fortunately, a call to Kings Langley School solved the problem, with staff offering help and the use of facilities including a large table for cutting. School tech staff helped work out a sewing production line, catering staff kept people fed, and an additional eight rolls of fabric were funded by the school. Two new sewers Elizabeth Farrer and Janet Hobby joined the group.

By the end of May the Kings Langley group had delivered 230 scrubs sets plus 25 scrub trousers to Watford Hospital, The Nap Surgery, local nurses and physios! 'We are so proud to have done our bit to support the NHS and the local health services,' added Glenda. 'They help care for and support us, doing such an amazing and selfless job of looking after us all during this time.' Ann Johnson concurred 'It has given us a focus and we have all felt our skills, learnt over many years, have been put to worthwhile use.'

Victory in Japa

Whilst VE Day was celebrated with parties and dancing in the street, VJ Day on 16 August 1945 the mood was rather quieter.

A Victory Bonus was paid to employees of John Dickinson in September 1945 for their loyal service during the war period. On VE Day the All Saints church bells were rung by four of the bell ringers who had performed the same duty at the end of the First World War. It will be good to hear the bells again once the Covid-19 restrictions are lifted!

Last edition we shared news of the death of Keith Johnson, a much-loved resident who had spent his life in the village. A few years ago Keith collaborated with Chris Pettit to make a film of his memories of the village in wartime.

Chris tells us 'I had known Keith since I moved to the village 35 years ago and was aware of his *Old Timer* pieces in the old




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n – 75 years on

with a national holiday, street
 eets, three months later for
 ere were celebrations but the

Villager magazine. I had often thought that it would be good to capture some of his memories on film.

‘The opportunity arose when I needed to test out a new TV camera for a forthcoming film production. Keith readily agreed to be interviewed both in his home and on location at places relevant to his memories and he was able to provide numerous photographs. The museum society also provided some excellent archival footage.

‘The camera test did its job: I chose the rival Sony camera!’.

A *Childhood Remembered* can be viewed on YouTube at bit.ly/KLVNmemory



Images from Chris Pettit and Keith Johnson's film, clockwise from above: soldiers on parade in the village, Keith as a young boy, the church school he attended (and where he was caned when caught shinning up a drainpipe to retrieve a ball). Army vehicles were a not uncommon sight, Kings Langley Fisheries where Keith worked as a lad and simple, post-war carnival fun.



Poppy fields prove popular



Many people in the village have discovered the California wild poppy field, just along the road from Langleybury Farm near the flyover over the M25 spur road.

The field belongs to The Grove, and Estate and Golf Course Manager Phillip Chiverton, who is responsible for cultivating the field, decided to sow some wildflower seeds last year and this is the result.

In his words ‘The area was a rough bit of land left over from NATO and was very bare. A quick run around with a rotator lightly touching the surface, a levelling bar and then overseeding at four grams per m² and then nature did the rest. With a mild wet winter and a ton of rain until now the results are better than we could ever expected. The wildflower mix are annuals so we will be doing more in the Autumn.’

Philip's professional photographer wife Natalie captured some great shots of the field and shared them with your *Village News*.



PHOTOS: NATALIE CHIVERTON

California poppy, (*Eschscholzia californica*), is a plant of the poppy family, native to the southwestern United States and northern Mexico. It has become naturalized in parts of southern Europe, Asia, and Australia.

Depending on conditions, California poppies flower from February to September, and horticultural varieties include tall, dwarf, double, and single.

They are annual plants with feathery gray-green foliage and the four-petaled flowers, on 20 – 30cm stems ranging from cream, in the wild, to various shades of red and pink.



Community Choir welcomes the sun

May's record-breaking sunshine was timed to perfection for Kings Langley Community Choir as members completed their first lockdown recording, *The Beatles' Here Comes The Sun*. Posted on YouTube, the recording was seen more than two thousand times in the first twenty-four hours.

Singing to a template provided by Musical Director Katie Teage, members recorded their harmony contribution at home. Each of these was then passed to Katie who, with her husband Ivan, collated the individual recordings and produced the final version. This can be viewed online at bit.ly/KLVNsun

Building on this first success, the Choir is planning further lockdown recordings to place on YouTube. Work has already started on *Santianna* – a sea shanty which tells of pirates on the Spanish Main – and the choir continues to meet by Zoom each week, rehearsing new material, so there will be plenty of future choice.

Above: members of the Kings Langley Community Choir enjoy recording their lockdown performance

Dacorum's Climate Change Strategy & Action Plan

As much as the focus has been on people and the economy lately, Dacorum Borough Council has still been able to implement its Climate Change Strategy & Action Plan, in association with the Association of Public Sector Excellence.

The four key themes are:

1. Much work has been done in reducing electricity, gas and water usage, but more is needed. Sourcing energy from more sustainable methods to reduce our carbon footprint has begun.
2. In developing a new Local Plan to steer the development of the borough to 2036, the council is well placed to ensure that environmental sustainability is maximised in future developments, e.g. solar panel use, thermal insulation, and tree planting.
3. There is a commitment to increasing the biodiversity of our area, to help the flora and fauna potentially affected by climate change.
4. More direct action is planned, including asking the public to help plant 1,000 trees this Autumn (social distancing permitting), and possible investment in sustainable power generation or CO2 reduction methods.

The borough council can only act on things they control or influence, and as a result of the social and economic impact of the Covid-19 crisis, actions must be affordable. However, they are committed to practical, proportionate, cost-effective, and non-counter-productive actions to benefit everyone in the borough.

– Councillor Alan Anderson

News from the parish pump

Given the current pandemic, it's no surprise that there is more use of all our open spaces, bringing, unfortunately, increased litter, complaints, anti-social behaviour and vandalism.

The Parish Council is working hard to respond, including reintroducing the monthly litter pick at the end of June.

Many residents have been walking the paths through the woods around Kings Langley Common while self-isolating and are concerned that some are 'blocked'. However, Dacorum Borough Council explain that they do not clear all obstructions from these smaller informal pathways unless they are unsafe, promoting the sense of being in a woodland, away from urban life. There is a program to check safety in these areas and to rectify if needed.

On the 'green theme' work continues in the Village Garden with plants, shrubs and trees being added to provide more variety and colour. 'We have been very lucky,' explained Parish Warden Paul Savin, 'John Bailey donated some delightful roses, and Dave Hunt and Paul Wallis donated an array of amazing trees.' The weather has meant the Village Garden is a haven to sit in the shade or stroll around the footpath, and for children, there is an opportunity to run around, trying to avoid the sprinkler!

Finally, the Parish Council has been looking to the future or, at least, at different versions of the future. The regular monthly volunteer mornings in the Village Garden on the first Friday has recommenced and Parish Council meetings have re-started, albeit virtually. There is uncertainty about the Christmas Lights Festival given the current environment.

The proposal to provide an online directory of activities and businesses gathers pace, with a dedicated email address set up for village societies, clubs, charities and businesses to send details of what they do, when, and a contact point for enquiries. The email address is activities@kingslangleylinks.com

July Local Produce Market in the village garden

The market is keen to restart to provide access to fresh, local produce again and the aim is to restart on Saturday 18 July, with nearly all the stallholders ready to return.

Unfortunately it's not feasible to keep customers and stallholders safe in the normal location on the High Street due to width constraints, but the Parish Council have kindly offered the use of the Village Garden until the virus situation improves.

This will enable a one-way system and plenty of space for social distancing around the stalls.

When the virus situation improves and a return to the High Street is possible, it will be posted on noticeboards and social media.

The Village Garden is next to All Saints' church and opposite the Rose & Crown.

Rectory Farm stays green!

The planning application for 89 residential units on Rectory Farm, including 34 on the Green Belt, has been withdrawn.



PHOTO: TKK

Gary Ansell, Chair of Kings Langley and District Residents Association, was quick to praise villagers: 'In total there were 181 objections on the Dacorum planning portal, with only 5 responses supporting the development; there were also 443 emails opposing the application. This reflects the vote opposing green belt development in the village in the Parish Poll three years ago.'

It was not just the level of opposition and the inappropriate development on the Green Belt that were factors: both Hertfordshire Highways and the Local Flood Authority raised a number of objections to the application, including the new junction on the Hempstead Road and the risk of flooding.

There were also concerns raised by Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust, the Environment Agency and the Canal and Rivers Trust.

'This is brilliant news for villagers and demonstrates that local people can make a difference and that every individual can influence decision-making at every level,' added Gary. 'We will continue to fight to protect Rectory Farm and other Green Belt sites as attempts to build large developments on these sites will re-surface in the Local Plan. This is not because we are opposed to housing developments, but because we are opposed to the loss of Green Belt. Recent weeks have shown how important our green spaces are and their future must be safeguarded for our children.'

The Residents Association were quick to point out it is not just development in the village which local people should be concerned about, with the potential of seven developments just across the canal adding nearly 300 properties

to the area before the formal house building plans of Dacorum or Three Rivers are published.

'Where are the additional residents going to look for shopping, schools, healthcare services, parking? There is no additional infrastructure planned for Kings Langley to support any of this,' added Gary. 'The reason people love this village is because they enjoy the green spaces and relaxed atmosphere.'



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KLGNA – proud of our volunteers

Recently *Volunteers Week* was celebrated nationally, and Kings Langley would certainly endorse the plaudits given as Good Neighbours was almost overwhelmed by the local response to their plea for volunteers!

There are now over 50 helpers willing to be called upon at short notice to pick up prescriptions from Boots or collect and deliver bags of essential shopping items. To date over 200 prescriptions have been delivered and at least 150 shopping journeys accomplished!

The normal Good Neighbours service of taking clients to hospital and other medical appointments has been suspended due to social distancing rules, but it is hoped to resume that service as soon as the current restrictions are lifted and volunteers feel comfortable responding.

Volunteers knocking on the door of clients to deliver shopping ponder on how the payment for the shopping will be handed over without getting too close... at one house as the door opened a metal 'grabber' poked out clutching just the correct amount! One volunteer announced that she takes a tray with her to span the distance for giving and receiving items on a doorstep. Another volunteer said 'I have been to areas of the village I didn't know existed'!

Good Neighbours and their clients are very grateful to all the volunteers and take this opportunity to say a very big 'Thank you' on behalf of everyone.



PHOTO: CHRIS PETTIT

KLGNA volunteer Melissa Cox out and about delivering in Kings Langley

Award winning production

On 14 June the National Operatic and Dramatic Association (NODA) London Region held its annual award ceremony – virtually – as the usual Festival had been cancelled due to lockdown.

Kings Langley Musical Theatre Company's 2019 production of *Red Hot and Cole*, which told the story of Cole Porter's life through his songs and drama, was awarded the Best in District Flame trophy. Congratulations to Director Ann Hertler-Smith, Musical Director Clive Swan, the hugely talented cast and crew for the production which played at the Community Centre last year. KLMTTC was congratulated on a skilful presentation in the small venue, and the 100% energy and enthusiasm from the company.

Sadly, plans for summer workshops and fund raising events have had to be cancelled. However, their next production is planned for 2021: *The Addams Family*, based on the 1960's TV show. Put the date in your diary: 24 – 27 March.

Kingsfest 2021

Local DJ and Herts Double Glazing owner Bob Best has kicked off an idea to stage a music festival in Kings Langley in 2021 – Kingsfest.

Early in May the idea took shape and was shared on Kings Langley Matters... a Facebook group was set up to gauge interest and within hours the magic number of 300 joining was reached for Bob to commit to organising it, which within a day was up to 1000.

Within a week the dates, 17/18 July 2021, and the venue, KL Football Club, were confirmed. At the end of May a crowdfunding page was set up, asking those interested in attending to make a donation of £10 which will help fund the upfront costs that are involved in planning such an event. This £10 will act as a deposit against a future ticket purchase, and if the event doesn't happen for any reason, the money donated will go to local charities. Profits from the festival will also benefit local good causes.

To donate to Kingsfest 21 and secure your option for tickets, go to bit.ly/KLVNkingsfest



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Children – join the Silly Squad!

The digital *Summer Reading Challenge* is here. Organised by the Reading Agency, this year's challenge started on 5 June, giving children 13 weeks to get involved.

Although it looks very different this year because libraries remain closed, we can still inspire our young people to enjoy reading by taking part in the challenge online. Last year we had over 200 children involved from Kings Langley library!

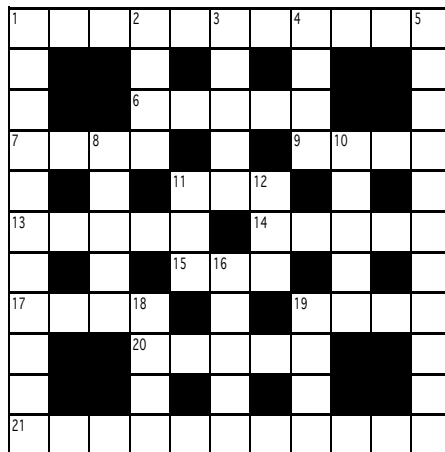
For more information and to sign up for the challenge visit www.sillysquad.org.uk. As usual there are lots of fun things to do on the website and lots of ideas of how to access books and stories to read.

The volunteers from Kings Langley Community Library look forward to seeing everyone soon when libraries are able to reopen!



After successfully completing the previous issue 14 Xword, ably assisted by her daughter Sophie, our winner of a free wash and dry at the Kings Langley Laundrette was Mary Flynn. They are pictured here with proprietor Alan Marshall who generously donated their prize.

This issue's prize is a cream tea for two at the Kitchen at Inspired. Simply post or email your completed Xword to us (see page 2) to arrive by Friday 14 August. The first correct entry drawn from the hat will be awarded this month's prize.



Prize Xword No. 15 set by Andrew Selby

Across

- 1 A toxophilite's favourite byway in our Village? (6,5)
- 6 Commanding officer obscures a type of wild dog! (5)
- 7 Move carefully or furtively (4)
- 9 Edible Japanese seaweed, found amidst a minority! (4)
- 11 New Zealand mountain parrot (3)
- 13 Lightly burnt (5)
- 14 Upright historic stone slab, typically with inscription (5)
- 15 Sharp, shrill bark (3)
- 17 Sign of ferrous decay (4)
- 19 Local watercourse (4)
- 20 Small bell made of two joined metal cones, used as percussion instrument (5)
- 21 Once our Village's road to royalty (7,4)

Down

- 1 Characterized by conflict or opposition (11)
- 2 Long road on the East side of the Village (4)
- 3 Series of mountains or hills (5)
- 4 Large member of the cat family (4)
- 5 Type of triangle (11)
- 8 Taxonomic category (5)
- 10 A letter from Greece? (5)
- 11 Explains map symbols (3)
- 12 Type of small venomous snake (3)
- 16 Recite an ode together for this electrical device! (5)
- 18 A strong taste, flavour or smell (4)
- 19 Once a member of a Germanic people in Roman times, now a subculture dressed in black (4)

Answers to Crossword No: 14

Across: 1 Moa, 4 Met, 6 Lower Rd, 9 Or, 11 To, 12 Ink, 13 Pea, 14 Bunkers Lane, 15 Eta, 17 Tar, 18 At, 19 So, 21 Chantry, 23 Leo, 24 Dim, **Down:** 1 Moo, 2 Al, 3 Rectory Lane, 4 Md, 5 Too, 7 Oak, 8 Rap, 10 Rivulet, 11 Tanners, 16 Ash, 17 Tor, 18 Awl, 20 Ohm, 21 Co, 22 Yd

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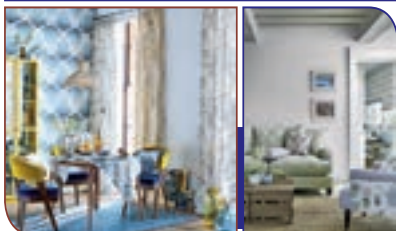
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Public Information

Kings Langley Parish Office, Charter Court, Vicarage Lane, WD4 9HR.

Parish Council Meetings are normally held on the first Tuesday of each month. Planning and Licensing on the first and third Tuesday of each month. Office hours 9.30am – 12.30pm

Telephone: 01923 261828
or email klpc@kingslangley-pc.gov.uk