



Village News

YOUR ONLY LOCAL Village NEWSPAPER

The census is coming

Households across Kings Langley will soon be asked to take part in Census 2021.

The census is a once-in-a-decade survey that gives us the most accurate estimate of all the people and households in England and Wales. It has been carried out every decade since 1801, with the exception of 1941.

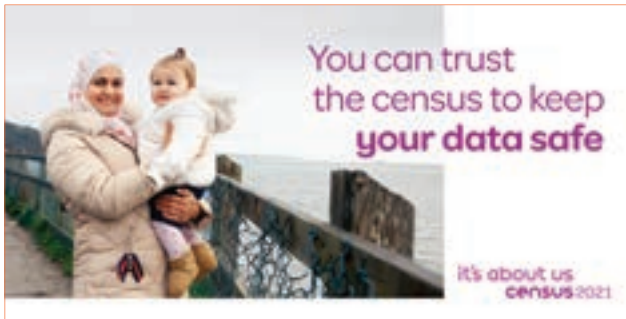
It will be the first run predominantly online, with households receiving a letter with a unique access code, allowing them to complete the questionnaire on their computers, phones or tablets.

'A successful census will ensure everyone from local government to charities can put services and

funding in the places where they are most needed,' Iain Bell, deputy national statistician at the Office for National Statistics, said.

'This could mean things like doctors' surgeries, schools and new transport routes. That's why it is so important everyone takes part and we have made it easier for people to do so online on any device, with help and paper questionnaires for those that need them.'

Census day will be on 21 March, but households across the country will receive letters with online codes allowing them to take part from early March.



The census will include questions about your sex, age, work, health, education, household size and ethnicity. And, for the first time, there will be a question



Everyone must complete the census and provide accurate information, as it will help decide how services are funded in our area.

asking people whether they have served in the armed forces, as well as voluntary questions for those aged 16 and over on sexual orientation and gender identity.

Results will be available within 12 months, although personal records will be locked away for 100 years, kept safe for future generations.

For more information, visit [census.gov.uk](https://www.census.gov.uk).

Message in a Bottle

What are you dreaming of doing once the pandemic is over? Perhaps visiting a friend or a special place, getting back to a hobby, or simply getting a hug from someone special.

Send us a 'message in a bottle' telling us your dream – but by email to kingslangleynews@gmail.com (not in a bottle!), perhaps with a photo. We will feature your answers in our next edition, hoping that we can all leave our desert islands of the current restrictions soon!



Toms Lane fundraiser

11 year-old Toms Lane resident Jack McKerrow decided to raise much needed money for the New Hope charity for the homeless in Watford.

He is running a mile a day – whatever the weather –

down Toms Lane, a marathon in the month of February. Jack has already more than doubled his target of £150 with support from family and friends and the residents of Toms Lane who have been coming out to cheer him on as he passes. Well done Jack!!



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Alan Jackson

23 March 1951
to 13 December
2020

Alan and I moved to Coniston Road in 2001 to settle down, have a family and become part of the local community. Alan was regularly to be seen washing and tinkering with his vehicles and would always happily stop to have a chat with any neighbours and passers-by. He was an excellent and entertaining raconteur and always good company.

After decades in the business, Alan was a very handy man as a kitchen and bathroom fitter, plumber, and much more, so after doing up our house from top to bottom when we moved in, he offered his services to neighbours and further afield, also doing some work after retirement for Dream Doors in Kings Langley High Street.



Alan also did some work for the Parish Council and was to be found on Carnival day helping out as required.

He was thrilled in 2019 to be awarded 1st prize in one of the dog show classes. Well, it was Rufus our Welsh Springer who won the prize, but Alan couldn't have been more proud! He was regularly to be seen walking Rufus around the area until ill health set in.

Alan's prostate cancer diagnosis came as a shock to him, and although the treatments cured the cancer, they also left a legacy of damage to his lungs and digestive system. For such a fit and active man, who won a World

Champion title in windsurfing in 2003, his declining health was a terrible blow.

After several periods in Watford General Hospital, receiving good care and exhaustive investigations, Alan sadly but peacefully passed away.

As a family including two teenagers, we are bereft at his unexpected death but the amazing outpouring of kind messages of support and sympathy have helped at this awful time. For Alan's final journey from our home on 23 December, Coniston Road was filled with kind friends and neighbours offering their respects, and the sky lit up with the most amazing rainbow at exactly the right time.

Kind bell-ringing friends arranged for the tenor bell at All Saints Church to ring as the cortège passed. Alan had been learning bell ringing for a couple of years and was an enthusiastic member of the band. When conditions permit, we will ring in his honour and the sound will be heard across the area.

– Sandra Jackson.

Peter William Field – 23 Aug 1939 to 31 Jan 2021

It is with sadness that we report the passing of lifetime village resident Peter Field.

He was born and grew up in Rucklers Lane, with twin sister Ann and younger siblings Janet and Patrick, having a happy childhood with everything they needed close by.

He attended Kings Langley Infant School, Nash Mills Junior Church School and then Corner Hall Boys School, leaving at 15 to start work as an electrical technician. His career started at John Dickinson's in Apsley, then Nash Mills, Coopers in Berkhamsted, Sun Printers and finally the Daily Mirror until taking early retirement in 2002.

He met his wife Doreen at the regular Watford Town Hall dance and through working together at John Dickinson, and they were happily married on 15 August 1970, becoming proud parents of Kerry Rose in March 1972.

Many of the hobbies and interests from childhood Peter enjoyed later in

life – electrics, film & cinema, painting, and photography. He was a true 'villager', being an active member of societies including the Local History and Museum Society and serving on the Parish Council, where he made good friends.

He enjoyed putting on film and slide shows, and making and editing his own films, including compiling and narrating a collection of old amateur films onto a DVD produced by the Local History Society titled *Kings Langley on Film No1*. For many years he was official photographer for the Kings Langley Gardens Competition.

In 1998, daughter Kerry married Paul McCarthy at All Saints' Church, which was followed by the arrival of truly adored grandchildren Lewis and Sian. His role as Grandad 'Pete' will be forever in their hearts remembering the fun activities and time they shared.

After Doreen passed away in 2007, Peter continued to be an active and



enthusiastic member of community clubs and societies and enjoyed trips with Miami Motors. He made good friends at the Heart to Herts support group, and met Marie during this time, forming a happy companionship that was to last for the remainder of his life.

His heart condition proved a challenge in the later part of his life, including a quadruple heart bypass and a defib. pacemaker. However, he always kept a positive attitude and bounced back from being very poorly many times to face the next chapter of his life. Sadly he was taken into Watford General in January, and the battle of catching Covid while there was too much for his heart and he passed away peacefully.

Peter is remembered as a caring, thoughtful and kind man. It came naturally to him to care and look after his family and friends, always happy with a smile on his face. Nothing was too much trouble for Peter to help and support those around him.

Community Choir keeps in tune

The vibe in Kings Langley Community Choir remains positive in spite of continuing lockdown restrictions.

The latest venture to lift spirits is a series of three Zoom Workshops to be led by Pete Churchill, Professor of Jazz Composition at the Royal Academy of Music and leader of the London Vocal Project.

The theme will be community singing, a spring tonic, and the Choir is opening the opportunity to anyone who wishes to take part. The first date will have passed by the time you read this, but as each workshop is stand alone, there is still time to register for 16 March and 20 April (7.30-9.00pm), fee £10. To register please contact Pat Waterton patwaterton@gmail.com or 07714 701316.

2020 finished on a positive note for the Choir with the release of their fourth video recording, the Christmas Carol *I Saw Three Ships*. It's an arrangement by Katie Teage using the Choir's trademark harmonies, building to a four-part finish.

Although restrictions denied the chance to perform live, Radio Dacorum played the recording during their Christmas broadcasts. It is also available to view on the Choir's YouTube channel with other songs past and recent.

Choir membership is open to all, there is no audition. Anyone interested in joining should contact Pat Waterton; details as above, or www.kingslangleychoir.co.uk



Support from All Saints

The pandemic has been a difficult time for many with a rise in loneliness and mental health issues both among the young and old.

Recognising this, All Saints has a support scheme, offering conversation and support over the phone. Anyone in the community who would like someone to talk to on a regular basis is welcome to sign up to this and a member of the friendly pastoral team will keep in touch with you.

Contact the Church Office 01923 266596 or saintskl2@tiscali.co.uk or the Vicarage 01923 903531/ james.a.mcdonald@live.co.uk

Team Vicar Fr James said, 'We want to offer this to anyone in the village, to people of every faith or none, as a way of supporting the community, it is an offer of friendship and regular contact/ conversation. We hope we can reach out to anyone who needs that support.'

Barbara, one of the people All Saints supports in this way, said 'The phone rings and I wonder who that might be,

and it is great to hear a friendly voice on the other end. It's good to talk.'

This is a difficult time for parents, especially those with young children, so the church is offering activity packs for little ones which can be collected from the back of church from 10am every Wednesday. When restrictions ease, the Wednesday morning Tiny Tots group will begin again.

For more information about services, events and support: beneficeoflangelei.org.uk/allsaints/

On Easter Sunday 4 April, services are as follows:

8am *Churches Together* outdoor service in the churchyard

9.30am *Family Eucharist*

11.15am the new family outdoor *Church in the Wild* will restart.



Easter at Waterside Baptist

Good Friday 10.30am

The Message of the Cross

Easter Sunday 10.30am

The Message of the Empty Tomb

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PHOTO: DAVID BROWN

News from the Parish Pump

‘It’s great when things come together, but it doesn’t usually happen overnight,’ said Parish Councillor Alan Johnson.

‘We tried to get some paths through the woods cleared last year; unfortunately, the pandemic delayed it. The work was finally carried out at the end of January, although not all the obstructions were cleared, to promote the sense of being in a woodland.’

Some things can take even longer. A few years ago the Parish Council carried out a public consultation at the Community Centre to seek suggestions for improvements that could be made; 40 ideas were put forward, including a village newspaper – I wonder what happened to that?

One such idea from Gerard Sheldon was for a human sundial on the Common (a similar one at King Edward VI High School for Girls is pictured above). He explained that it could provide a number of educational activities for local schools, be used for stargazing and give everyone a bit of fun telling the time without looking at their phone.

Gerard found someone who could design and install the sundial ‘face’ and the Parish Council and County Councillor Richard Roberts agreed to fund this work. Unfortunately, the base would cost an additional £10k – rather more than originally estimated.

Then, quite unbidden, Osborne got in touch offering to do something for the village as they were working on the M25 viaduct. They agreed to install the sundial base and planned to do so in spring 2020. Unfortunately the pandemic and lockdown meant this wasn’t possible! Osborne are still committed to the project but it may be next year before work begins. The saga continues...

Coniston Road Development

Work has begun on seven 2-bed and three 3-bed houses at the top of Coniston Road. The development aims to help meet affordable housing needs as all will be social rent properties, with priority given to people with local connections.

All of the houses will include environmentally friendly characteristics; the designs include solar photovoltaic panels on the roofs, water saving measures such as flow restrictors, and high levels of thermal insulation to reduce energy requirements. In an effort to encourage the use of more sustainable modes of transport, plans incorporate secure cycle storage and a 32amp external supply for a car charging station in each house.

Parish Council Chair Howard Button said, ‘The Parish Council are committed

to reducing carbon emissions across the full range of council activities to net zero by the end of budget year 2029-30 and are anxious to see developments in the village are environmentally friendly. ‘This scheme aims to preserve existing trees on the site, with trees removed only where it is essential to create space for the new buildings, and new native trees and vegetation planted to mitigate this.’

Howard Button added ‘The introduction of the native trees and shrubs will improve the ecological value and biodiversity of the site, which is really good news. We hope the development will be ready for occupation by local people from summer 2022.’



Plan and elevations of the new development at Coniston Road

Mislocated Bus shelter?

Tony Griffin came back from work recently to his home in Railway Terrace and found an old battered bus stop shelter on the other side of the road to his house.

Gade Homes had removed the bus shelter and the bus stop bay when they started building the new estate Lake Side next to the fishing lake.

They were instructed by the council to return them, which they have done, but the bus shelter is now nowhere near where the buses would stop in the bay! In addition, where it has been located looks as if it may prevent the gates to the emergency overflow pipe (which goes into the lake) from fully opening, as it is too close. The flooding is already poor on that section of road since the recent housing development.

Apart from this, the eyesore of the old bus shelter blocks the view of the lake and the fantastic wildlife. Tony also points out that there has not been a bus route along Railway Terrace for some years!



PHOTO: TONY GRIFFIN



Community Library – looking forward in 2021

It is almost a year now since the library had to close, and many local people have missed their visits, the friendly volunteers and all the services on offer.

Herts Library Service remain committed to opening the doors again as soon as the necessary Covid precautions are in place. Hopefully there will be news soon!

You may have seen posters for library Zoom events, the most recent was a presentation by Dr Gerard Sheldon with an interesting talk on sundials, explaining the project to build a Human Sundial on the Common. When the library reopens a display on sundials is planned, helped by a generous offer from Herts Library Service to purchase some books on the topic. You must call in to see it!

The next Zoom presentation is on 10 March from another interesting local resident Julian Mincham, who will be telling facts and fun stories about flying based on his wide experience. Tickets for this event *All is NOT as it seems* are available from kingslangleyvolunteers@hotmail.com

At the time of writing, the intention is to hold the Community Library Annual General Meeting via Zoom on 23 March at 10am. All are welcome to join, and AGM papers and the Zoom link details are available by email from the Hon. Secretary at kingslangleyvolunteers@hotmail.com

With the prospect of reopening the library, perhaps you are reconsidering how you spend your time and may be interested in getting involved?

An important role needed as soon as possible is a Treasurer to keep library finances and accounts in order – someone with some financial experience and a couple of hours a week to spare. Please email (as above) for more information, or with any other services you may be able to offer.

Memories of 2020

When the library finally reopens, a display of village memories of 2020 is planned, and your contributions are needed!

Remember the empty roads, the undisturbed wildlife, or all the activities people took up for the first time? Remember all the volunteering and extra help offered by ordinary people during this year, or the struggles (and successes) with home schooling? This was a year to remember for the community spirit of the village.

Please send in your photos – digital images can be emailed to kingslangleyvolunteers@hotmail.com

Printed photos or any other contributions for the display can be posted through the library letterbox. Include your name and contact details in case you are a prize winner.

Abbots Langley Library lockdown services

Abbots Langley Library is participating in 'Ready Reads we select you collect.'

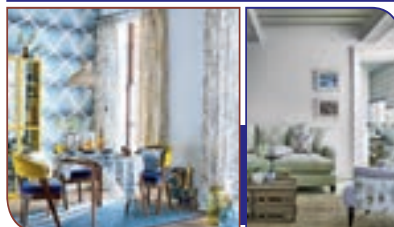
This is a new way to borrow books from selected libraries where you order books for yourself and other family members, all on the same online form, and then collect from the selected library. Order online at bit.ly/KLVNready

The books are then collected at the library entrance with Covid-safe procedures, and you should provide your own bag. Age-appropriate reading books for school children can be supplied based on stock in the library.

For those unable to access online services, phone 0300 123 4049 for help joining the scheme.



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Walking in Kings Langley c1275

The pandemic has restricted our ability to get out and about, but it presents an opportunity for readers to have a virtual tour of the village as it was nearly seven-hundred-and-fifty years ago.

Twenty-four generations back, it is not yet Kings Langley; the village is Langlei, Langele or Langelei (the spelling is optional), and in the year 1275 we must set aside our view of the present-day village. Today it would be dangerous to stand in the middle of the High Street, but then we would be standing in fields, with no view of a road. To find the village of Langlei in 1275, we must look elsewhere.

Let us approach the village from a different direction. There was both a Roman and a Saxon settlement near to the River Gade, the original Saxon settlement of Langlei, at Brokend, was at the bottom of the Nap by the mill.

The Kings Highway in 1275 ran east of Langlei following the modern-day route towards Berkhamsted and Aylesbury to the east of the river.

To find the village centre we must leave the King's Highway and cross the river over a wooden bridge, most likely in a state of disrepair – Langlei in 1275 is not a prosperous place – and the thirteenth-century river is much wider compared to today. There are lush meadows either side of the Gade, which grew naturally on the river's flood plain.

Having crossed over the river, we must take the track that slopes gently up to the settlement. Its route is blocked by buildings today, but we can pick it up where it heads towards the village main street where the footpath from Blackwell Road leads uphill.



By 1275 Langlei sat sixty feet above the western side of the meadow. Its development was linear, parallel to the river and either side of the main street, which follows the modern footpath that is Green Lane. Modern-day Blackwell Road follows the curve of the other route into the village, heading towards the Saxon village location close to the mill.

Imagine a small village with its groups of homes, thatched probably with reeds from the river and constructed from wattle and daub. You see that they all look the same: single storey, one room from front to back, constructed in the same style. I sense that

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'Oh, the grand old Duke of York, he had ten thousand men; he marched them up to the top of the hill, and he marched them down again...'

One of the strangest things I've heard while in the churchyard was that the nursery rhyme 'The Grand Old Duke' was based on events in Kings Langley. I was sceptical until someone pointed out that the body of Edmund de Langley the first Duke of York was

moved from the Old Priory at the top of Langley Hill down to All Saints' Church.

So, I decided to do some digging (not literally!). Edmund of Langley was the least able of Edward III's sons, and a liability in campaigns in France, Spain, and Brittany. His one independent command, the Lisbon expedition of 1381-82, was a failure. Could the continual military reversals he faced refer to marching his men up and down? The lyrics of the nursery rhyme have, after all, become proverbial for futile action.

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PHOTO: MR BIZ

*Left: Author's sketch showing how the village may have appeared c1275.
Above: The original contour of the River Gade can be seen on the far bank of this stretch, where it now merges with the Grand Union Canal near Nash Mills*

you are not impressed by what you see. You think it looks drab.

The settlement is far from picturesque: you have to look hard to see a flowering plant, you may find lavender and sweet-smelling roses, but they are functional, not decorative. You won't see a lawn, window boxes or hanging baskets. It is quite colourless to our 21st century eyes.

Look down, and you will see that these houses' foundations are poorly built, mostly laid direct onto compacted mud. There are no estate agent 'for sale' boards, for all the

peasant houses are rented, built on land owned by the Lord of the Manor. Payment of rents is through work rather than cash.

If you pause and inhale the air, as well as a 'country' smell, you will notice wood smoke emanating from the roof of each building. There are no chimneys to be found in these peasant homes – that advancement will have to wait for a new century.
– Michael Long

To be continued next issue...

Does the age of the rhyme help? The oldest version of the song is 'Old Tarlton's song', attributed to Richard Tarlton (1530–1588), but based on an earlier song. This would suggest that it is either Richard of York who 'gave battle in vain' at Wakefield in 1460 during the Wars of the Roses, and was killed. However, a later candidate is Frederick, Duke of York, the second son of King George III, although he was a military reformer in which case the rather futile marching seems a trifle unfair...
The jury remains out!

– Alan Johnson

Looking for a change of scenery or walks further afield?

There's a website which might be able to help you – *Walking in Herts* has plenty of walks to download and print, free, as well as links to books of walks, contact details for nearby walking groups and more.

Local man John Harris who has established the website said 'There is so much walking information on the web but it is difficult to find. Walking in Herts (part of the Walking in England suite of websites – one for each county in England) has brought it together in one place so whether you are walking from home or away on holiday, you will be able to find a suitable walk'.

With walks of all lengths and notes of suitability for pushchairs and wheelchairs, everyone can find a walk to enjoy.

www.walkinginengland.co.uk/herts

Nice weather... for watercress

By the time you read this, hopefully the weather will be balmy and the turbulent weather we experienced earlier in the year will be forgotten.



However, as a little reminder you may have seen this white-coated visitor who put in an unexpected appearance in the village garden in January. Contrary to popular opinion, the Parish Warden hadn't been standing there leaning on his broom for too long.

February started with rain of biblical proportions. Torrential rain poured down the village streets, but two of the worst 'wet spots' in Hempstead Road and Watford Road were spared thanks to the timely drainage works which prevented gardens, roads and footpaths being flooded.

Not so Sunderland's Yard allotments (below) which disappeared under several inches of water – perhaps less surprising as this area used to be watercress beds!



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A message from Andrew Brazier, Methodist minister

Even the snow is indecisive. Falling as gently as it possibly can without actually having any impact on the world around it. An icing sugar thin layer dusts the roads and gardens.

Recently, while chatting with a congregation member about their experiences of rationing back in the 1950s, the topic of survival came up. She pointed out that in the first days of rationing there was still a strong sense of unity, but when limitations were still in place in the following years it became a matter of apathy and dissent. As it became obvious that things in the world weren't quite so bad, the dragging out of the scheme resulted in a mixture of responses. 'Ultimately,' she told me, 'people did what they had to do to survive.'

The Bible gives the advice that we are all like parts of the body, being different, but being essential and irreplaceable to one another. Imagine there was a lot of snow: picture the Christmas card landscape, children building snow people, feel the large flakes falling on your face and smell the brittle air. You might agree with the romanticism, or you might have a more negative view that snow is cold, dangerous or inconvenient. My grandfather's response to snow was to get the shovel out and dig the drive clear, then he'd do the neighbour's ones, and then start on the road.

Some people, maybe me, find snow peaceful and calming – a time to write poetry. Some will be out in walking boots or building a snowman. The point is that all responses are valid. It is not wrong to be impatient with the snow or want it to end, or to be scared of it, or to delight in the change it brings. So, whether you find it a good opportunity to take photos, or to hide under the duvet, we believe that God speaks through our different skills and perspectives. We should celebrate and accept all our different ways and understandings. There is no one way to face our struggles, and we shouldn't try to force each other to behave or function in one way.

I'm just wondering if maybe this wasn't just about snow, but it was a little bit about the lock down...?

www.kingslangleyvillagenews.co.uk



Carnival postponed

It is with great sadness that we have taken the decision to cancel this year's Carnival that was planned for 19 June 2021.

With the ongoing uncertainty about covid restrictions and the need for at least four to five months to plan a full-scale event, we are formalising the decision so any groups or organisations that were hoping to come can amend their plans accordingly.

However, we are only too aware of how welcome a community event would be – something to look forward to in the summer. So, with that in mind, we have identified Saturday 18 September as a date to try and put on an event to bring the village together.

Until guidelines are clearer, we don't know what that Carnival event will look like (likely to be a much smaller scale than usual) but look out for more information about this soon!

Thank you for your past support and I hope we can count on the whole village to come out in force as and when we are allowed to. Please put Saturday 18 September in your diary.

Carol Chandler, Chair – Kings Langley Carnival Committee

Foodbank – open to all

The foodbank is open to all in the community whatever faith, creed or of no faith. It's unmanned and you can take what you need or for others that you know are in need.

No vouchers are needed. Please take what you need when you need it.

The foodbank is open daily from 9.30am to 5.00pm and is accessed at the back of All Saints Church.

Donations are welcome – currently particularly in need of pasta sauce, tinned veg, tinned fruit, tinned meat, toilet rolls and toiletries.

Puffer off again

This year's Kings Langley Puffaten 10k and fun-run event on 27 June has been cancelled by organisers Comets Road Running Club.

Started nearly 30 years ago by local man John Cherry, the aim of the event is to bring running to all ages and raise money for local charities.

Race Official Colin Morton said 'For this year's race to go ahead we would have to operate under new Covid-secure restrictions which would mean two ambulances, two sets of medical staff, two medical tents, and volunteers in full PPE. There would be no changing area, no baggage area, no medals, no water, no prizes, no insurance cover against Covid infection and a staggered start for every race!' A start/finish at the primary school only adds to the complexity.

'It was felt the restrictions would rather undermine the whole point of a fun run – that it should be fun!'



Zoom Burns Night quiz a great success

The Friends of All Saints weren't able to hold their usual annual quiz in the Autumn, so held a Burns Night quiz using Zoom in January.

12 teams from around 40 households used Zoom breakout rooms to confer on quiz questions with great success. £600 was raised through ticket sales and a virtual raffle, to support the organisation which is responsible for raising funds to maintain the 12th century church building.

If you are interested in becoming a member of The Friends of All Saints and helping to ensure future of the historic church building, email foaskl@outlook.com or find them on Facebook [@friendsofallsaintskl](https://www.facebook.com/friendsofallsaintskl)



PHOTO: MIKE CRISP

New church environmental group

Concerns about global warming and environmental destruction, boosted by the powerful advocacy of David Attenborough, Greta Thunberg and a host of leading scientists, have promoted climate change issues to the top of the world's agenda – and the clock is ticking.

As well as the focus of world leaders on this issue, much still needs to be done at national, regional, local and personal levels. Dacorum has declared a climate emergency and the Parish Council is grappling with these issues. In the business world 'sustainability' and 'ethically sourced' are becoming the norm.

Local churches have also recognised the urgency of these issues and an Environmental Care team has been formed in the Langelei Benefice which includes All Saints Church. They are considering becoming 'eco churches' – this is work in progress and suggestions are welcome. Contact Harold Taylor for more information 01923 269260.

Royal Mail for Kings Langley centenarian!

Friars Mead care home resident Elsie Thomas proved that age is no barrier to having a good time as she celebrated her 100th birthday.

Elsie, who has lived locally for over 70 years, opened a 100th birthday card from The Queen, along with gifts and cards from family and friends. The day was made complete with champagne for lunch, and cake for afternoon tea, organised by Elsie's family, and a 100-themed quiz, which is her favourite activity.

Elsie's youthful demeanour comes from an active life in Kings Langley, where she has worked in the village shop, been an active member of All Saints and the WI, and could be seen out on her bike in the village well into her retirement. When asked about the secret to a long and healthy life, Elsie said, 'Do not worry about things, just take life as it comes, and remember to get lots of sun and fresh air!'

Elsie enjoys her special day with cards and presents at Friars Wood



Good Neighbours rises to new challenges



When the Covid-19 vaccinations started, Good Neighbours soon received requests for lifts to Maxted Road in Hemel, then to vaccination centres in St. Albans, Watford, Apsley and even Stevenage.

So far, demand has been satisfied for vaccination trips as well as the more 'normal' appointment visits, though the number of available drivers remains limited.

Another normal service is the Tuesday Lunch Club. Currently, of course, the lunches are suspended, but the 'Club' element is continuing as team members have been calling regulars each Tuesday for a chat and at Christmas everyone received a much-appreciated card and a gift.

The Lunch Club is about to celebrate 50 years since it was formed! In early days meals were cooked in volunteers' kitchens and brought through the streets on trays. Do you remember organisers Hilda Walker and later Maureen Adair? And the bright pink dessert made by Ena Moorcroft decorated with yellow peach slices?

Congratulations to the present volunteer team who would LOVE to be serving diners again.

Good Neighbours helpline:
07790 688672



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The cost of protecting our village

The character and setting of Kings Langley faces more threats than ever before. The Government targets are putting pressure on local councils to remove local green belt and allow houses to be built on previously undeveloped land.

The green fields define village boundaries and prevent Kings Langley merging into other settlements such as Abbots Langley and Nash Mills.

The Kings Langley & District Residents Association object to developments that threaten the green belt and to make those objections really count, they engage professional help.

The first consultation stage of the Dacorum Local Plan has just ended and the KL&DRA submitted a professionally produced objection to the inclusion of green belt land at Rectory Farm as a development site for 145 houses.

Further professional responses are anticipated in the next stages.

KL&DRA are monitoring the Moto application for the Motorway Services Area (MSA) on the A41 just off Junction 20 of the M25, and will submit a professional view of why this is the wrong place for an MSA.

The Three Rivers' Local Plan is awaited to see what sites within Kings Langley they expect to allocate for housing. KL&DRA will commission professional help to fight any potential development sites that threaten the village green belt.

Such professional help is very expensive: a professional response can cost £3,000 to £7,000. Gary Ansell, Chair of KL&DRA advises that villagers can help with these costs by joining their 100+ Club. 'The cost is £5 per entry per month and half the money received each month is put into the prize fund with five prizes every month. In the last draw, first prize was £76.25. The more that join, the greater the prize fund' he says.

'Over the last two years, we have paid out £2,838 in prizes and raised £2,750 (after expenses). Of course, we gladly accept donations as well.'

To find out more, visit www.greenbeltmatters.com

Parish council going solar

In December 2020, Kings Langley Parish Council selected a tender to proceed with the installation of solar panels on the roof of its premises at Charter Court, Vicarage Lane.

Council Chairman, Councillor Howard Button, said 'Having declared a climate emergency last year, it is important that we do what we can to combat the climate change problem, and lead by example. This is our first step in our commitment to reducing our carbon footprint. The scheme will make the Council 'electricity-free' for a large part of the year and will contribute significantly towards the goal of achieving carbon dioxide neutrality.'

'We urge all building owners to investigate installing solar panels, as the cost has fallen, and it is an effective way of combating climate change and saving money.'

Village Neighbourhood Plan update

The Neighbourhood Plan document is nearing completion and the team would like to bring everyone up to date before it goes out to a referendum.

The plan document can be found at klnp.co.uk but it is long (74 pages) and rather technical, so here's a brief explanation in non-technical terms:

The Plan is a set of policies, relating to a vision for the development of Kings Langley over the next 18 years; the results of the Parish Survey in 2019 providing the overall direction in a number of areas. The approval process involves endorsement by the KL Parish Council, Dacorum Borough Council (DBC), and village residents through a referendum.

Once adopted, all subsequent proposals for development are assessed against this Plan and are expected to comply with it. However it is not legally binding, and DBC can still approve development applications which do not comply. It is hoped

that such 'breaches' will be rare. Government inspectors give weight to the contents of the Plan when assessing planning appeals.

So far there are two aspects of the document which have caused some concern:

It is long and complex – but it is not just written for residents, it has to be written and structured for use by borough council officers, developers and the planning inspectorate; There will be a summary in more 'plain English' included!

The area covered by the plan does not include the part of Kings Langley east of the canal as this falls within Abbots Langley parish (and their plan), even though residents of this area identify with Kings Langley. Parish boundaries can't be moved, but consultation is being set up to allow sharing of views between the areas.

The referendum to endorse the Plan will hopefully take place this summer.



PHOTO: BARRY KEMP

Emma Furness enjoys crosswords and won our prize of a Spice Village take-away. Pictured here with chef Koyes Miah, she enthused 'I love Indian food so I'm really looking forward to this!' Now under changed ownership, new restaurant manager Shumon promises some exciting alterations. 'There's a name change to Little India, a refurbished interior and a new menu,' he said. 'As well as offering special discounts to NHS workers, we're also including a promotional free bottle of wine with take-away orders over £25.' Why not pop along and treat yourself?

Prize Xword

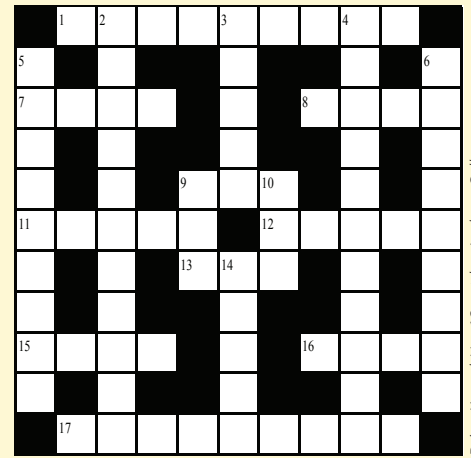
This issue we have a prize of three bottles of wine, kindly donated by reader Joyce Gray. To enter, simply post or email your completed crossword to us (see back page) to arrive no later than Friday 16 April.

Across

- 1 Person employed to load or unload ships (9)
- 7 Member of the Corvid family (4)
- 8 Maple or related tree (4)
- 9 Device for propelling a boat (3)
- 11 Manmade fibre (5)
- 12 Type of bird (5)
- 13 Finale (3)
- 15 Enthusiastic (4)
- 16 Moderately good (4)
- 17 Translucent type of gypsum, often carved into ornaments (9)

Down

- 2 Shuffle my lost olive for a once important Village industrial site! (7,4)
- 3 In addition (5)
- 4 Ecclesiastical sounding Village road (7,4)
- 5 Village road name that evokes a member of a mendicant order (6,3)
- 6 Village road name that brings to mind a large open space (5,4)
- 9 Small number (3)
- 10 Colour (3)
- 14 Type of antelope with lyre shaped horns (5)



Prize Xword No. 19 set by Andrew Selby

Answers to Crossword No: 18
Across: 4 Plus, 6 Hyde, 7 Friars Way, 10 Wayside Farm, 11 Desiccate, 15 Rose, 16 Easy,
Down: 1 Clef, 2 Pterodactyl, 3 Edgy, 5 Ski, 6 Hew, 8 Rhyme, 9 Adapt, 11 Dhow, 12 See, 13 Ace, 14 East

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Job vacancy: Village Warden

An excellent and unique opportunity is currently available to help the Council ensure that Kings Langley remains a lovely village in which to live, work, and visit.

The Village Warden's primary responsibility is to take care of the village environment, tackling minor issues which they can resolve, and reporting more major issues to the relevant public authorities, via the office. Reporting to the Clerk to the Council, the successful applicant will have use of the Council's transport and be suitably fit and agile to carry out general maintenance duties, mainly outdoors. The use of hand tools and equipment and some protective clothing will be essential as will a good appreciation of the relevant health and safety issues.

It is a full-time pensionable post with a salary of £22,738 per annum and 25 days holiday will be available to the successful candidate. Contact the Council offices for further information, a more detailed job description, person specification and application form, or find them on www.kingslangley-pc.gov.uk

Applications to be received by the Clerk to the Council no later than 9am on 15 March 2021.

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

Annual Parish Meeting by Zoom!

Dear Resident

I am pleased to invite you to this year's Annual Parish Meeting, which is being held on Thursday 15 April. The meeting papers will be available on the Council's website kingslangley-pc.gov.uk or from the Council office a few days in advance of the meeting.

The meeting will start at 7pm and, in view of the current restrictions, will be conducted 'virtually' using Zoom (details of how to access will be found on the council website).

Although this will be a somewhat different meeting to the normal Annual Parish Meeting, I still hope that we

will be able to present the usual reports from the Parish Council, the local schools, the police, the Trustees of the Kings Langley Charities and Borough and County Councillors for the Parish and focus on the positive aspects of living in this community.

The meeting will also include an update from Cllr Morrish on the Neighbourhood Plan.

Please take this opportunity to participate in what is the main formal opportunity to hear about and discuss what has been going on in our community.

I look forward to you joining us.
– Councillor Howard Button

Contacts for your local Village News...

All enquiries, articles, 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, WD4 9HR

The next issue of *Village News* will be published for May/June, the deadline for copy and advertising is Friday 16 April.

WI zooming on

Kings Langley WI are pleased to announce that they are continuing to have their regular monthly meetings, with a speaker, via Zoom at the moment.

They meet on the second Tuesday of the month, and for more information or meeting joining details, contact Nova Horley, President, on kingslangleywi@gmail.com

They hope everyone is keeping safe and that they can meet face to face soon.

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Branch Director

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