



KINGS LANGLEY

Village News

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2023

Good News! Local Plans remove sites for new homes in Kings Langley



Both Dacorum Borough Council (DBC) and Three Rivers District Council (TRDC) have removed large green belt sites for potential new dwellings in Kings Langley from their Local Plans.

At a meeting of TRDC's Local Plan sub-committee, they agreed to not take forward the proposal for 893 new houses on Numbers Farm, pictured above. Whilst other sites were also not taken forward, this was the biggest. Still included in the plan is the small Flower House site on Station Road.

Further good news was received when DBC's Full Council agreed to not take forward the Rectory Farm site in their Local Plan. A planning application for 135 homes on this site has just been refused.

Chair of Kings Langley & District Residents Association (KL&DRA), Gary Ansell, commented 'This is a great result for Kings Langley. The KL&DRA is very pleased that both TRDC and DBC have committed to protecting the green belt in their boroughs and that they have removed two key sites that would have a major negative impact on the character and setting of our village and on its infrastructure.

'We've been working hard for some time, lobbying TRDC against building on Numbers Farm and other green

belt sites. That hard work has paid off and we are currently seeking to ensure only the brownfield part of the Flower House site is developed.

'DBC has clearly taken notice of the many villagers that submitted objections to the development of the greenfield green belt part of Rectory Farm. At last, it seems the Councils are listening to local opinion.'

Although welcome news for many, it is not the end of the battle. Gary added 'The developer for the Numbers Farm site, Urban & Civic, is likely to push for this site and others to be put back in the plan at a later stage or simply submit a separate planning application. Rectory Farm's developers, Angle property and Cala Homes, are likely to go to appeal and a public inquiry, so we still have a fight on our hands.'

KL&DRA will be watching carefully what happens next and will keep the village informed via their emails to subscribers, Facebook page [greenbeltmatters](#), and website www.greenbeltmatters.com

Find out more about the local plans and have your say until 10 December for Three Rivers at bit.ly/trdcplan and until 12 December for Dacorum at bit.ly/dacplan

Motorway service area gets green light – in Iver

The ongoing battle against a service station at junction 20 of the M25 may have come to a natural end after a similar facility was approved at Iver.

Planning permission was granted at a five hour meeting last month for the Colne Valley Motorway Service Area, between junctions 15 and 16 which is 12 miles further up the motorway from Kings Langley.

The plans, first submitted in 2020, include a 4,500sqm amenity/facility building with a food hall and toilets, as well as a petrol station, drive-thru

coffee shop, dog walking area, children's play area, picnic zone and terrace, and HGV amenity space.

With parking for 991 cars, 150 HGVs and 30 coaches, the site will involve new slip roads, diverting the existing bridleway and footpath, and combining the Slough Road with a motorway overbridge.

While there has been no comment from MOTO, the company behind the application in Kings Langley, a logical assumption is that they will not appeal its rejection given the proximity of an approved site in the vicinity.

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Garden prizes awarded

The irony was not lost on the Parish Council Gardens Competition entrants and judges, who gathered for the prize presentation on one of the warmest October days on record, recalling a very different judging day when the heavens had opened!

'We are all very protective of the green belt, and rightly so,' said competition judge Alan Johnson, 'but our village is also green because of our marvellous gardeners and allotment holders who produce an abundance of flowers, shrubs and plants which absorb carbon dioxide from the air, and are pollinators for more than 150 food crops. The competition is a great community event which we are always delighted to run.'

John Ingleby spoke about the planning application submitted by Food for Kings for a community garden on the (currently) grassed area next to the Community Centre.



PHOTO: BARRY KESOP

'The Neighbourhood Plan supports the provision of allotment space to accommodate growth and community growing spaces,' he explained. 'This will be an opportunity to put such an area near to residents' homes and involve everyone in deciding and growing what goes there.'

The results of the competition were carried in our previous edition of *Village News*, but the overall winners announced on the presentation evening were Irena and Leslie Tomkins, pictured above with Gerry Angiolini and Alan Johnson. Congratulations to everyone who took part.

Bowls Club season successes

Kings Langley Bowls Club enjoyed a successful summer again this year, with a number of teams reaching finals: Kings Langley 2 Ladies reached the County Divisional Finals in September and the men won the Watford & District 2 Wood Triples.

September was a busy month with friends from The Waterside Centre visiting to play bowls. The bowling green is closed now until the next season starts in April 2024.



PHOTO: SUE JENKINS

Village News contacts: 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 *Village News* will be published for January/February 2024.
 Copy, Prize Xword and advertising deadline is 22 December 2023.

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PHOTO: BARRY KEMP

The new sensory garden at Kings Langley Community Library has been officially opened with an uplifting performance by the village's Community Choir.

A number of special guests were in attendance, including Richard Roberts, Leader of Herts County Council, Terry Douris, Chairman of Herts County Council, Michele Murphy, Head of Libraries for Hertfordshire and Russel Barrow, Principal Librarian for West Hertfordshire, as well as 75 members of the public.

The library's garden will be opened on any good weather days and residents are encouraged to call in and enjoy the space.

Caroline Brankin, chairman of Kings Langley Community Library Volunteer Committee, has thanked all those who contributed to the garden's funding, saying 'This has been a real community effort. Thank you to all our volunteers who did the hard work and especially Rob Stephens who project managed us all!'

Book Trade Charity sale

The Book Trade Charity's big Christmas book sale is a great opportunity to get brand new books at low prices – generally £2 for paperbacks and children's books, and £4 for hardbacks!

It is on Friday 24 November 12 – 5pm, Saturday 25 November 10am – 2pm and the following week Monday 27 November to Friday 1 Dec 10am – 2pm each day. Find it at The Retreat on the corner of Gallows Hill and Abbots Road (WD4 8LT).

KLMTTC brings *Matchgirls* to the stage

Matchgirls, the true story of a strike in 1888 by girls and women who worked at the Bryant and May factory in Bow, London, is being brought to life by Kings Langley Musical Theatre Company in their latest show.

These women worked in appalling conditions, with no Health and Safety protection and suffered from the condition 'Phossy jaw': a crumbling of their jawbones due to chronic exposure to the Phosphorus used to coat the matchstick heads.

However, as a musical production, there is plenty of laughter, singing and dancing to entertain an audience.

- KLMTTC's Bazaar and Craft Fayre is back, by popular demand, on Saturday, 3 February 2024. There will be craft stalls, homemade jams, bric-a-brac, and tombola stalls, together with hot tea and coffee and homemade cakes.



National awards nomination for Home care company

Care provider 1st Homecare is celebrating after being shortlisted in the Best Employer Category at the Great British Care Awards, which are a celebration of excellence across the care sector.

The category honours those individuals who have demonstrated outstanding results within their field of work.

John Rennison, CEO of 1st Homecare, said 'This nomination really could not be possible without the tremendous efforts of all our branch managers and their teams who support our carers out in the community.'

'These award nominations come at a particularly apt time as we are recruiting to employ more carers as we head into the colder winter months. Not everyone is able to look after family on a daily basis, even if they live locally, so knowing that a professionally trained person is visiting to ensure they are safe and tasks at home are completed means they are safe. We have several part time roles to fill at the moment and no experience is necessary.'



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Sporting success for Kings Langley pupils

Kings Langley Primary School pupils are proving a force to be reckoned with in the sporting arena after a spate of successful meetings across the borough.

Before half term eight cross country teams represented the school in an event at Longdean School, with separate boys and girls events for years three to six.

With around 50 children from local schools taking part in each race, the Kings Langley Primary runners achieved four firsts, four seconds and 28 top ten finishes.

This success came hot on the heels of a victorious performance at a Saracens-organised Tag Rugby Festival at Camelot RFC earlier in the month.

Teams from years five and six played their way to victory in separate tournaments against local schools.



PHOTO: SARAH WREGG

Seven games were played in all and Kings Langley Primary were triumphant in all seven.

Paula Harris, headteacher, said 'Since the school achieved a gold award for sport last July we have gone from strength to strength. Huge congratulations to all our players for such well-deserved success so far this year.'

Above: KLPS's triumphant Year 6 boys cross-country team

Bookshop and coffee shop coordinator needed!



King's Christian Bookshop and Coffee Shop, in Christ Church Baptist Church in the Nap, is seeking a co-ordinator.

The role covers day to day co-ordination ensuring the smooth running of this busy church ministry, and requires an active person who can work alongside and support a team of dedicated volunteers.

The candidate will have a Christian faith, good people skills, organisation skills, ability to lead and work as part of a team and an interest in Christian Literature. Working hours: 16 hours a week spread over Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday mornings.

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Fitness class focuses on playground fun

An exercise class that focuses on fun and friendship through team games has launched in Kings Langley.

Game Play Fitness is the brainchild of Kerry Pearson, a former elite sportswoman and qualified personal trainer, who wants to put the fun into fitness.

Games are loosely based on playground classics such as tag, dodgeball, frisbee and capture the flag, and are designed not to be about the fastest or fittest but about putting tactics and teamwork first to come out victorious.

Kerry, who recently completed a challenge to roller skate every day for a year to raise money for two cancer charities close to her heart, is a former GB Ladies canoe polo player, and is preparing to embark on a qualification to become a mental health exercise coach.

She said 'The sessions are focused on being outside and running about, through the use of engaging team games where everyone has the opportunity to feel success. There is a lot of laughter throughout sessions and people work hard without realising it as they get immersed in the game scenarios.'

'I get so much satisfaction from seeing people having a blast and getting fitter without it being an onerous chore.'

Classes, which cost £7 (with the first one free) take place every Tuesday from 7 – 8pm on the playing field in The Nap. They are open to everyone over the age of 12 but children must be accompanied by an adult.

For more information see [facebook.com/gameplayfitness](https://www.facebook.com/gameplayfitness) or [@gameplay_fitness](https://www.instagram.com/gameplay_fitness) on Instagram.



CCB welcomes support for Ukraine

Christ Church Baptist have expressed their gratitude to the Kings Langley community after they were able to send more than £1,500 to the Dnipro Hope Mission (DHM) in Ukraine.

A fundraising drive was boosted significantly at this year's carnival where the church ran a popular refreshments pitch. The stand was Ukraine-themed, with displays highlighting relief work being done in the aftermath of the destruction of the Kakhova dam in Eastern Ukraine.

The DHM sends direct assistance to eastern Ukraine, and last year a life saving electricity generator was funded thanks to fundraising efforts.

Chair of DHM and Christ Church member Mark Allchorn said 'DHM and our partners in Ukraine are delighted with the continuing support from Kings Langley villagers. It has enabled us to provide over £1,500 of relief over the past year to be rapidly deployed direct to where it literally saves lives. Thank you so much!'

Find out more about CCB and DHM at www.dniprohopemission.org and christchurchbaptist.co.uk

Above: Mark Allchorn at the Carnival refreshment pitch. Below, some of the delicious themed cakes on sale



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Help keep hedgehogs happy

Hedgehogs in the village are being given a lifeline after the Parish Council signed up to an initiative that is designed to prevent the extinction of the endangered species.

Fifty Hedgehog Highways are being made available for residents to place in their boundary fence or walls to allow hedgehogs to pass through. The five inch high 'doors' allow the spiky species to forage for food, meet mates for breeding and access nesting sites.

The arrangement is part of a national project being run by Linda Cook who set up Hedgehogs R Us in lockdown. More than sixty parishes and towns have so far signed up to her Hedgehog Highway Project.

Kings Langley residents who would like to apply for a door should call the Parish Council office on **01923 261828**.

For more on the project visit hedgehogsrus.co.uk/hedgehog-highway-project




PHOTO: BARRY KEMP

The door is easily fitted to an existing fence to facilitate hedgehog access



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Building connections

It started as a casual chat between two allotment holders at Sunderlands Yard, when the conversation turned to the dangerous state of the Village Garden flint wall on Church Lane. 'I could fix that,' said Tom. 'Let's do it,' responded Terri, who is also one of the Village Garden community volunteers.

'The garden is the parish council's responsibility,' explained Councillor Alan Johnson, 'and we were absolutely delighted to accept such a generous offer.' Thankfully the weather was unseasonably warm and sunny when work began one Saturday morning and Tom Croffey – ably supported by labourers Terri, Ann, and Alan – cleared the loose flint and everything else that had insinuated itself into the wall.

'We were taking out the hawthorn and holly that had self-seeded along the length of the wall and finding more flint that clearly wasn't part of the original wall,' added Alan, 'but we were just in awe of what a huge difference Tom was making having to rebuild, not repair, the wall, fixing the cracks and making it look better than new.'

'By late afternoon it was clear that it was going to take more than one Saturday to complete the length of the wall, particularly given some of the problems that were ahead. Surprisingly none of this was sufficient to dissuade the team from returning the following week. Work is continuing!'



PHOTO: ALAN JOHNSON

Ann, Terri and Tom Croffey



PHOTO: BARRY KEMP

Choir in the community!

Kings Langley Community Choir kicked off the winter season with a well-attended performance at the Community Library on 7 October.

as *I'll Be Home For Christmas* and *There Is A Song In The Air* together with traditional carols, all expertly arranged and conducted by musical director Becca Wilkins.

The set list included a number of old favourites and a couple of sea shanties *The Wreck of the Dandenong* and *Santiana*. In anticipation of the cold nights ahead they sang *White Winter Hymnal* with its references to coats, scarves and snow, but the temperature changed after the performance when Councillor Alan Johnson opened the newly replanted and refurbished library garden with its autumn flowers and shrubs resplendent in the sunshine.

The first performance of the new Christmas set will take place in the High Street on Saturday 2 December during the Christmas Lights Festival and a week later on Sunday 10 December in All Saints Church during their Christmas Tree Festival. The final Christmas performance will be in St James' Church, Bushey on Saturday 16 December.

Rehearsals for the Christmas repertoire are well underway with numbers such

Rehearsals are in the baptist church in The Nap, Tuesdays at 7.30pm, and newcomers are welcome – call Pat Waterton on **07714 701316** or visit kingslangleychoir.co.uk

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Christmas Lights Festival

On Saturday 2 December it's time for celebration with the Christmas Lights Festival!

The High Street will be shut from 12 noon when traffic will be replaced by rides, stalls, shops, entertainment, and, of course, Santa switching on the lights, ably assisted by our Member of Parliament, Sir Mike Penning.

'The Christmas Lights Festival is a wonderful opportunity for local residents to celebrate the start of the Christmas period,' explained Gerry Angiolini, Chair of the organising committee, 'and we are always delighted to see the High Street shops playing their part with mince pies, mulled wine and seasonal activities.'

Alan Anderson, one of the other organisers, added 'There will also be the Atkins Award for the Best Christmas Themed Premises on the High Street – the winner will receive £100 to donate to a charity of their choice. In addition, there is a Residential Christmas Lights competition, for which the Parish Council are offering £75, £50 and £25 prizes.'

The evening will finish with a fantastic firework display in Green Park – and parish councillors clearing any rubbish from the High Street!

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Christmas events and services

Saturday 2 December – Christmas Lights Festival in the High Street

Saturday 16 December 4.30pm
Carols in the Village Garden

Wednesday 20 December 7.15pm
A Medieval Christmas – talk at All Saints Church

All Saints Church

Friday 8 – Sunday 10 December

Christmas Tree Festival

Sunday 24 December Christmas Eve

3.30pm Crib and Christingle service

7.30pm 9 lessons and carols by candlelight

11.30pm Candlelit Midnight Mass

Monday 25 December Christmas Day

9.30am Family Christmas Eucharist (children bring a present)

Christ Church Baptist

Saturday 2 December

Tea, coffee and mince pies in the church during the village Christmas Lights Festival

Sunday 17 December

5pm Carols by Candlelight - traditional carol singing

Sunday 24 December Christmas Eve

11.30pm: Christmas Midnight Communion

Monday 25 December Christmas Day

10.30am: short Family Service

Methodist Church

Sunday 10 December

10am Carol Service in aid of Medecins sans Frontiers

Sunday 24 December Christmas Eve

10am Celebration of Christmas

Waterside Baptist Church

Sunday 24 December Christmas Eve

10.30am Christmas Eve Service



Santa on tour in Kings Langley on 10 December

Hemel Rotary are due to bring Santa Claus to the streets of Kings Langley on 10 December. The money from last year's collections went to 51 different groups in Hemel and the surrounding areas.

The Kings Langley tour will start at the Ovaltine at 5.30pm, taking in Water Lane, Mill Lane, Blackwell Road, Alexandra Road, Great Park, the High Street, The Nap, Rectory Lane and Hempstead Road, finishing with a circuit of Coniston Road, Osbourne Avenue and Belham Road at 7.15pm.

25 street-by-street routes will be undertaken between 25 November and 23 December and a number of static collections will be held, giving children the opportunity to have their photograph taken with Santa or Mrs Claus.

Details of all of the routes and static events around the area can be found online at santa.hemelrotary.com or on Rotary Hemel Hempstead Facebook page.

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ng areas.

Hemel Rotary Club is extremely grateful to the collector organisations who help with each street by street route, and to the Friends of Rotary who help with the static collections.

Any individual or company wishing to donate to this year's Santa Sleigh and support the local community can make contact at rchsleigh@gmail.com or donate via the website above.

Christmas Tree Festival

The 6th annual Christmas Tree Festival at All Saints church is on from 8 – 10 December.

Once again it promises to be truly magical, with a church full of brightly decorated and lit trees, each representing a different village organisation, business or family. There will be a few extra elements this year including musical entertainment, food, beer, and children's activities.

Come along and visit! Proceeds are in aid of local charities.



Michael Long, author of the recently launched local history book *Palace Lives*, is giving a talk on the theme of 'A Medieval Christmas'.

The talk is in All Saints Church on Wednesday 20 December at 7.15pm and it promises to be a fascinating look at how our ancestors used to celebrate the festive season.

Tickets are £5 and include mulled wine and mince pies, available in advance from b.mcadam1@sky.com or online at bit.ly/askl-mx



Carol Singing!

Christian Aid are coordinating this year's Carol Singing in the Village Garden on Saturday 16 December at 4.30pm. Everyone in the village is invited to join in with the traditional carol singing and hearing again the Christmas story.

Christian Aid are also organising carol singing in the Marlowes, Hemel Hempstead on 15 December, joined in the morning by children from Nash Mills School and in the afternoon by Divine Saviour School, Abbots Langley. They will be collecting in aid of Christian Aid, and if anyone can help by holding a red bucket between 10.30 and 11.30am, or between 1.30 and 2.30pm please contact Paul Tucker paul.tucker15@btinternet.com

A packed village garden with villagers joining in last year's Carol Singing event

PHOTO: CHRIS PETTIT



Football is *Her Game Too* at Kings Langley FC

A national initiative that aims to tackle sexism in football has been embraced by Kings Langley Football Club.

Her Game Too is designed to encourage more females to both play and watch the game, and was launched at KLFC last month with free entry to all women at its first team game against Leighton Town, and a series of free activities aimed at young players.

In the hours leading up to the match, all three of the club's girls teams competed in the Hertfordshire Girls Partnership Football League. Then local coaching company JP Pro delivered a free open door training session at the club which was attended by 38 girls – many of whom had never played the game before.

The 90 minute session was broken up by a visit from a very special guest, Watford and Wales legend Helen Ward who met the girls and took part in a

Q&A session. Helen spoke about the start of career, her toughest opponents and most famous team mates.

After the Q&A was over, Helen spent some time with the clubs U11 and U13 girls teams who were also mascots for the first team game later that afternoon.

More than 130 female supporters took advantage of the free tickets on offer and, during the event, a local coach expressed interest in setting up another girls team at the club.

As a result the club is now taking expressions of interest for a possible U10s team on football@klfc.club



Helen Ward with girls from the U11 and U13 teams

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Cricket Club season review

The 2023 Season was a very successful one for KLCC. Numbers of both junior and senior players continue to increase post covid and they experienced some, very welcome, league success.

In the Junior Section the ever popular 'All Stars' (a series of sessions that introduce 5 – 8 year olds to cricket) has been running for several years, with good numbers attending, and it is starting to pay off.

There are Under 8, Under 9, Under 10 and Under 11 sides, who were all very competitive in their games. The coaches and helpers put in a huge amount of effort helping the kids develop their skills and, most importantly, enjoy being part of a team and playing the sport.

The Under 11's managed to win their league – a considerable achievement as they were drawn against sides from some of the larger clubs in Herts. They continued their success by taking part in the 'Summer Leagues', where good results were hampered by bad weather.

A number of players from each of the sides have been trialling for representative cricket and there should be a high representation in the Herts County and Area squads this Winter.



PHOTO: TOM TEMPLETON

Some of the juniors reached a level where they could start playing for the senior teams: Evie Davis, Jake Marshall, Freddy Davis, Rohan Panchal and Ben Cresswell have all played several games, displaying talent and a real appetite for the game. Remember the names because you will hear more about them in the coming years!

The Senior Section also had success – there have been three senior teams for the last ten years: The First XI play in a very competitive 2B league, where they more than held their own. The Second XI, led by Tom Warrell, had a very dominant season, winning league 8B. A settled side all provided strong performances but the stand-out performances were Paul 'Junior' Ashford's runs and Ellis Lee-Knights' bowling. They will look to take this form into next season. The Third XI

had several games that went down to the wire and if they had won a couple more, they would have been in the promotion places.

This year the club also ran a Fourth XI, who played friendlies throughout the season. Having proved there were enough players to field four teams on a regular basis, the Fourth Team has been entered into the league for the 2024 season and would welcome new players ahead of that.

Whether you are a seasoned player or a complete beginner, they are keen to hear from you – seniors and juniors! Get in touch: tom.templeton@yahoo.co.uk or **07788 971464**.

The photo above shows members of the League Winning teams (Senior 2nd XI and Under 11's) together.

High street stores merge

Nelly Twig, one of the newer stores on the high street, has changed its name to Laines and Company, absorbing long-standing boutique Laines.

The new look store will offer a wide array of gifts, homeware, fashion, accessories, and pop-up concessions, from a number of female-owned small businesses.

Elaine Reed, who owned both outlets and oversaw the merger, said 'We aim to give our customers a personalised, friendly experience when they enter our store. It's always been the hallmark of both businesses.



PHOTO: BARRY KEMP

'That's the beauty of shopping with independent businesses, as everything we do is with a love of what we do and we appreciate every customer who walks through our door. Shopping locally is the new trend. The support and loyalty we have encountered is much appreciated.'

Sian reveals new-look shop

Home & Garden, the much-loved high street gift store, has reopened after a change in management.

Sian Turner took over the lease from Jill Walshe in the summer and has spent some weeks renovating the space and installing new fascia signage (below). The shop is now back open for business and Sian is enjoying welcoming shoppers both old and new into her store.



Carnival funds shared in the community

Representatives of local charities, organisations and good causes descended on Kings Langley Cricket Club last month for the presentation of funds raised at this year's Carnival.

All the monies raised by the event from the sale of raffle tickets, sponsorship and stall fees were shared out between 25 organisations – including the *Village News* – representatives pictured below.

More than fifty people attended the event, presided over by Howard Button, chairman of the Parish Council.

Recipients included: The Evergreen Club – a social club for local senior citizens who wanted to give their members a summer outing; Abbeyfield's Garrad House – a sheltered home for older people who want to maintain their independence, for them to purchase a gazebo; and 1st Kings Langley Scout Group, whose main gate literally fell off its hinges.

Carol Chandler, chairman of the Carnival Committee, thanked the events sponsors who included Dream Doors, Furnell Transport & Storage, The Kitchen at Inspired and the Parish Council. She said, 'I can't emphasise enough how important our sponsors are to the success of the Carnival. The support of all our sponsors means as much of the money as possible can be donated to village groups to raise awareness and support the work they do all year round.'

Next year's Carnival is Saturday 22 June 2024. To get involved or find out more about sponsorship, see kingslangley.carnival.com or visit the Facebook page. Applications for stalls open in February 2024.



PHOTO: HELEN WHITE

Anton the Aussie brings sunshine to Kings Langley's Lumina Choir



PHOTO: PORTIA BIRCH

Musician Anton Kalish-Smith arrived in the UK from Australia in 2021, with a background in choral singing and conducting. His arrival coincided with Lumina Choir's search for a new conductor, and he joined them in the summer of 2021.

Anton says 'It sounds clichéd, but I was looking for opportunities to make music at a high level with people sharing my passion for tackling ambitious works. It was also important to me to join a community choir, so I feel very lucky to have found an enthusiastic group interested in creating memorable and soulful musical events.'

Over the past two years, Anton has built a strong and enthusiastic relationship with the choir. Highlights of this last season have included a performance of the Durufle *Requiem* and a concert of classics from the Great American Songbook.

They are looking forward to their next concert on 10 December, at 4pm at the old Steiner school, a traditional Christmas Concert with plenty of well-known carols and opportunities for audience participation. On 24 February 2024 their major concert of the year is at St John's Church Boxmoor singing Schubert's *Mass in G* along with pieces by Mozart, Bach, Byrd, Dowland, and more.

They would love to hear from anyone interested in joining the choir, they rehearse every Wednesday in term time from 7.30 – 9pm at the old Steiner school; An ability to read music is preferred, but not essential. Email lara.danobeitia@gmail.com or call **07779 295523** for details.

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New Director of Music for All Saints

All Saints Kings Langley has announced the appointment of a new Director of Music to continue the church's reputation for musical excellence and regular choral worship.

Bertha Klum has taken up the post from 1 November – appropriately also All Saints Day – while also teaching piano and music theory and studying for a PhD.

A former student of the Royal College of Music, where she studied for a Masters in Performance Science, Bertha has recently moved to the UK from Hong Kong where she was Director of Music at HKSXH Kei Oi Church.

Her first service was at 9.30am on 5 November and parishioners are warmly invited to come along to welcome her. Bertha's appointment comes seven months after the sudden death of Jill McAdam, the



church's much loved and long standing Director of Music.

Father James McDonald said 'Music is such a fundamental part of every element of our church so it's wonderful to be able to welcome Bertha to take us forward as a church and a choir.'

'I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have stepped in to help – either by playing the organ

or directing the choir – over the past few months, and invite everyone now to pray for Bertha as she prepares to take up this role in the life of our church family.'

Bertha added 'I'm thrilled to bring my talents and passion to this role, and I eagerly anticipate the joy of creating lovely music with the choir and the congregation. Look forward to meeting you all in All Saints Kings Langley.'



PHOTO: CAROLYN ANDREWS

Sing for the soul

The choir at All Saints is on the look out for new members to join its ranks. The group meets every Friday from 6.30 – 7.30pm in the church, rehearsing for regular choral recitals as well as preparing for a weekly 'performance' on a Sunday – unlike most other choirs and choral societies.

Singing is proven to help lower stress, boost immunity, enhance memory, improve mental health and help you cope with physical and emotional pain – so an all round tonic! Plus the existing choir at All Saints are a friendly bunch who have great fun and warmly welcome all newcomers.

Anyone interested can go along on the day, or for more information email james.a.mcdonald@live.co.uk

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History fans queue for an hour at book signing

Palace Lives, the newly published book that tells the medieval history of Kings Langley, has been officially launched at a presentation and signing event at All Saints Church.

It took almost an hour to clear the queue of people waiting to have their newly purchased copy of the book signed by its author, Michael Long, and editor, Scott Hastie, pictured below.

Palace Lives is currently flying off the shelves at the local library in The Nap and is also available from several local retailers in the village high street.

Scott Hastie, the project's editor who also conceived *Palace Lives*, said 'It's terrific that, at long last, the extraordinary story of Kings Langley's fabulous medieval Royal Palace is now being told. Not least because we are confident that revenues from our new book will help fund the discovery of more exciting insights into Kings Langley's exceptional and unique past.'

Richard Garnett Harper, co-chairman of Kings Langley Local History and Museum Society, the publishers of *Palace Lives*, said 'There have now been two highly successful events in the



PHOTOS: PATRICIA RAYNER WWW.IMAGEPHOTO.CO.UK

Above: Richard Roberts, Leader of Hertfordshire County Council; Richard Garnett Harper, Joint Chair KLLHMS; The Venerable Charles Hudson, Archdeacon of St Albans; Howard Button, Chairman of Kings Langley Parish Council; William Allen, Mayor of Dacorum; Terry Douris, Chairman Hertfordshire County Council; Michael Long, author of Palace Lives; Scott Hastie, Editor of Palace Lives; Father James McDonald, Team Vicar, All Saints' Church; Adam Tuck, MC and KLLHMS Council member.

village church drawing attention to the Royal Palace and the great heritage to be found in the village. As it is central to the Society's aims to encourage public appreciation of local history, we are delighted that so many people attended and enjoyed our event.'



Stay safe with enhanced Neighbourhood Watch alerts

Householders in Kings Langley are being encouraged to join the Hertfordshire Constabulary's OWL (Online Watch Link) system to stay safe this winter.

Created to support Neighbourhood Watch, the system sees subscribers receive messages about crime and safety in a bid to bring people together and keep the county safe.

The free services, which sees members receive messages by email or landline phone, currently has 891 registered households in Kings Langley. The messages will be sent from the police to the local area so no one is overwhelmed with information that does not necessarily affect them.

To join visit www.owl.co.uk/herts or alternatively contact Dacorum's Watch Liaison Officer Daniel McManus directly on daniel.mcmanus@herts.police.uk

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Prize Xword



PHOTO: BARRY KEMP

*Author Michael Long presented our Xword prize winner Helen Hartley with a copy of his book **Palace Lives** prior to his talk at the Community Library, where Helen is a volunteer. 'I've only lived in the village for a few years', said Helen, 'and I've been keen to learn its history. I was so pleased when I heard that a new book had been published and delighted to learn that I had won a copy!' Helen was looking forward to Michael's talk which promised to reveal more tales of intrigue and key historic facts.*

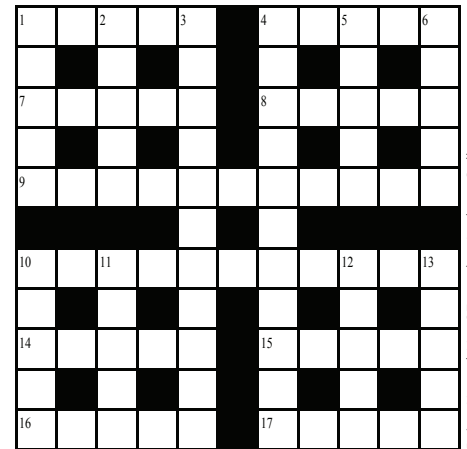
Across

- 1 A key organ of coordination and intellect (5)
- 4 Name of owner of former Village sub-Post Office and shop near the Red Lion PH (5)
- 7 Amber coloured blood component, truly hidden in a false rumour! (5)
- 8 Forming an essential foundation (5)
- 9 Collections of sets of diverse items (11)
- 10 Village road reminiscent of a monarch's field (5,6)
- 14 Last letter from Greece (5)
- 15 Person who provides a particular service between two parties (5)
- 16 On a line at right angles to a ship's length (nautical term) (5)
- 17 National language of Cambodia (5)

Down

- 1 A sweeping implement (5)
- 2 Old measure of land areas (5)
- 3 Name of land between RES and Toms Lane (7,4)
- 4 Village road off the A4251, for a celebration stroll? (7,4)
- 5 Is this enzyme in sly confusion? (5)
- 6 Spiky leaved plant, originally from the Americas (5)
- 10 A Scandinavian currency (5)
- 11 She's a relative (5)
- 12 A state of mind during sleep (5)
- 13 An essential liquid (5)

*The prize for the first correct entry is a £20 gift voucher for **Laines and Company**. To enter, simply post or email your crossword entry and contact details to us (see page 2) to arrive by Friday 22 December.*



Prize Xword No. 35 set by Andrew Selby

*Answers to Crossword No. 34
Across: 1 The Common, 6 Go, 7 Yd, 9 Association, 12 Dank, 13 Spry, 14 Miscellanea, 17 Na, 19 Be, 20 Gypsy Lane.
Down: 1 To, 2 Echo, 3 Ornithology, 4 Malt, 5 Ny, 6 Guardsman, 8 Dunny Lane, 10 Sinus, 11 Ippon, 15 Cusp, 16 Aqua, 18 Ag, 19 Be*



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Football

Kings Langley Football Club
Fixtures December 2023 - January 2024
Away games:
Saturday 25 November, Kempston Rovers
Tuesday 26 December, Aylesbury United
Saturday 6 January, Cirencester Town
Saturday 20 January, Hertford Town
Home games:
Saturday 18 November, Stotfold
Saturday 2 December, Welwyn Garden City
Saturday 16 December, Thame United
Saturday 23 December, Waltham Abbey
Monday 1 January, Ware
Saturday 13 January, Bedford Town
Saturday 27 January, Barton Rovers

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

Local Produce Market

Village Garden, Church Lane.
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PROBUS club for retired men.
Kings Langley Cricket Club every third Tuesday in the month at 10am, with a speaker and coffee.
Occasional excursions, dinners and other social events (including partners) are also arranged.
Future speakers and subjects in 2023
15 November AGM: Member Talk
20 December: 'Chairman's Choice'
Contact the secretary, John Addy, on 07477 900290 or 19jca41+v@gmail.com for further information.

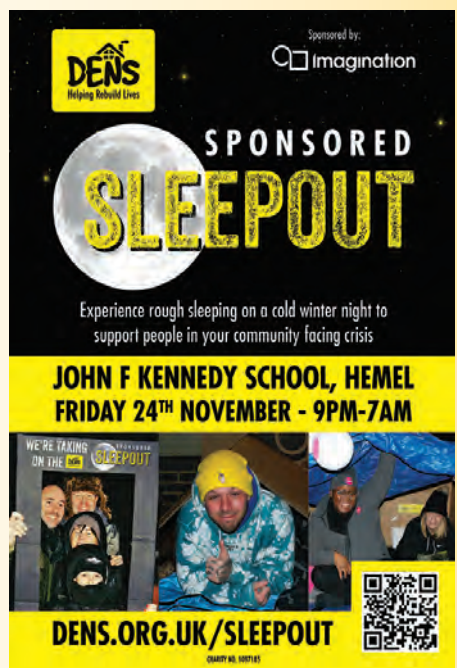
Kings Langley WI

The Community Centre, The Nap.
Meet on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at from 7.30pm - 10pm. Visitors are welcome at most meetings to join the ranks of lively, friendly and enthusiastic members.

Programme for Autumn/Winter 2023:
14 November: 'English Alms Houses,' Simon Smith
12 December: Christmas Party, (members only)

For further information email kingslangleywi@gmail.com or call Nova Horley on 07876 614250.

A free Hearing Aid Maintenance Service takes place during the afternoon of the second Monday of every month in the Community Library in The Nap. Appointments must be made in advance. To register and book visit www.hhas.org.uk or call 01707 324582



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