



KINGS LANGLEY

# Village News

ISSUE 23  
NOVEMBER/DECEMBER  
2021

## Santa's sleigh is back on track

The Rotary Santa Sleigh has now operated for four years and is a much-loved feature of Christmas in Dacorum. Local charities are confirmed to deliver leaflets along the 25 routes, and accompany the Sleigh, so that Santa can continue to bring joy to the childrens' – and indeed adults' – faces.



Despite lockdown last year, over £13,000 was raised for local charities and much was learnt from coping with the pandemic. Collectors no longer knock on doors, but money is still collected at the roadside and the leaflets distributed include details of how to donate. The Santa procession proceeds faster with no door knocking enabling longer routes and more children to experience it.

The current plan shows Santa is to visit Kings Langley on Saturday 4 December between 6 and 8pm but this is subject to change so visit [www.hemelsantasleigh.co.uk](http://www.hemelsantasleigh.co.uk) or Hemel Hempstead Rotary Facebook page for updates. Santa's progress each day can be tracked at [Christmas.trackit.247.com](http://Christmas.trackit.247.com) and you can donate at [www.JustGiving.com/campaign/HemelSanta2021](http://www.JustGiving.com/campaign/HemelSanta2021)



## Kings Langley\* Best Christmas Light Display competition

A competition to find the best domestic Christmas light display, with cash prizes being offered, is once again being run by the Parish Council.

The closing date for entries is Thursday 16 December. Judging will take place the weekend of 18 & 19 December – the winners will be announced on Tuesday 21 December.

Entry forms are available at [kingslangley-pc.gov.uk/christmas-lights-event/](http://kingslangley-pc.gov.uk/christmas-lights-event/) or from the office in Charter Court, Vicarage Lane.

\*The parish of Kings Langley is bounded by the Grand Union Canal to the east, the M25 to the south, Whippendell Bottom to the west and Shendish to the north.

## High Street Christmas Lights switch on

This year sadly there will be no big Christmas Lights Festival in the High Street with fun fair, stalls, Santa, and the associated road closure...

However on Saturday 27 November the Christmas lights on the High Street will be officially switched on, and the village shops are planning a coordinated late night shopping evening until 8pm.

The lights go on at 4pm. The Community Choir will be singing in the grounds of St. Lauras care home from 4.15pm, and then music will be playing on the High Street through the rest of the evening until around 8pm.

The shops will be open late with mulled wine available – always handy

for a festive occasion! But the road will not be closed to traffic, so do take care.

All Saints are holding a *Let There be Light* event on the same evening with a quiet candlelit church for contemplation – all are welcome to drop in, with the opportunity to sponsor a light on their tree in memory of a loved one.

This is followed by a seasonal recital by local baritone Thomas Isherwood at 7.30pm (tickets online at [bit.ly/askl-27nov](http://bit.ly/askl-27nov)).

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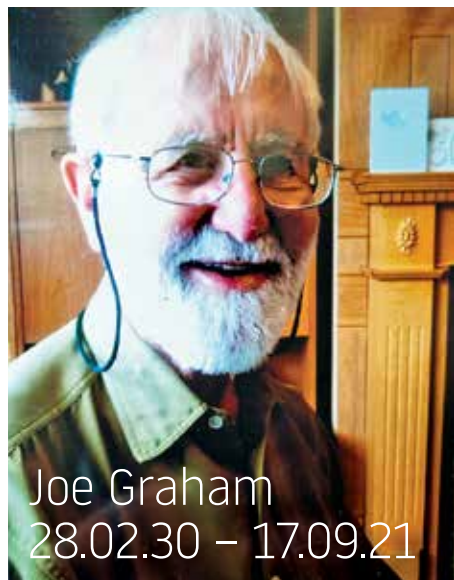
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Joe Graham  
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Resident in KL for over 60 years, Joe was born in Birtley on the Durham coalfield, experiencing childhood through the Depression and WW2, which yielded tales of wild escapades and watching the night sky glow from the bombing of Tyneside docks.

While in the RAF for National Service, he managed to lose a Spitfire while on sentry duty and unwittingly trespass into Bletchley Park to play tennis!

Joe married hometown sweetheart, Joan, in 1954. He began his career in Durham before moving to Leicester and then to Kings Langley, taking charge of Watford College library. Eventually a FLA and Senior Lecturer, he coordinated the amalgamation of the three West Herts College libraries.

A highly effective union man, he proved that good-humoured reasoning achieves far more than confrontation. Joe was Secretary of Dacorum Labour party and used his skills to help Joan, PE teacher and school governor, be elected Parish Councillor.

Always fully involved with village life, he enjoyed a variety of sports, helped produce Village Appraisal reports and was a key member of local history groups, submitting several publications. As WEA secretary for many years, he organised hundreds of adult education classes, earning a national award in recognition. A lifelong bibliophile, his legendary general knowledge was the result of insatiable curiosity, but he was also practical and multi-talented, becoming an accomplished artist, etcher and woodcarver.

Joe was an explorer: long family holidays were spent camping throughout the UK, rarely revisiting or stopping long in any one place. He never passed up a chance to swim, whatever the temperature; 'wild swimming' before it had a label! On retirement, he and Joan remained very active, enjoying their family, concerts, plays and the company of friends. They travelled widely, particularly throughout Europe.

He was a peerless role model as a dad and grandad, always there for his three sons and six grandchildren, great fun, interested, wise and invariably supportive, whether quietly praising or clapping the loudest! Joe's been described as 'a real renaissance man with rare natural intelligence', 'a wonderful boss', 'the best man I've known', 'a second father to me', 'an amazing, funny Grandad', 'a caring and helpful neighbour... a true gentleman'. An immeasurable loss, especially to his soulmate, Joan.

#### **Village News contacts**

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 *Village News* will be published for January/February 2022 – copy and advertising deadline is Friday 17 December 2021.

## John Buekett RIP

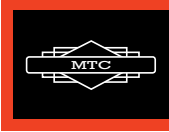
John Buekett, a long-term resident of Kings Langley, died in February 2020. He had lived in the village since 1958, first in Rectory Lane and then for 50 years at Harcourt, overlooking the Common in Common Lane. His wife Pat died in 2009.

Covid made it impossible to hold an appropriate memorial event. Instead, John and Pat's lives have been commemorated in a website, which includes photos, brief biographies and some tributes: [johnandpatbuekett.wordpress.com](http://johnandpatbuekett.wordpress.com) Please feel free to use the contact form on the website to add your own tribute.

John was active in the community for many years, notably as chair of governors of Kings Langley School in the 1980s. He trained as a laboratory chemist and worked at Glaxo in the 1950s, but most of his career was spent in construction where he became an expert in pre-stressed concrete and the building of rail track. He is survived by his daughters: Jane, Sarah and Mary.



Pat and John Buekett, 1999



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# Can you help your *Village News*?

*Kings Langley Village News* is run by a small committee of volunteers who between them cover all the activities needed to produce and distribute a newspaper every other month.

The roles and responsibilities include sourcing articles and associated photos, editing articles to suit the *Village News* style and readership, layout and editorial design, liaising with printers, sourcing and scheduling advertisements, managing the finances, and organising the distribution of the paper to all of the households in the village. Delivery of the papers is made by a wider team of volunteer distributors who each have a regular 'round'.

We will always welcome any offers of help, but currently we are specifically looking for help with the following areas:

**Distribution:** we need one or more delivery volunteers to cover the Vicarage Lane (and roads off) round on a regular basis, and we also need volunteers who can step in on an occasional basis to cover different rounds when our regulars are away or fall ill.

**Editing:** one of our key team members needs to step back for a year for personal reasons, so we are looking for someone who can edit articles – correcting grammar and spelling, reducing to fit where necessary, and rewording to improve readability and to fit our 'style'. Not necessarily with copy editing experience, but good writing and grammar skills and good knowledge of Microsoft Word or similar.

If you can help or would like more information, please get in touch!  
[kingslangleynews@gmail.com](mailto:kingslangleynews@gmail.com)

## AGM postponed

The Friends of Kings Langley News Association AGM has been postponed in 2020 and 2021 and will resume in 2022. Any issues can be raised by email to [kingslangleynews@gmail.com](mailto:kingslangleynews@gmail.com)



## Have you ever?

Residents at Friars Mead care home have been treated to new taste sensations!

A discussion around past experiences led the residents to share their memories of meeting celebrities, horse riding and even skinny dipping! However, many expressed the wish to have tasted more foods during their lifetime. So staff at the home arranged a tasting session, with a menu including pizza, sushi, avocado, popping candy, marshmallows and prawn crackers – foods that were relatively new to some of the residents.

Elsie, who recently celebrated her 100th birthday, was treated to her first McDonald's meal, 'I enjoyed the cheeseburger,' she said, 'but I think the chips we have at lunchtime are much nicer than the McDonald's fries.'

Activities Coordinator Carolyn Hill said 'It was so funny to watch our residents taste all the foods and chat about what was good and what wasn't. We also discovered that none of the residents had ever dyed their hair or had a tattoo, so who knows what we may do next!'

## Kings Langley to get its first snow in December

Whilst they can't affect the winter weather forecast, Kings Langley Arts & Crafts society (KLACS) can introduce some warmth and cheerfulness into the High Street by way of their Christmas yarnbombing.

This year's theme is the Arctic, or indeed anything snow-related. The knitted and crochet decorations will include snowmen and snowflakes aplenty, and painted panels will convey wintry scenes. Expect to see fluffy white polar pears, Gentoo penguins, grey seals and maybe an igloo and a few resident Inuits. The implementation is scheduled for the 2nd week of December, snow permitting, and it will remain in place during the Christmas season.

If you would like to join the friendly group, and perhaps become involved in next year's yarn-bombing and charity projects, visit the KLACS Facebook page.

Congratulations to the winners of the KLACS children's quiz based on the Summer yarn-bombing display: Kitty Evans and Timothy & Penny Smart. They will be receiving their prizes shortly.



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# Community Choir raises the roof

Bolstered by a strong return of members who had been sidelined by lockdown, Kings Langley Community Choir has also welcomed a number of new members many of whom had waited patiently for the end of Covid restrictions. As remarked by Musical Director Katie Teage, the roof of All Saints is now reverberating every Tuesday evening.

The resumption of weekly rehearsals plus performances at Kings Langley Carnival and All Saints Harvest Fair, mean that the Choir is once again operating as normal.

Under a sunlit early autumn sky the Choir entertained Carnival goers with a set that included a mixture of old and new material, all delivered with the Choir's trademark harmonies. Despite the lowering clouds the Choir then

stepped up a gear with a twelve song set for the Harvest Fair on 3 October.

Looking ahead, the Choir has been invited by St James' Church, Bushey to perform a Festive concert on Saturday 18 December from 12:00 noon until 12.45pm. This will include a mixture of seasonal songs by the Choir and carols for all, and marks a return to a venue where the Choir is an established congregation favourite.



PHOTOGRAPH: PHILIP CHINA

## Kings Langley Football club's tricky season continues

Early season troubles have continued into October as a harsh mixture of injuries, bad luck and some tough referring decisions have led to a run of close and hard-fought defeats.

The Kings have finished four of their recent eight matches with ten men (or fewer) with the FA Cup run ending in a 3-1 defeat against Leiston in Suffolk.

Chris Cummings and his team have suffered from the long term loss of experienced players, and more injuries have followed within the squad but the young team have battled hard and have often been beaten by just one goal.

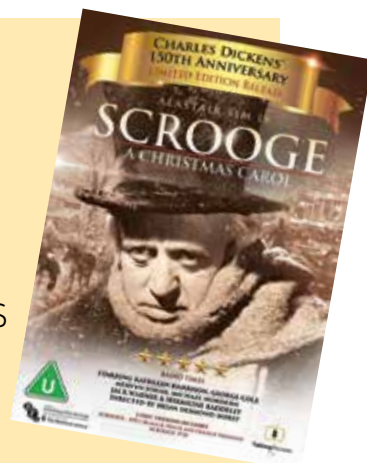
Just when you thought the bad luck must have run its course, the visit to promotion chasing team Farnborough became an impossible mission after the KLFC fantastic young goalkeeper Alfie Marriott (on loan from Watford)

was sent off after 20 seconds, leaving only 10 men on the pitch. With no sub keeper, Kyle Connolly had to go between the sticks, and despite putting in a great shift they lost 4-1. The sending off decision looked harsh and was rescinded in time for Alfie to play against Merthyr Town where a 1-1 draw enabled KLFC to move off the bottom of the table.

The team have enjoyed wins over Romford in the FA Cup, and a cracking 3-0 home win over high flying Poole. Hopefully the injury situation and results will improve!

Kings need as much support as possible for forthcoming home matches against Truro (20/11), Hayes and Yeading (27/11), Tiverton Town (11/12) and Chesham United (27/12). Keep up to date on Twitter @ [KLFOfficial](#) or on Facebook.

## Scrooge raises funds for Kings Langley Jazz Club



Locally based film distribution company Renown Pictures and independent archive film and television channel Talking Pictures TV will host a one-night screening of the 1951 'classic' film *Scrooge*, starring Alastair Sim, in aid of the Jazz Club and local charities.

The idea was sparked by a jazz club member hearing of Rectory Lane residents Peter and Gill who invite their neighbours round each Christmas Eve for festivities and a screening of *Scrooge* (which Peter first saw in 1951 when he was six years old). Knowing the owners of the two local film companies, and that Renown Pictures had fully restored *Scrooge* from the original film elements, he developed a plan with them which has resulted in the charity screening.

The film will be shown on 15 December at 8pm in the Services Club Theatre Bar, and the £6 entry fee will raise funds for KL Jazz Club projects, KL Residents Association green belt 'fighting fund', and the Hospice of St Francis.

## Total Flooring

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## Book Sales restart at The Retreat

The Book Trade Charity have been based at The Retreat in Kings Langley since 1837, supporting people in the industry, granting funding and housing when life takes an unexpected turn.

Following a successful first book sale of 2021 in October, selling nearly 3,000 books, they plan to re-open their doors to all local residents for their popular pre-Christmas book sales at The Retreat, WD4 8LT. There will be thousands of new books to purchase, at great prices.

Chief Executive Victoria Perry said 'The Retreat is home to a community of people who have worked in the book trade. In the heart of The Retreat, we

have our book sale room. It is best described as a treasure trove of new fiction, non-fiction and children's titles. We have thousands of new books ready to share with local customers who often say they have arrived in 'book heaven!'

She added 'We have a really loyal following locally, and it was wonderful to welcome people back after almost two years of closed doors, we were all happy to see each other! We feel so lucky to be part of this community and look forward to welcoming people again in November.'

To find out about future book sales, email [nicki@btbs.org](mailto:nicki@btbs.org) or call 01923 263128.

### November book sale dates:

- Thursday 18 November: children's books only 4 – 7pm
- Friday 19 November: 12 – 5pm
- Saturday 20 November: 10am – 2pm
- Monday 22 – Friday 26 November: 10am – 2pm (a quieter browsing experience)

Paperbacks and children's books £2 and hardbacks £4 unless otherwise stated.

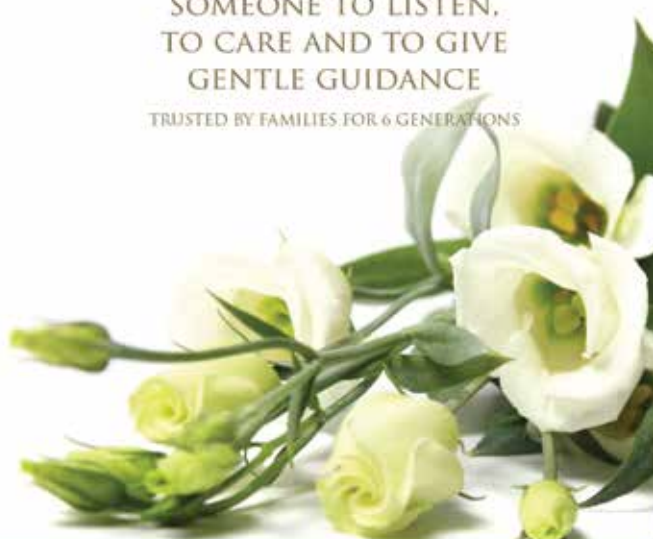
## Can you help the Community Library?

The library is looking to offer new, volunteer led versions of Baby Rhyme Time and Storytime sessions for local families with young children. Baby Rhyme times are great fun, help new parents to make friends and support babies' language and social development.

Are you a parent, caregiver or grandparent who enjoys sharing songs and rhymes with your little ones? Or do you have a background of working with young children, perhaps a retired teacher or part time nursery worker? Can you devote a couple of hours each week, (possibly on Friday mornings) to engage with families? If so contact Caroline Brankin by email [kingslangleyvolunteers@hotmail.com](mailto:kingslangleyvolunteers@hotmail.com) or call in to library with your details.

The library events team also needs a volunteer to produce advertising posters for library talks. If you are creative, have good computer skills and are willing to devote a couple of hours per month then please get in touch.

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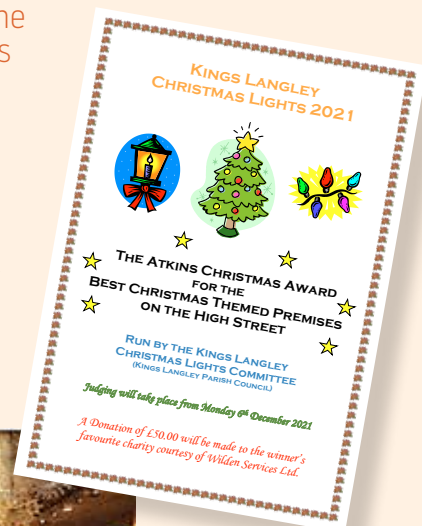
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## Best shop window competition

The Parish Council sponsored *Best Christmas Themed Premises in the High Street* competition will be judged after the High Street Christmas lights switch-on on 27 November

'Our High Street shops are great when it comes to celebrating Christmas,' explained Councillor Gerry Angiolini, 'and I am really looking forward to this year's competition.'



Left: The Hospice of St Francis' display was a previous prize-winner. Above: this year's Atkins Christmas Award poster

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# Who'd have thought? A carnival

Cheerleaders! Cyclists – each of them wearing a fez! A funfair! Sunshine! And best of all, thousands of local people out and about on the Common having a great time at a village event.

It wasn't all plain sailing; antibacterial hand gel and stage equipment being regularly cleaned were just some of the reminders that this was taking place following a national lockdown for the pandemic.



Thankfully there was the usual wonderful mix of stage entertainment and stalls from local voluntary groups, charities and businesses, and a huge variety of activities including the ever-popular dog show, the Baptist Church's tea and cake marquee, the Bennetts End Scouts BBQ, and our local Fire Engine and fire fighters. On stage the crowds were entertained by a huge variety of local performers and they danced and sang along at every opportunity.

Carnival Chair Carol Chandler commented, 'This has been an extraordinary day given the two false starts – having to cancel last year and

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<b>SHORT MAT BOWLS</b>	Wednesday 11.15am
<b>PILATES</b>	Thursday 11.30am
<b>BEGINNER PILATES</b>	Thursday 12.40pm

**COMING IN JANUARY 2022:**

<b>WOMEN'S PILATES</b>	Thursday 7.15pm
<b>MEN'S PILATES</b>	Thursday 8.15pm

Call 01442 507100 to book now



*Clockwise: The Chevtones, enthusiastic dancing, the official opening of the human sundial and a display from Twisted Cheer and Dance*

Book a visit with *The Wizard of Oz*

Kings Langley Players festive trip somewhere Scarecrow, Tin Man a

After more than a year away from the stage, the KLP will return in spectacular fashion this Christmas transporting audiences to Emerald City for a trip to see *The Wizard of Oz*

KLP's staging of this timeless story will bring the fun and fantasy of the 1939 film know and love



# al in September!



the postponement this year from June. The level of support we have received from volunteers – notably Midshires Search and Rescue, the Rotary Club and the Parish Council – has been truly inspiring.

‘But also, very special thanks to all those who generously sponsored the event, and to everyone who bought raffle tickets which enabled us raise over £3,500 which we will donate to local groups and good causes.’

There were almost 50 stalls from local organisations offering a fabulous selection of scrumptious food and drink, goods and information, games and attractions, plus the carnival hosted the formal unveiling of the Human Sundial.

Plans for next year’s event – already booked for 25 June 2022 – are being formulated and the Committee would welcome any offers to help (large or small) as well as suggestions – email [kingslangleycarnival@hotmail.com](mailto:kingslangleycarnival@hotmail.com) – volunteers always welcome!



## KLMTTC getting back to normal

KLMTTC members were delighted to meet again at last at the launch evening for their next musical production – *The Addams Family*.

New faces and some younger performers were welcomed. Open auditions for the main roles were on 30 October but there’s still time for new members to join the chorus of ‘Addams Ancestors’ so contact [klmttc@outlook.com](mailto:klmttc@outlook.com) if you would like details.

KLMTTC annual Quiz Night is back – on Friday 26 November – tickets are £12.50 including supper. Call **01923 263945** or email [martin.wolmark@ntlworld.com](mailto:martin.wolmark@ntlworld.com) for details.

If you are associated with a local charity or group or know of any good causes that could benefit from some additional funds, please email with details of the organisation and contact details.

‘I am so grateful to the Carnival Committee members again this year for making it all happen,’ added Carol, ‘but as always, a huge THANK YOU to everyone in the village who supported this great event – we look forward to seeing you all again next year.’

Letters and Frames

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## s (KLP) returns this Christmas for a re over the rainbow with Dorothy, and Lion.

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Directed by Andrew Knight, Clive Swan returns as musical director while Corrine Swallow joins the production as choreographer. Andrew, who appeared on stage in 1996 as the Tin Man, wanted to stage *The Wizard of Oz* as the KLP’s first show post-Covid because the family favourite is simply one of the best and most loved musicals.

He says: ‘Like many people I remember watching the film every Christmas. It would not be Christmas without *The Wizard of Oz*. What better way to re-launch our group than with this popular musical. It’s the show with something for everyone.’

Andrew adds: ‘We’re very excited to get back on stage. After the year we have all had, we need to be entertained and this is the show to

do it with pure escapism and colourful, heart-warming, toe-tapping songs. This will be a night out to remember.’

This year, the KLP’s festive show will be staged in December, rather than its traditional January slot, in the Community Centre. There will be four evening shows from Wednesday, 8 December to Saturday 11 December, 2021, with an afternoon matinee on the Saturday. For more information, visit [www.klp.org.uk](http://www.klp.org.uk)

## Solo half marathon for the Christian Aid Haiti appeal

Mark Escott (pictured below), son-in-law of village stalwart Harold Taylor, planned to run the Hitchin Hard Half Marathon for the Christian Aid Haiti Emergency Appeal. Then unfortunately the organiser, Hitchin Rotary, decided to postpone the event until next June!

Undaunted, Mark ran the course on his own on 17 October and achieved the excellent time of one hour 56 minutes, so far raising over £1,000. He commented that it was a nice route with a few hills, particularly towards the end!

The need in Haiti, following the earthquake and floods, is as great as ever. Christian Aid is working with partners on the ground to give emergency relief and will be there for the longer term to help with development. Encouragingly, the houses that Christian Aid helped rebuild after the last earthquake in 2016 remain standing.



PHOTOGRAPH: CHRIS PETTIT



## Anna runs 100km in memory of Sarah Harding

Anna Iverson (above) who works at St Lauras care home on the High Street has run 100km in October in aid of Breast Cancer Now.

Anna's best friend Sarah Harding – also well known as a member of pop group Girls Aloud – recently passed away from breast cancer, so Anna decided to run the *Breast Cancer*

*Now Run 100k* challenge in honor of Sarah. The residents and staff of St Lauras had met Sarah when she came to visit Anna at work, so they were all cheering her on and encouraging her!



Mark Cooper shows off his medal

## Marathon for the biggest cause of sight loss

Abbots Langley man Mark Cooper had a fundraising stall at Kings Langley carnival, and completed the London marathon a few weeks later, with all proceeds going to sight loss charity The Macular Society, the only UK charity solely focused on funding medical research into macular disease.

Macular disease is a sight loss condition that affects the central vision of around 1.5 million people nationwide. Mark's mum has age-related macular degeneration (AMD), the most common form of macular disease. It can have a devastating impact on people's lives, leaving them unable to drive, read or see faces. There is still no cure and most types of the disease are not treatable.

Mark completed the London Marathon in 5hrs 8mins 59sec, raising just under £3,000. 'I'm so proud of what I have achieved not only for myself but also for the charity. The last six miles were a killer but the support of the crowd and all those people who so kindly donated got me through to the end. Also, with no cure to date, exposure and awareness of the public is essential to stop this isolating disease.'

Well done Mark!



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PHOTO: BARRY KEMP

## ...parish council goes solar!

With energy costs set to soar through the roof, Kings Langley Parish Council made a timely decision earlier this year to switch to renewable energy.

Solar panels were installed on the Council's offices in September, prior to the current crisis which has seen many energy companies go bust. With the prospect of gas and electricity bills skyrocketing, the panels will supply power for all the heating and lighting within the offices for the foreseeable future – making impressive cost-savings.

Chairman of the Council, Councillor Howard Button said 'The scheme will make the Council at least "electricity-free" for a large part of the year and will contribute significantly towards the goal of achieving carbon dioxide neutrality.'

'We first looked at this project some years ago but did not have the resources to do it. We saved up to afford it, but just as we reached the amount then required, the feed-in tariff was removed, and the project was made unviable. But, in the last few years, the cost of solar panels has dropped significantly and the project became viable again.'

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

*Above: Workers installing solar panels on the roof of your Parish Council's offices*

DENS is thrilled to announce the return of its Sponsored Sleepout event at The Hemel Hempstead School on Friday 26 November.

The charity is challenging people to swap their cozy bed for a sleeping bag and put themselves in the place of those sleeping rough in the cold winter months and throughout the year. There's a silent disco hosted by DENS to kick off the weekend, before braving the night under the stars, and everyone is given a light to shine as a symbol of hope for those facing homelessness, poverty and social exclusion.

The Sponsored Sleepout is open to all, and every penny raised will help rebuild the lives of vulnerable individuals and families in Dacorum.

Registrations for the DENS Sponsored Sleepout are now open at [www.dens.org.uk/sleepout](http://www.dens.org.uk/sleepout).

## Star of the small screen!

There has been a flurry of filming in Kings Langley village recently for various TV series and films...

All Saints was used as a location for *Living*, a re-imagining of Akira Kurosawa's classic film *Ikiru* set in post World War II England, adapted by Nobel Prize-winning novelist, Kazuo Ishiguro.

The old Steiner school and the top of Langley Hill, as well as other locations in the village, is being used to film episodes of *Grantchester*; The library, Willow Edge, and the Services club were all used as filming locations.

A film crew for *Worzel Gummidge* has been spotted in the nearby fields. Mackenzie Crook, who plays the titular scarecrow, had been in make-up since the early hours to achieve his striking appearance. Episodes will be airing on BBC One at Christmas.

A BBC series *Marriage* starring Sean Bean and Nicola Walker has also evidently been filming on Toms Lane. Look out for your village on a screen near you soon!



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# Sunnyside Up

Following the extensive work carried out on Kings Langley Common to remove damaged or diseased trees, the parish council has moved on to the next stage of work to make the numbered footpaths more accessible.

'Some of the paths were so impassable even the direction signs had disappeared,' explained Councillor Derek Collins. 'We wanted to improve accessibility by removing as much mud and vegetation as possible in order to encourage greater use, particularly at the start and finish of the school day.'

The parish council asked the Sunnyside Trust to brush cut 900 metres of footpaths, two metres either side of the path edge, to encourage more people, particularly parents and children, to use the paths across the Common and from Hempstead Road.

'This will have significant environmental and health benefits for children by reducing their exposure to air pollution, improve road safety, and making schools healthier places,'



PHOTO: ALAN JOHNSON

added Derek. 'A study in The Lancet found 19% of childhood asthma cases were caused by traffic and traffic pollutants such as carbon dioxide and hydrocarbons; the effects were particularly harmful upon primary school age children.'

Howard Button, Chair of the Council's Environment Group, was in full support of the initiative. 'Through opening up 21 acres of common and woodland, the work will have potential benefits for everyone's health, recreation and exercise, for dog walkers, and for kids to have some supervised fun and adventure.'

## Goodbye from the Chipperfields

Harriet, John and Mark Chipperfield left Kings Langley on 24 September for Bridport in Dorset, having sold their house in Blackwell Road, and would like to say 'Goodbye!'

In the end the exchange of contracts and completion were so quick that

they missed the opportunity to say farewell to everyone they knew, including friends at Waterside chapel. They loved the people of the village, the chapel, the churches and the monthly market, the Village Garden becoming a haven during lockdown and afterwards. They felt like celebrities with so much being named after them!

## News from the Parish Pump

The High Street shops were unstinting when it came to the Gardens Competition presentation evening in October, where some wonderful raffle and auction prizes were donated to raise money for the Sunnyside Trust, supporting local people with learning disabilities, and DENS, a non-profit organisation helping Dacorum's homeless.

'We have an extraordinary assortment of fantastic shops in the High Street,'

said Councillor Alan Johnson, 'providing absolutely everything you will ever need a short walk from our homes. We are very grateful, as always, for their generosity supporting village events. This year the gardens competition raised £525.'

November will see the village remembering the sacrifice of local people through two World Wars. There will be a short commemoration at 11am on 11 November at the War Memorial, with wreaths laid by local organisations and members of the public. In addition, the traditional Remembrance Service will take place at 3pm on Sunday 14 November, also at the War Memorial.

# Wading the Gade

In June, the allotments at Sunderland Yard were flooded ruining crops and plants, damaging sheds and greenhouses and washing away anything that wasn't nailed down.

It was the first time this had happened in living memory, but subsequently the allotments were flooded a further five times in the next three months, putting an end to months of hard work.

Unsurprisingly the good nature of both the parish council and the allotment holders was sorely tested, not least because the level of water in the River Gade which caused the flooding remained a foot higher even when the floodwater receded. This suggested the volume of water entering the river further upstream from the canal could be the cause of the problem – but the Environment Agency (which is responsible for the river) disagreed and said that fallen trees near the southern boundary were the cause.

The Environment Agency's responsibility only stretches as far as holding to account property owners for ensuring the river, the river bed and the river banks are maintained as the water flows downstream. This includes clearing any matter or debris even if it did not originate from the owner's land.

'Unfortunately the only way to establish this was to wade in the Gade,' explained Councillor Alan Johnson. 'The water level rose rapidly from knee height to chest height further downstream, until the vegetation and debris became all but impassable.'

A local firm, Longacre Tree Surgery (below), were brought in to clear the problem and advice is being sought on mitigating any further flooding problems. The Environment Agency can expect a call if there are!



PHOTO: ALAN JOHNSON



Thank you!



The Waterside Centre would like to thank the local community for the support it has received in recent times.

The centre was closed for a few months in 2020 and a couple of weeks in 2021, otherwise have remained open for business supporting adults with learning disabilities through the pandemic.

The place is buzzing again, and although they are socially distancing, there is lots going on and it is beginning to feel more back to normal.

They are so thankful to be in such a lovely community which always responds well to appeals for donations – whatever they ask for, things just appear: jam jars, wool, egg boxes, reading books, audio books and even a portable DVD player! These really help with our craft activities, for nothing.

They have volunteers from the local community who are highly valued, but there is room for more. Get in touch if you would like to spend a few hours each week in a fun environment helping others.

# Prize Xword

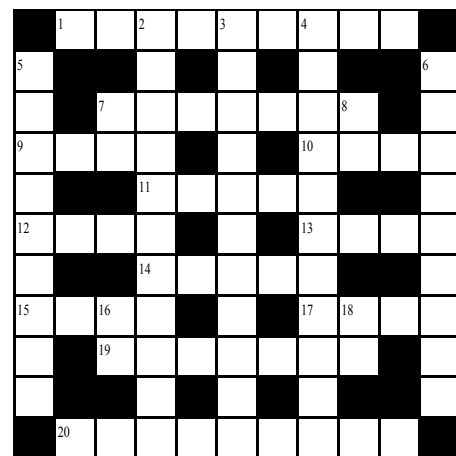
The prize for the first correct entry drawn from the hat for this issue is a voucher for **jewellery, healing crystals or gifts from Dolly Designs** (see [facebook.com/Dollydesigns](https://www.facebook.com/Dollydesigns)). To enter, simply post or email your completed crossword entry to us (see page 2) to arrive no later than Friday 17 December. Good luck!

### Across

- 1 Very unpleasant (9)
- 7 Lacking good sense or judgement (7)
- 9 Name of the former Inn at 21 High Street (now Oscars Pizza) (4)
- 10 Adult male deer (4)
- 11 Re-fasten with string or cord (5)
- 12 Isolated flat-topped hill with steep sides (4)
- 13 At the back (4)
- 14 Subject of a text or speech (5)
- 15 Pathways of points on curves found amidst velocities! (4)
- 17 Hot molten rock (4)
- 19 He was reputedly very wise (7)
- 20 Unusual term for infirmity, found as suns end? (9)

### Down

- 2 Small emergency supply of food, all confused I roar on tins? (4,7)
- 3 Road off Toms Lane, half-way to Bedmond (7,4)
- 4 Village cul-de-sac named after three generations of a well known family of Village doctors (6,5)
- 5 Small parish with its own village hall, adjoining Kings Langley (4,5)
- 6 Village road, with a name that echoes its location (5,4)
- 7 Note in the tonic sol-fa (2)
- 8 Expressing surprise (2)
- 16 The element Caesium's symbol (2)
- 18 Indefinite article before word starting with a vowel (2)



Prize Xword No. 23 set by Andrew Selby

Good (and not so good) Xword news...

The correct answer to last issue's Xword was posted through the Parish Council's letterbox. Unfortunately, it was only accompanied by the message 'from the Bowker family' with no other contact details.

Despite our enquiries around the village, we've been unable to locate the family so that they can claim their prize of a **£20 voucher and a jar of handmade bath salts** from **Nina Massage and Beauty**.

If you are the prizewinner, or if you know of the Bowker family, please can you get in touch with the *Village News* (details on page 2). Thank you!

### Answers to Crossword No: 22

**Across:** 1 Wayside Farm, 7 Ovule, 8 Ideas, 9 RES, 10 Eight, 12 Tempo, 14 Unite, 17 Lanes, 19 Lay, 20 Brief, 21 Recur, 22 Regent Close

**Down:** 1 Whole Number, 2 Young, 3 Inert, 4 Exist, 5 Abeam, 6 Misconstrue, 11 Hut, 13 Era, 15 Icing, 16 Elfin, 17 Lyric, 18 Nacho



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## Church services for Christmas

### Methodist Church

Sun 12 Dec  
10am Carol Service – Rev Andrew Brazier  
Sun 19 Dec  
10am A Christmas Celebration

### All Saints

Sun 12 Dec  
3pm Christingle  
Sat 18 Dec  
4.30pm Carols in the Garden with mulled wine and mince pies  
Christmas Eve 24 Dec  
3.30pm Crib Service  
Christmas Eve 24 Dec  
7.30pm Candlelit Nine Lessons and Carols  
Christmas Eve 24 Dec  
11.30pm Midnight Mass

### Christ Church Baptist

Unconfirmed at time of going to press, please see [christchurchbaptist.co.uk](http://christchurchbaptist.co.uk)

### Waterside Baptist

Sun 19 Dec  
10.30am Christmas Service festival

## Retired Professionals

### PROBUS

Kings Langley Cricket Club. A club for retired PROfessional and BUSiness men. Every third Tuesday monthly at 10am  
Contact the Secretary John Addy on 07477 900290 or 19jca41+v@gmail.com

## Computing

Using computers. Frogmore Paper Mill & Visitors' Centre, Fourdriner Way, Apsley Drop in to our ukonline Centre, suitable for beginners and those wanting more practice. No need to book. Fridays 10.30am – 1pm. Free admission  
Contact Charlton or Sue Woolnough on 01442 234600 or by email education@thepapertrail.org.uk

## Short Mat Bowls

Kings Langley Community Centre. A friendly group who play all year round. New members welcome. Every Wednesday morning 11.15am. to 1.15pm. £3.70 for members of Everyone Active, £4.70 for non-members (first time is free). All equipment supplied.

## Women's Institute

WI Kings Langley Community Centre All welcome. Every second Tuesday monthly at 7.30pm  
For further information please contact Joyce on 01923 263213 or Wendy on 01923 263348



### 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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