



# Village News

## Kings Langley School embraces 'The spirit of Christmas'

Christmas is a time for celebration and thinking of others, especially this year which has been tough for everyone. Kings Langley School, which prides itself on unlocking students' academic ability and developing their character through a range of activities across the school curriculum, wanted to raise people's spirits.

Year round the Arts are widely celebrated by the School – regularly contributing to the carnival, the Christmas lights switch-on and singing at care homes and hospitals. In addition, the School has been producing artwork for the library, the angel festival at St. Mary's Church Apsley, murals for construction company hoardings and, more recently, producing imagery for the DrugLink charity.

2020 provided limited opportunities to work with the community but, as Christmas approached, Mr Tubb (Learning Area Leader for Arts) developed the idea of incorporating the Character Education programme with a community art project.

Following a lesson on the theme of 'what it is to be a good citizen', each class from Year 7 to 13 was challenged to produce a Christmas wreath on the theme of 'The spirit of Christmas'. The wreaths were exhibited in the school in the final week of term before being delivered to St Luras Care Home for residents to enjoy.

The project aimed to engage the young people in being good citizens in their community, understanding that social capital and community spirit gives people a sense of purpose, and how small acts of kindness can make a difference.

Care homes have been particularly hard hit by the Covid-19 pandemic and many residents feel lonely and anxious about the danger that the pandemic brings. Care home workers are also heroes of the pandemic and do a fantastic job of looking after their patients. The school hopes that the



PHOTOS: KINGS LANGLEY SCHOOL

*Above: The DENS collection with Ella, Elliot, Zeb and Mr Housego. Left, some of the wreaths created during the school project*

Christmas wreaths provide St Luras with a taste of 'the true spirit' of Christmas.

In addition, the sixth form team with Mr Housego (Deputy Area Leader of Technology) coordinated a collection for the Hemel Hempstead based DENS foodbank. Head Student Timmy said 'It has been great to see everyone coming together and supporting the local community. Given the current pandemic it has never been more essential to look out for those less fortunate than ourselves.' Donations were delivered to the foodbank on 16 December.

It has been brilliant to see the Kings Langley School community come together to help support others this Christmas, fully embracing the core character traits of stickability, self-regulation and empathy.

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## Evergreen Club update

So, three months became six, then six months became nine, and now virtually a year of no meetings. Evergreen Club members have been kept together not with fortnightly talks, quizzes, and games, but by regular and welcome phone calls from the Evergreen volunteers to keep them cheerful.

Everyone is keen for the club to start up again and to see their friends face to face! With the end in sight, club chairman Ann Martin is starting to plan an exciting and interesting programme of activities, hopefully starting from February 2021, starting with a 'speakeasy' for everyone to share anecdotes or musings about the lockdown period and of course Covid-19!

To find out more about joining this friendly social club contact Ann on 01923 267604.

### Can you help *Village News*?

Do you have skills we could use, and can spare some time to join our volunteer team? Perhaps the last year has prompted you to change the way you work, or retire early maybe, and you would like to give back to the community in which you live? We would appreciate help in the following areas: Event reporting, researching and news story writing; Copy editing and correcting; Seeking advertisers and selling space; Distribution coordination. If you can help please email [kingslangleynews@gmail.com](mailto:kingslangleynews@gmail.com)



## Live theatre and entertainment will return!

Unlike the Windmill Theatre in London which 'never closed' even during the darkest days of WW2, the doors of the Community Centre in Kings Langley have been shut for live performances since the Covid lockdown on 23 March.

But the three local groups, KL Musical Theatre Company, KL Players and the Revue Variety Company, have not been idle! As well as communicating with members via email, Zoom and social media, representatives of the three committees have had joint discussions about the way forward once there is good news about holding rehearsals and staging performances in the coming year.

Green shoots can be seen with professional and community venues gradually re-opening for albeit 'distanced' performances with limited audiences – a big step in the right direction!

Exciting new plans for 2021 are taking shape, including 'pop up' concerts staged by members from all three village groups, along with an exciting, combined production of the hilarious comedy play *Stepping Out*.

Look out for all the details here and on notice boards – meanwhile, stay safe!



## Friars Mead 'Covid Special' Christmas tree

Friars Mead care home usually has a real tree in their foyer but were unable to do so this Christmas. After many months of hard work complying with regulations and procedures, they thought they would have a bit of fun and make light of the situation this Christmas!

The tree has brought many laughs to residents, staff and visitors looking through the window. It even lights up in the dark! To add finishing touches to the tree, the residents wrote greetings and messages of thanks to the staff on silver and gold cut out baubles.

Although 2020 has been very trying for everyone, the residents remain in good spirits and are very grateful to the staff for making the best of the situation.

## Kings Langley Links logo competition winner

In the September/October issue of *Village News*, the new leisure information website shortly to be launched – Kings Langley Links – ran a competition asking for designs for a logo.

The winning design (pictured here) was submitted by Oscar Tse. Oscar is based in Kings Langley and is an experienced graphic designer. He said he really enjoyed working on the logo to help raise the brand awareness of the new website which will benefit



the local community. Besides logo design, Oscar is experienced in digital printing, marketing, branding, advertising, packaging design and video/animation. You can contact Oscar on email [omctse@gmail.com](mailto:omctse@gmail.com)

Look out for the Kings Langley Links website soon!

## Contacts for your local *Village News*...

All enquiries, articles, advertisements, and Prize Xword competition entries should be sent by email to [kingslangleynews@gmail.com](mailto: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 WD4 9HR*

The next issue of *Village News* will be published for March/April, the last date for copy and advertising is Friday 12 February.

# Winning Christmas lights

The winner of the Parish Council organised *Best Christmas Themed Premises in the High Street* is *Langley Butcher* who will donate their £50 prize money to the Hospice of St Francis.



*The Langley Butcher*

Richard and his team were so busy with long queues stretching along the High Street in the run up to Christmas that we couldn't coax them out for a photo!

The new *Best Residential Christmas Lights* competition winners are 16/17 Five Acres, a joint entry, who will share the £75 prize money. The lights at Broadfield Farm came 2nd winning £50, and 24 Belham Road came 3rd with £25. The prizes and certificates will be distributed in January.



*Broadfield Farm*



*16/17 Five Acres*



## St Luras celebrates 1st birthday

High Street care home St Luras celebrated their first birthday on 9 December – one year since they welcomed Margaret, their first resident.

They once again displayed a fabulous and cheering set of Christmas lights in their gardens fronting the High Street, this year enhanced by a nativity scene from All Saints Church. Inside the home, the knitted tree created by KLACS (which was displayed at All Saints Christmas Tree Festival and also in the library in 2019) was on display for residents' enjoyment. The care home residents each get to keep a knitted angel!



PHOTO: CAROLYN ANDREWS

PHOTO: BARRY KEMP

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PHOTO: BARRY KEMP

## Parish Pump – looking forwards... looking back

Like many, the Parish Council are making a few resolutions of their own for 2021 as the budget is pulled together for the next financial year.

These include part-funding a Repair Shed for the over 50's in the village who want to make, mend and learn. 'Such activities are particularly vital in tackling loneliness and isolation amongst this age group,' explained Councillor Derek Collins. 'We are also planning to resurface the Village Garden path making it more accessible for buggies and those with mobility issues, so it can be used by everyone.'

Amongst other plans on the wish list addressing leisure, transport and environmental issues, funding is available for smaller projects including improved footpath signage. 'The intention is to provide signs to places of interest within walking distance of the High Street to increase the footfall in local shops,' said Councillor Mark Rogers. 'We have also been working with the Borough and County Councils to see what assistance they can provide to raise the profile of the village's historic sites.'

Another project will involve the installation of a well-being 'trim trail' in Green Park. 'Levels of obesity in adults and older children are a concern in Hertfordshire, not helped by the lack of equipment to encourage more activity' claimed Councillor Andrew Hubberstey. 'This initiative will make a small step towards addressing the issue.'



PHOTO: ALAN JOHNSON

Finally, a photographic comparison of the Village Garden now and a reminder of what the Village Garden used to look like in 2015. What a transformation!

## Kings Langley open table foodbank

No-one in the village should be going hungry when there is a well stocked open table foodbank at the back of All Saints Church.

The foodbank is open to all in the community whatever faith, creed or of no faith.

The foodbank is unmanned and you can take what you need or for others that you know are in need. No vouchers are needed.

The foodbank is open daily from 9.30am to 5.00pm



## All Saints Church in the Wild

All Saints is launching a new and different type of service in 2021; *Church in the Wild* – an outdoor service on the first Sunday of each month with a different theme each time.

The service will move around the churchyard and the village, with the idea being to help people to connect, pray and think about God through nature and the outdoors. Team Vicar Father James says it will be particularly suitable for families with school age children, but everyone is welcome!

Because it takes place outside there

is no need to sign up beforehand or wear masks, but households will need to maintain social distancing until government restrictions change.

If you would like to join in, the services will start at 11.15am with refreshments from 10.30am – and don't forget to dress appropriately for the weather and for walking around the churchyard and village!

PHOTO: PHILIP CHINA



## Tough 2020 for KLCC

It's been a tough year for all sports, but Kings Langley Cricket Club has made the most of it – adding more than a dozen new players and seeing several of their junior members make a solid start in Senior Cricket.

The club are optimistically planning for a full season of fixtures and regular social events in 2021. In addition to the three Saturday XI's playing in the Herts League, they have entered a Development Team that focuses on younger talent (13–17 years old) and are expecting lots of success on the pitch! Plans are being drawn up for all of the junior sides and for the very successful All Stars program.

In preparation for the 2021 season winter nets have been booked at Parmiters School, running on Thursdays from 8 – 9pm starting 14 January. Please contact Tom Templeton ([tom.templeton@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:tom.templeton@yahoo.co.uk) or 07788 971464) for information or to book a session.

Kings Langley Cricket Club adheres to government, ECB and Herts League restrictions and advice on Covid-19 and as such all arrangements are subject to cancellation.

*Above: Will Lewis, Adullah Iqbal, Nick Lincoln and Rob Rigby just before their 2nd Team debuts in July 2020*

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## Football Season is put on hold once again

Kings Langley Football Club's fortunes have mirrored most people's lives. It has been a very stop-start season due to the changing Covid-19 regulations and guidelines.

In fact, they have actually only played three first team matches since 31 October with a 4–1 win at home in the FA Trophy against Essex seaside Brightlingsea Regent, followed unfortunately by consecutive away defeats against Leiston (1–0) in the league and St Neots (3–1) in the next round of the FA Trophy.

As this article goes to the press the Southern League, in which Kings Langley plays, have voted to once again suspend the season with the earliest possible start of Saturday 9 January 2021.

Keep up to date with the latest Covid safety precautions, rearranged fixtures and all other news concerning the club on Twitter [@KLFCofficial](https://twitter.com/KLFCofficial) or on Facebook [Kings Langley Football Club](https://www.facebook.com/KingsLangleyFootballClub).

## Library still active via Zoom

**As the library remains closed at the moment it is continuing to host its events programme via Zoom – sign up now!**

This has included a very informative talk in December on Air Traffic Control by Andy Rankine. Hopefully Andy will return in a 'real library event' later in 2021 – he has many more tales to tell!

Are you aware that a human sundial is being planned for Kings Langley, to be built on the Common opposite the Cricket Club? The next Library Zoom event at 8pm on Wednesday 20 January is a talk by Dr Gerard Sheldon who is leading this project. He will share how his enthusiasm for astronomy led to an interest in sundials, and his subsequent desire to construct one in the village. Look out for posters around the village, visit the Library stall at the monthly produce market, or email the Library events team at [kingslangleyvolunteers@hotmail.com](mailto:kingslangleyvolunteers@hotmail.com)

The monthly market book stall is now able to take small donations of books again and is especially keen for good quality children's books. Please drop them off at the stall in the Village Garden.

There is still no firm news about the library reopening, but steps are being taken to enable safe opening of the doors with the necessary Covid-secure measures!

# So Soft Designs

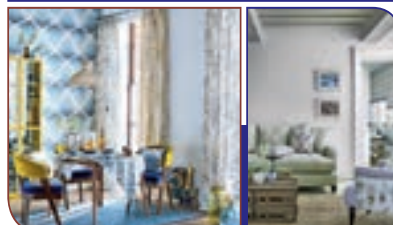


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# MOTO could still go-go

For anyone who thought the threat of a Motorway Service Area at Junction 20 had gone away, Kings Langley and District Residents Association (KL&DRA) has shared some bad news – MOTO are still pursuing their application.

They have also provided Three Rivers District Council planners with additional documentation relating to the traffic and highway impacts. A revised planning application is expected within months.

'In any event,' explained KL&DRA Chair Gary Ansell, 'the site will almost certainly be included as a potential development site in Three Rivers' draft Local Plan when it is published. In the meantime, planning applications for more than 200 dwellings along Home Park Mill Link Road, Station Road and Primrose Hill have already been submitted.'

He added 'The cumulative effect of these proposals, together with the large-scale green belt development proposed for Rectory Farm, will massively increase the traffic and parking issues locally, and put a further burden on health, education and transport services. That is why the proposals in both Three Rivers and Dacorum draft Local Plans must be opposed.'

KL&DRA are urging local people to object again, setting out how the harm caused by the service area will far outweigh any benefits. 'We know that others are being promoted by Extra



Artist impression of the proposed MOTO service Area at M25 junction 20

(Warren Farm) between Junctions 16 & 17 and Welcome Break (Colne Valley) between the M4 & M40 Junctions at Iver Heath, both of which would be accessed directly from the M25 (the MOTO site access would be indirect via the A41), but there is no limit to the

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## A message from our County Council

The health system is under strain at the moment, but don't suffer in silence. Talk to the pharmacy or your GP, or call HertsHelp **0300 123 4044**, who can put you in touch with many useful organisations. The County Council has increased its support right across the voluntary sector to help you – I know January can be a tough time.

Highways have finally sorted out the big puddle on the Hempstead Road footpath! They also did a huge amount of work to stop the flooding in Watford Road and I have already put additional Highway budget aside for pavements and drainage issues. The Red Lion/London Road works

I hope you were able to see and celebrate with Tier 4 restrictions at the height of the holidays to local hospitality but show how difficult making good news is that the vaccination programme should get Covid on the back foot.

did cause delays but have helped renew all the signals and most importantly allowed parents to have confidence their children can cross the road safely on the way to school. One campaigner for these changes has already noticed an improvement in her child's mental health; the traffic light timing is also being tweaked to get the best balance for all access roads.

The County Council cabinet has just made it easier to apply for speed changes on roads, so I look forward to this helping improve safety, guided by the village plan. 20mph

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*There is still time to submit your comments to the Dacorum Local Plan consultation with respect to building on village green belt – see below...*

## Dacorum Local Plan Consultation Ends on 7 February

As most readers will be aware, Dacorum Borough Council is consulting on the next stage in the creation of a Local Plan to control development to 2038, as required by the Government.

The Local Plan is controversial, with housebuilding targets set by the Government meaning likely green belt sites in Kings Langley were saved from inclusion in the plan, but development at Rectory Farm is still on the table for inclusion as it scored poorly when the green belt sites were assessed.

Residents have until 7 February 2021



*Above: Screenshots from Dacorum's website which explains the Local Plan in detail*

to participate in the consultation which can be done online at [www.dacorum.gov.uk/localplan](http://www.dacorum.gov.uk/localplan).

Unfortunately, due to Covid restrictions, you can only participate in the consultation online so those without internet access should seek assistance from a friend or relative.

number that can be built,' said Gary. 'We are working with other Residents Associations in the Three Rivers area, but would welcome support from local groups that will be adversely affected if the MOTO site gets approval.'

## Councillor

*With family over Christmas. Day season were a blow managing the virus is. The one is up and running and*



schemes are not everyone's cup of tea but together we can look at how these better fit village needs in the future.

Finally, a big thank you to the Parish and Borough Councils and their Councillors who do so much for the village and keep me on the straight and narrow! Do feel free to get in touch: [richard.roberts@hertfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:richard.roberts@hertfordshire.gov.uk) or telephone 07923 139092

Best wishes  
– County Councillor Richard Roberts

## Kings Langley Neighbourhood Plan update

A big thank you to all those who answered the survey and gave valuable feedback on the Neighbourhood Plan proposals. There have been very many responses and a staggering 97% of you agree with the vision, objectives and policy proposals.

Here are some of the thoughtful comments in your responses: on protecting character and heritage...

*'Goodnight village unless we meet this one.'*

*'These are the very reasons that we have chosen to live here.'*

*'The sole aim of genuine 'development' should be to improve our community.'*

*'Our High Street is the centre of our community, it needs to be vibrant*

*and useful providing variety. Small businesses are important to the well being of the area'*

*And finally, a comment from the section at the end on 'anything else to add...'*

*'I think you have all done an amazing job so far and thank you all for your hard work. The presentation is clear and easy to read – I just hope that many of our residents do respond. Thanks and good luck!'*

You can still add comments on the site [www.klnp.co.uk](http://www.klnp.co.uk)

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## Vision:

To preserve and enhance what villagers most value about Kings Langley in line with the priorities suggested by the 2019 Parish Plan Survey – its village status, environmental action, greenbelt, proximity to open countryside, canal, woods and common, its thriving high street and strong sense of community.

## Anonymous benefactor donates Christmas hampers!

New Year greetings from Kings Langley Good Neighbours' Association as they continue to provide Helpline assistance seven days a week.

For the first time in 54 years a Zoom AGM was held – surely not the only organisation to do this in 2020! 24 people joined in, including Pam Elderkin from Kent! Listening to the Lunch Club Annual Report it was sad to realise that members had been deprived of that weekly social event for several months, although members had each received a weekly phone call, enquiring after them, offering help and sharing news. While the restrictions have kept the pool of drivers somewhat limited, the transport service has continued, including taking clients for Covid tests.

An exciting moment came when an anonymous benefactor donated 20 M&S hampers and asked Good Neighbours to distribute them to village residents who were likely to be alone at Christmas! As there were many potential recipients, names were 'pulled from a hat' to decide, with surprised and happy reactions from those lucky enough to receive them: 'Amazing', 'Such generosity', 'Why me?', 'Who can I thank?' Another great example of our village community spirit.

Good Neighbours can be reached by telephone on **07790 668672**, by email: [info@klgna.org](mailto:info@klgna.org) or check their website [www.klgna.org](http://www.klgna.org) or the noticeboard outside Langley Butcher.

*Below: Kings Langley Good Neighbours volunteer, Eric Martin, delivering one of the hampers.*



## Carols in the Village Garden

The rain showers that beset the Local Produce Market on the morning of 19 December thankfully held off for the socially distanced carol sing-along in the Village Garden later that day.

Because the Covid restrictions did not allow the singing of carols by church congregations, Father James McDonald from All Saints had shared his idea of an outdoor event with Christ Church Baptist minister Matthew Cooper and Methodist minister Andrew Brazier, and with the support of the Parish Council it was swiftly arranged and publicised!

In a very different 2020 many village residents came – they stood, socially

distanced, sang a dozen or so well-loved carols and enjoyed a wonderfully communal evening. There were readings, prayers and blessings from the ministers, accompanied by players from Hemel Hempstead Brass Band, with mince pies and mulled wine supplied by Dalling & Co for a small donation. The event was rounded off with a rendition of *We wish you a Merry Christmas* – and we hope you did. Around £300 was raised for charity.

## Village community's seasonal generosity

Christ Church Baptist thanks all the local people, churches and businesses who brought more than 600 shoeboxes filled with gifts in December for Operation Christmas Child!

These boxes were taken to the Tonbridge processing centre where they were checked and put into cartons ready for the lorry or container trip to their destination in Eastern Europe or Africa. Thanks to Kings Langley residents, 600 children will receive an extra special present.

The open table Foodbank at the back of All Saints Church was laden with a huge number of extra Christmassy items donated by very generous villagers, which were gratefully

received by families in need in the local area. A *Shoebox for Christmas* campaign for needy children of Kings Langley took collections of age-labelled wrapped gifts and boxes as an extension of the Foodbank, as a result of which hundreds of gifts could be shared with local families struggling to make ends meet over the Christmas period.

All Saints also sends heartfelt thanks to everyone who donated to their Community Christmas Tree initiative which saw gifts donated for every resident at both St Lauras and Friars Mead care homes. They were delivered on 23 December with more than enough for two gifts per person which was absolutely wonderful.

Fantastic demonstrations of the community spirit that the people of Kings Langley have shown in such abundance this year!



# The community centre – how it all began

After the second world war it became apparent that Church House, the brick and flint building on Church Lane, then the only hall of any size in the village, was inadequate for some of the functions it had to cater for.

Several sites for a new Community Centre were considered, but in the end Dr T Fisher, who owned a large stretch of land behind his house on the High Street, agreed to sell the present site of the centre to the Rural District Council.

Funds needed to be raised, and initially it was proposed to relocate a temporary building of wood and plasterboard which was being dismantled in London. The building was purchased for £100, but cost of transport, re-erecting and fitting it out would increase this to several thousand. Eventually, by the time an architect had been employed and the land purchased, a further four years had elapsed, and the original materials had deteriorated too badly to be used!

With the Government's main priority to build new housing, it was forbidden at the time to purchase new building materials or to use professional paid builders. A more permanent structure was proposed and although there is no record of where the materials came from, hearsay has it that much was obtained from the American Air Force base in Bovingdon, which would probably have been closing down.

Eventually, work commenced on digging the foundations in May 1949 and by the end of that year it would appear the building was complete. A considerable feat by a group of



*Clockwise: Construction begins, 1949; The original promotional message; Kings Langley Players posing with their founder John Kingston (left) for their 1942 show When we are Married; The Community Centre in 1991*

volunteer labourers in their spare time, as presumably most would have had full time jobs. In January 1950 the Kings Langley Players put on a revue there entitled *Punch and Jubilee* to help raise money for the centre, and the official opening took place on 25 February 1950.

The final cost was £6,700 obtained from fund raising, a number of grants, and loans paid back by subsequent fund raising. The land was leased back by the Rural District Council to a group of trustees, initially from the Parish Council but eventually to the 'Trustees of the Community Association', for a peppercorn rent.

There have been a number of alterations and additions over the years; The original entrance foyer



PHOTOS: KINGS LANGLEY LOCAL HISTORY & MUSEUM SOCIETY

opened on the Nap, and the original car park gave way to the Library in return for the County Council creating the current larger car park behind.

The Community Centre is largely run by volunteers and has been financially self-supporting (lockdowns notwithstanding). However it does need more people to get involved, so if you are interested in helping please contact the current chairman Martin Noyes [martinnoyes@btinternet.com](mailto:martinnoyes@btinternet.com)





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## Year 12 raise money for Christian Aid project

Christian Aid Kings Langley sends their thanks and congratulations to year 12 students at Kings Langley School for raising £222.51 for Christian Aid's Kenya HIV project in 2020.

Fund-raising ideas included 'wear something red' and a bake sale – and was particularly impressive having been interrupted by the pandemic. The really good news is that this was match funded by USA Aid 1:20, meaning that a magnificent total of £4,450.20 was achieved!

Thanks also to All Saints and the Methodist church who also supported this important project for Kenya's children affected by HIV, giving them very real hope.

*It's great to go into 2021 with some positive news – Tiny Tots, the activity morning at All Saints for children up to the age of 4, is back after a long enforced absence!*

Please email [allsaintskingslangley@outlook.com](mailto:allsaintskingslangley@outlook.com) to book your space as numbers are, naturally, limited.



## Kings Langley Charities – Season of Goodwill

Kings Langley Charities was established to provide goodwill to those needing assistance within the old parish which, for historical reasons, includes Chipperfield.

For 400 years, it has benefited from a grant made annually by the Henry Smith Charity for the relief of poverty and to aid the distressed – this year supplemented by a 'top up' grant. A generous donation of £1,000 from the Revue Theatre Company has further added to funds.

In addition to the grants for foodstuffs traditionally made at Christmas, the trustees made similar provision to some young families during the summer. With the additional funds, the trustees were also delighted to make two further grants to good causes this year:

Firstly to Matthew Cooper of Christ Church Baptist who is fund raising for new or used iPads for a number of older people who are on their own and have felt they are missing out – the pandemic has made their sense of isolation more apparent and acute. The iPads provide online access to alleviate this, with the church providing the necessary support and assistance in using the devices.

*Right: Donna Bowman (Waterside Manager) being presented with cheque by Bob McLean (Waterside Trustee)*

The second grant was made to the Waterside Centre towards the cost of a 'Magic Table,' for which they are currently fundraising. This is a mobile unit that projects simple interactive images onto a table or floor that can be manipulated by moving your hands or feet around to stimulate the imagination, respond to all movements no matter how small, and provide opportunities to socialise and work together. 'The Magic Table is fun to play with,' explained Donna Bowman, Manager of the Centre. 'We get a lot of use out of the one we already have. It is especially useful for those with more profound disabilities, but everybody likes to have a go.'

The trustees have been delighted to enjoy a busy year and wish to acknowledge the support of Richard from Kings Langley Butcher and Bala from the Post Office store for their ready co-operation, patience, and support.



# Prize Xword



PHOTO: BARRY KEMP

*Our winner from Xword no. 17 was Helen Hartley, who was delighted with her prize of a complimentary treatment of her choice, kindly donated by BeautyFull. Jade, the clinic's owner, said she is really looking forward to being able to open again as soon as restrictions allow.*

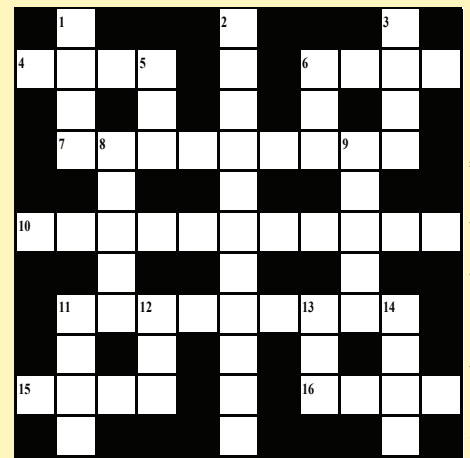
### Across

- 4 In addition (4)
- 6 This Village road can be found amidst pachyderms! (4)
- 7 Short Village cul-de-sac, reminiscent of a religious order, near the Rose & Crown (6, 3)
- 10 Untangle some dreamy waifs for this well-known Village place (7, 4)
- 11 Act of removing the moisture from something (9)
- 15 Flower (4)
- 16 Not difficult (4)

### Down

- 1 Musical symbol (4)
- 2 Type of winged creature in the age of the dinosaurs (11)
- 3 Impatient and anxious (4)
- 5 This activity needs a bit of skill! (3)
- 6 Shape wood by cutting and chopping (3)
- 8 Sounds similar, at least in part (5)
- 9 Adjust to new conditions (5)
- 11 Type of sailing vessel used in Red Sea and Indian Ocean (4)
- 12 Envisage as a possibility (3)
- 13 Master-stroke in at least two sports (3)
- 14 Direction (4)

*This issue's prize is a takeaway meal for two to the value of £40, kindly donated by Spice Village. To enter, simply post or email your completed crossword to us (see page 2) to arrive no later than Friday 12 February.*



Prize Xword No. 18 set by Andrew Selby

**Answers to Crossword No: 17**  
**Across:** 5 Langley Hill, 6 Corte, 9 Zero, 10 York, 11 Water, 12 Love, 13 Iron, 14 Rhyme, 17 Castile Gdns,  
**Down:** 1 Barrel Organ, 2 Alto, 3 Eyot, 4 Clairvoyant, 6 Cower, 7 Retry, 8 Eyrie, 15 Heir, 16 Meek

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# Can you spot the sword in the tree?

As a relative newcomer to the village, I have always found myself fascinated by the history of our village – the ruins of the Royal Palace, the Priory, All Saints' church, the 'Grand Old Duke of York'... but equally intriguing was the story of the sword in the tree.

I had heard on many occasions that there was a sword 'pinioned' into the top of the old tulip tree in the Village Garden, even that it may have caused the split in the trunk.

There seemed to be a variety of explanations for the sword being there – from a knight at the time of Edward II to a member of the 13th Light Horse at the end of the First World War. Over the years I have spoken to many local people who have seen the sword over the last 30, 40, 50 years, although I confess I have not. So why has no-one seen it more recently?

A tree surgeon explained that by growing taller, trees are better able than other plants to compete for sunlight and can do so with or without 'foreign objects' because they have thicker stems composed of specialised cells that add structural strength and durability, allowing them to grow regardless. I assumed that as the tree



PHOTO: ALAN JOHNSON

grew the sword would remain at the top of the tree, where it would have been 'planted'. However, if something is pressed against or into a tree stem it will react to the object by gradually occluding it, the object becoming part of the structure of the tree.

When the tree was recently pruned, I asked about the sword. It turns out if it is there, it is likely to have been from the First World War rather than the 14th century given the age of the tree. Unfortunately, whilst there is

something at the top of the tree, it is now a brace to hold the two 'halves' of the split trunk together. I wonder how long it will be until that too, is occluded?

– Alan Johnson

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### Public Information

Kings Langley Parish Office, Charter Court, Vicarage Lane  
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@dacorum.gov.uk](mailto:klpc@dacorum.gov.uk)

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