



Village News

YOUR ONLY LOCAL Village NEWSPAPER



Village in Lockdown

The global Covid-19 pandemic has put the country in lockdown, with Kings Langley rising to the challenge of 'Stay at home, protect the NHS, save lives'. The village has never been quieter with many businesses and shops having to close their doors and shut up shop from 23 March following government guidelines.

High Street shops that have been able to remain trading have adapted to support the needs of the village whilst maintaining the safety of staff and customers. They have all limited the number of customers allowed inside, and ensured safe queueing outside and inside, to maintain social distancing.

Dalling & Co moved their counter and a selection of merchandise to the front door and are displaying their cakes and pastries behind a polythene screen under the canopy, with a contact-free payment option. An extended take-away menu is available including tapas, paella, antipasti platters and more, as well as their range of wines, and delivery is offered to those who are confined to home.

Boots have an organised queuing system with 2m distanced stickers along the pavement which has at times reached Langley Hill, as they successfully keep us supplied with our essential medications. Good Neighbours can collect prescriptions for those who are isolating.

Richard and his team at **The Langley Butcher** have remained open and fully stocked with the normal wide range of meats, eggs, vegetables and bread. They are also taking telephone orders and are offering local delivery if required.

Clare James health foods is open with usually only a small queue outside – stocked with fresh, frozen and store cupboard staples – including flour and yeast while stocks last!



All smiles at The Langley Butcher, still supplying the village with a wide variety of produce

Left; the village at its quietest – with many shops and facilities closed until further notice...



Above; with visiting suspended, the staff at St Luras take a short break from the challenge of keeping their residents occupied, safe and well.



Those shops still continuing to trade have adapted in order to carry on business as (far-from) usual.

Oscar's Pizza Company is open for take-aways and home delivery Thursday to Sunday 5pm – 10pm, **Kings Langley Fish Bar** is trading with cash payments only, and **Langley Launderette** is open.

Wayside Farm's raw milk vending machine is available daily, and their farm shop is open Thursday to Saturday 10am to 5pm stocked with a variety of vegetables, fruit, bread, eggs, cakes, bedding plants and compost depending on what's available to them.

A big thank you to all of these 'local heroes' – please continue to support them now and after the lockdown is finally lifted.

Eric Ingram would have been 100!

Lifelong Kings Langley resident Eric Ingram would have been 100 years old on 11 May. He was born in Alexandra Road but is sadly no longer with us. He is missed and loved every day by his family – Jenni, Angela, Rebecca, Abigail, Harry and Isla – who will celebrate with him in spirit.



Keith Johnson RIP 1934 – 2020

Well known, life-long local resident Keith Johnson died recently after a period of ill health.

He was born in Vicarage Lane and attended Kings Langley Infant and Junior School and Hemel Hempstead Grammar School.

On leaving school he joined a local firm of Chartered Accountants, Hillier Hopkins, as an articled clerk, where he was to spend his entire career. After two years national service in the RAF he returned to Hillier Hopkins, becoming a partner and lastly a consultant. It was there he met Margaret, and they married in 1958 at Saint Mary's Church, Hemel Hempstead. They had two children, a daughter Vivien and son Philip.

Keith was a member of Christ Church Baptist where he was treasurer for many years, and for the past 20 years a member of All Saints.

He was a member of Watford Rotary Club, Kings Langley Probus Club and Kings Langley Cricket Club and was also a magistrate for many years. He was a season ticket holder at Watford Football Club for 60 years, travelling to many away games. He also played table tennis for the Cricket Club and could be found most summer Saturdays on the common watching the cricket.

He and Margaret loved travelling, visiting Russia, China, India, Australia, Canada, and many European countries. They enjoyed walking holidays in Switzerland, Spain and particularly the Derbyshire Peak District.

Most of all Keith loved his family and he will be much missed by his wife, children, five grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

A few more goodbyes...

Sadly the village has recently had to say goodbye to friends and neighbours who have died.

Etta Evans – in February 2020. One of Etta's major contributions was as an archivist with Kings Langley Local History Society for many years, only stopping in her 90s.

Marilyn Tuffs – in February 2020, after a very long battle against ill-health, throughout which she remained perennially cheerful.

Geoff Blake – March 2020

Pat Smith – April 2020

Michael Young – April 2020

For those who've died more recently, memorial events are being postponed for some time until after the restrictions on gatherings have been lifted.

Sadly Covid-19 took a victim from the village High Street on 28 March: 48 year old **Kelly Dunning** of Crafted Jewellery. A friend describes him as 'A larger-than-life, ebullient character, always happy to stop and chat with whoever was passing his shop. He delighted in getting involved in village events with a particularly memorable display at the last Christmas Lights Festival, and was a keen supporter of the Gardens Competition and the Village Carnival. A lovely man who will be sorely missed'.

Village News extends condolences to anyone who has lost a loved one during this difficult lockdown period.



Flowers and tributes for Kelly Dunning left outside his High Street shop

Ad-free edition

This issue of *Village News* has been produced during the severe movement restrictions imposed as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Because many of our advertisers are not currently able to trade, the *Village News* team took the decision to produce an issue with no advertising – those paid for by advertisers will be carried over to the next issue. We are very grateful to the businesses that support us with advertisements which allow us to produce and deliver *Village News* free of charge to all households in the parish. Thank you!

Village News contacts...

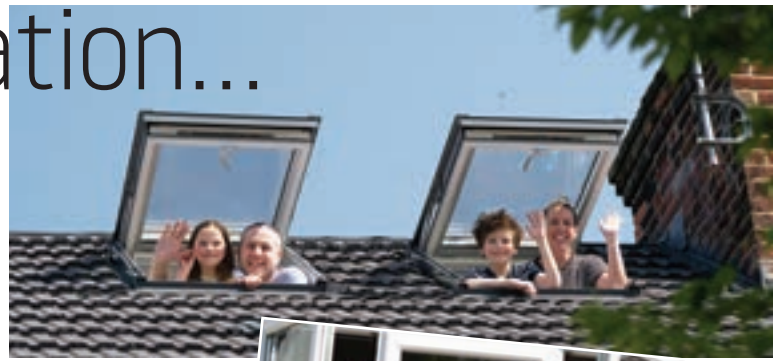
All enquiries, articles, images, advertisements, and Prize Xword competition entries should be sent by email to: kingslangleynews@gmail.com or by post to: The Editor, *Kings Langley Village News*, c/o Kings Langley Parish Council, Charter Court, Vicarage Lane, Kings Langley, Hertfordshire WD4 9HR.

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

The next edition of *Village News* will be available in July/August 2020, the deadline for copy and advertising will be Friday 12 June 2020.

Portraits in isolation...

Natalie Chiverton, a professional wedding and family portrait photographer who lives in the village, woke up on 14 April inspired to create a photographic reportage of Kings Langley families in lockdown and raise money for NHS Charities Together.



She'd seen a story on the news of a London photographer's project and decided she could do something similar in her own parish.

Natalie will keep going with the project as long as families are locked down at home and hopes to raise over £2,000.

She started straight away, sharing her idea with friends and on Facebook via Kings Langley Matters, and quickly had a lot of interest.

The NHS cause is close to her heart as she spent some time in Watford General last year after badly breaking her leg, and she would like to thank everyone who has participated and supported her project.

Natalie uses her daily exercise period walking or cycling (on a borrowed bike!) around the village, safely taking photos of self-isolating families at their houses – on their doorsteps or looking out through their windows – and then edits and sends them the quality photographs for a minimum donation of £2.50 with all proceeds to the charity.



She creates a daily schedule covering different areas of the village and alerts the families for that day in advance. She has already visited over 50 families and raised over £1,000 and has another 45 – 50 families on her schedule to visit.



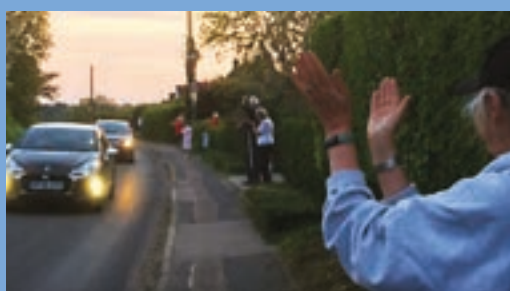
If you're interested in taking part please call Natalie on 07813 325276 or contact her via Facebook.



Taking part in Natalie's project are, from the top: the Lawrences, the Donovan Smith family, Fuller Middleton family, the Lopez family with their colourful window posters, Dan & Laura – both school teachers, the Pittelli boys showing their drawings (mum Katya is also a key worker in education), the Smith family displaying sound advice, and the Inglebys and Kielys.

Clap for Carers

Socially-distanced Kings Langley residents have been out in force at dusk every Thursday evening to show their support for front-line workers who are continuing despite the challenging nature of the current situation.



Good Neighbours – The Coronavirus Challenge

'Many thanks', said Ann, as she scribbled down the details of the 100th Kings Langley resident who volunteered to help in the early days of the Coronavirus epidemic.



When the first call went out nationally it seemed sensible for the existing Good Neighbours' Association in Kings Langley, with over 50 years of experience, to act as co-ordinator of the local project. Later, as the schools closed and the over-70s were expected to remain indoors, a number of volunteers had to pull out of 'active service'. However, over 40 volunteers have been available for Good Neighbours to call on.

Great credit to the Parish Council who helped produce a leaflet which explained the plans put in place in the village, and to our *Village News* delivery volunteers who tramped the streets delivering them door to door.

Very soon the helpline started ringing! In normal times there are three or four calls daily, which leaves plenty of time for the operator to find people to carry out the requested services. Since 'lockdown' started, our helpline operators have had to be on constant alert as the calls came flooding in! Most have been basic shopping requests or to collect prescriptions from Boots. A few have been from those lonely and isolated who just wanted someone to talk to.

Soon the queues outside Boots trailed far along the High Street, so the best plan for our service seemed to be for two different volunteers to queue, one early and one later, to pick up all the prescriptions that had been requested and then subsequently deliver them.

A few statistics:

At the time of writing they have answered well over 400 phone calls on the Helpline, signed up 60 new volunteers and worked on their DBS checks, and delivered at countless bags of shopping and prescriptions.

This has often involved queuing at several shops, sometimes with wasted journeys because of stock-outs or unexpected changes in opening hours, or the need to substitute items – not an easy task!

Volunteers' first-hand stories:

Kim:

'Good Neighbours has always seemed to me to be a brilliant example of community in action, so I decided to join when I retired at the end of last year. The onset of the effects of the virus prompted me to get organised to get on and DO it!

Now I have done a couple of collections from Boots and delivered to about eight people, some too far away for me to walk there. The queues at Boots have been daunting, but in reality they move quite quickly, and everyone is really helpful.

I have also driven something to the hospital for an inpatient. I am humbled by the gratitude of the people when I turn up, it is lovely. Sometimes deliveries can be a bit challenging, especially when the house has a name, but not a number, and I have to turn into Sherlock Holmes!

These jobs are co-ordinated by amazing people and, at the moment, they are going 'above and beyond' to help a lot of people. I'm really grateful to be able to play a small part in the well-being of our wonderful community. Thank you.'

With shopping, the volunteer would call for the client's list, arrange payment and return later with the requested items. The reports from clients have all been positive, one lady scoring '10 out of 10', commenting that the volunteer had called her subsequently to ask if there was anything else she could do – even offering to mow the lawn!

Good Neighbours hopes to continue helping people in the Village to get

Gina:

'Like so many others I just felt an urge to offer help where I could, as my heart went out to all those in the community who would have to isolate themselves long term. I was prompted by the idea that if we rally together, look out for each other, check on our neighbour, offer to get others' shopping and medicines, this will create a feeling of goodwill, kindness and generosity, which is the essence of community living.

I find I don't mind queueing for an hour outside Boots on the High Street, it gives me a chance to catch up on my text messages! The benefits of doing the Sainsbury's trips is that I'm becoming an expert on all the products, and discovering some wonderful things I had no idea existed!

But the biggest bonus is getting to meet my lovely extended neighbours of Kings Langley, albeit at a safe distance as I drop their bags on the doorstep. When I discuss their shopping list over the phone it gives us a chance to have a chat, sometimes a laugh, and just time to share how we feel. I've come to realise it's so important to have connections with each other in these strange times.'

through these troubling times, and would like to express their sincere thanks to the volunteers for all their commitment and help. Stay well everyone!

Helpline number: **07790 668672**



Queues for the chemist stretched along the High Street



TeamHerts Volunteering

In addition to the fantastic efforts of Kings Langley Good Neighbours, there is also a network at county level with the infrastructure to take on volunteers – with over 2,000 recruited – and support those affected by coronavirus, self-isolating and/or vulnerable, including those who have received the advice to stay at home for 12 weeks as well as those who haven't.

Main points of contact:

Residents, services and community groups who want to volunteer www.thvolunteering.org.uk or call Herts Help on 0300 123 4044.

Residents who are self-isolating and in need of support www.hertshelp.net email info@hertshelp.net or call HertsHelp on 0300 123 4044.

Anyone currently using a social care service should expect that to continue, however they should speak to their care provider first or call on 0300 123 4042 for other urgent care needs.

Allot going on!

There has been a lot going on this year, but not all of it welcome,' explained Kings Langley Allotments and Gardening Association Chair Charles Copperwaite.

'Earlier in the year there was torrential rain and high winds which flooded the ground and scattered shattered greenhouses, sheds and compost bins across both allotment sites at Red Lion Lane and Sunderland's Yard.'

Now the weather has improved the allotment holders have been spending time on their plots, getting some exercise and sunshine, whilst social distancing and following government guidance – washing their hands as they arrive and leave, and wiping down communal surfaces such as gate locks. Their hands have never been so clean after gardening! This time of year, there are plenty of seeds to sow and vegetables to plant and most allotment holders have some spring bulbs coming up to give their plots a bit of colour.



Meanwhile at the Kings Langley Biodynamic allotments on Chipperfield Road, the bees are becoming very busy and allotment holders are preparing the beds for the plants that will go in when frosts become less likely. There will be seedling swaps and sharing over the next month or so, and a recent community working morning was an uplifting time, with people out in the good weather, talking whilst keeping many metres away from each other. It is easy to social distance on allotment land that is so spread out!

There are some allotment plots available – if interested, contact kingslangleybd@gmail.com.

Making Daffodils out of molehills

Those of you familiar with Primrose Hill Playing Fields will know there is a problem – not the location or the playground (currently closed) or the (mostly) sad looking fruit trees, but the moles!

You can't see them, but there is evidence everywhere you look – mounds of earth thrown up by their burrowing near the surface.

The 1st Kings Langley Scouts have an allotment there, growing daffodils for Mother's Day and pumpkins for Halloween. Last year was not a good year for the daffodils (not helped by the moles eating some of the bulbs), however the earth collected from molehills is excellent for potting soil used for the replacement bulbs.

This year the Beavers (6-8 year-olds) came to pick the daffodils – destined for mums and any excess this year to Abbeyfield and Friars Mead elderly residents, but the moles had reduced the excess by removing more bulbs!

The Beavers became rather less interested in picking daffodils than in 'finding' the mole – they sought him here, there and everywhere but were unsuccessful; nevertheless, it has to be said, they did a sterling job of picking the daffodils.

In April the Beavers would usually have the opportunity of planting the chitted potato tubers, but the suspension of all scouting activities means this will be carried out by leaders as part of an exercise regime.

Similarly, the pumpkin seeds will also be planted in compostable pots with the hope that things will have returned to something approaching normal before potatoes and pumpkins are ready for 'picking'.



Walking for wellbeing

At this time of imposed self-isolation, when we are obliged to stay within our homes for the most part of each day, residents of Kings Langley are indeed fortunate to have such a variety of footpaths, bridleways, towpaths and walks within our parish and the adjoining areas in which to take our daily approved exercise, breathe some fresh air and enjoy the rural countryside.

Clayton Rae is the Countryside Access Officer for Dacorum, who oversees the general management, maintenance and upkeep of some 400k of footpaths throughout 13 parishes. He reports a 'massive increase' in the use of footpaths since the introduction of lockdown. 'Unfortunately, there's a misconception that it's OK to cycle along footpaths – it's not! Footpaths are for pedestrians only (the clue is in the name) but many people either don't understand this or pretend not to.'

Tenant farmer Philip Misselbrook (known to all locally as 'Squeak') has been raising livestock in the area for some 20 years and used to work with Dacorum helping with footpath maintenance. He now farms some 200 acres with suckler cows and is keen to point out that walkers and their dogs should keep to the footpaths. 'A field of grass is not a playground – to a farmer it's crop, which is used for animal feed. If it's trampled down or littered it can be difficult to harvest or potentially dangerous to our animals. Ingesting dog's faeces can cause a cow to abort her calf.'

His son, Harry, agreed that more and more people are venturing into the countryside. 'It's getting like Piccadilly Circus past Berrybush Farm', he said. 'We're happy for walkers to enjoy the scenery but please don't stray from the footpaths to take a short-cut or picnic in our fields!'



'Walkers who respect the farming countryside are welcomed', says Philip. 'But we've had to padlock all our field gates because ramblers don't close them, leaving us to round up cows who are in the wrong field. Warning signs are there to protect the public, but are regularly damaged and costly to replace. And don't get me going on bagged dog-poo hanging from the trees and hedgerows – only a total moron does that!'

Charlie Wray, who manages Wayside Farm, is upset that people wander off paths to look at the animals on his farm – it's not only trespass, but definitely unwelcome at this time!

As Kings Langley PCSO Ian Martin points out 'Be aware that working farms have machinery moving about during this very busy time of the year. Please stay on the marked footpaths, keep dogs on a lead and do keep your distance from any areas that may be cordoned off.'

Social distancing along a sometimes quite narrow canal towpath can be challenging but, with a little care and consideration, is not impossible. However, the Canal & River Trust, the charity who look after over 200miles of waterways, including our own stretch of the Grand Union Canal, are currently asking the public to avoid any stretches with boats moored against the towpath.

Certainly the current situation affords us the opportunity to increase our wellbeing by making good use of our local walks. And why not volunteer to join our distribution team to help ensure that your neighbours receive their copies of the *Village News* – an excellent way to exercise, get some fresh air and benefit the community at the same time!



An alternative to walking the countryside, an excellent little publication Around and About Kings Langley details illustrated routes through the village byeways. We picked up a copy from All Saints Church.



Get on
Movement is simply not dead. Walking stimulates your digestive system, can help reduce belly fat, the deep belly in your body, with depriving your body essential nutrients it ne. And it can help tone your muscles and shape up your

Studies have found that a moderately-paced walk instantly improve your mood. Exercise, even if it's just a stroll, helps release endorphins that trigger a positive feeling in the body. Just 20 minutes a day can help reduce anxiety, depression, and a negative mood, help improve spatial memory as well as lower risk of dementia.

Walking increases oxygen flow through the body. It also increase levels of cortisol, epinephrine, and norepinephrine. Those are the hormones

...and here are some

- <https://www.mapmyway.com/gb/kings-langley-en>
- <https://kingslangley2.com/section/Walking>



Beating the Bounds beaten for 2020

There was a time when every field, and often each hedgerow, had its own name and identity. The boundary line between one parish and the next was frequently identified and confirmed by the ceremony known as 'Beating the Bounds'.

Beating the Bounds is the ancient annual practice of walking around the Parish boundary on Rogation Sunday – the fifth Sunday after Easter.

In Kings Langley this walk normally leaves from outside All Saints; passes through beautiful Kings Langley countryside, but it also involves a busy road junction, a padlocked gate and private land. For this reason, it has to be organised as a group walk. It also requires proper footwear and provisions as the only facilities near the route are Sainsburys after seven miles (and at the moment that might include a long, long queue); the whole walk is nine miles long.

Sadly, this year it will not be taking place as keeping two metres apart would defeat the whole point of walking as a group – and also breach Government guidance. But that shouldn't stop individuals and families from walking parts of the route by themselves – it's a very pleasant way to get some fresh air!

The Grand Union Canal towpath forms a scenic part of the Bounds walk



Not the first self-isolation in Kings Langley!

As we battle on a day to day basis with the present outbreak, the Royal Palace on the hill might seem far away. Yet in the midst of another, very real plague, self-isolation was a feature of this village.

Kings put the 'Kings' into Kings Langley – the area was spotted on hunting forays, admired and purchased. It was Edward I, or rather his queen, Eleanor of Castile, who laid the foundations of several centuries of royal presence and patronage. The kings most readily associated with the village were their descendants: Edward II, Edward III, one of whose sons was Edmund de Langley, and Richard II. Richard lost his throne when his uncle Edmund, Duke of York and Cambridge, deserted him.

But the event of interest occurs during the Black Death. It too originated in the East, made its destructive way across Europe and reached these shores on 6 August 1348. The plague struck the country with such ferocity that a third of the population was lost: in St Albans the Bishop and chapter died as well as 42 monks.

Being particularly bad in London (as now), parliament was prorogued, and the seat of government moved to Kings Langley in July 1349 to the relative safety of the countryside. Thus from this quiet village was ruled the kingdom for a short but significant time.

A century later royal interest was waning – a fire had swept through the Royal Palace in 1431, from which the prestige if not the architecture never recovered. One of the last royal patrons was Catherine of Aragon, acquiring the manor before her fateful marriage with Henry VIII.

The talk on the Royal Palace scheduled for 1 April in the Library, a repeat one and already a sell-out, had sadly to be cancelled. Perhaps this snippet might whet an historical appetite to keep your morale going during this time. If on your daily exercise you walk by what used to be the Rudolph Steiner School and enter the footpath across the farmer's field, you will be on the site where history was made.

out and about!

is vital for our health – our bodies are designed to sit still for long periods.

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taking k can hood. a brisk orphins eling utes a iety, ve icial r the risk

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help elevate energy levels. Going for a walk when you're tired may be a more effective energy boost than grabbing a cup of coffee.!

You can help protect your joints, including the knees and hips, because walking helps lubricate and strengthen the muscles that support the joints. It may also boost your immune function to reduce your risk for developing a cold or the 'flu.

According to research from the University of Leicester, walking regularly can reduce your risk of cardiovascular disease up to 18 to 20 percent.

A Cambridge University study of 334,000 people found that even a modest amount of activity prolonged life. The study leader affirmed: 'Just a small amount of physical activity each day could have substantial health benefits'.

useful online maps and guides to set you on your way to good health...

- <https://www.walkingbritain.co.uk/walk-3403-map>
- <http://www.walkinginengland.co.uk/herts/hemel.php>
- <http://www.wayside-farm.co.uk/country-walks/>
- www.britishwalks.org/walks/2001/140.php

News from the Parish Pump

Parish council activity has been very limited over the last two months, nevertheless work has continued in the background.

As part of the development of the Neighbourhood Plan, a subgroup has identified a gap for the active over 50s and the importance of social inclusion for this age group to tackle mental health issues and loneliness. A Repair Shed was suggested as there was an unmet demand locally.

Activities by 'Shedders' vary greatly, but include recycling, woodworking, metalworking, repairing and restoring, electronics, model building etc. with time split one third on personal projects, one third on others' requests and one third on community projects. No experience or skills are necessary as help and support can be provided; more importantly they're about social



Beautiful spring growth oblivious to the pandemic nightmare

connections and friendship, sharing skills and knowledge, and having fun.

A small number of possible 'sheds' were identified in the village but none were available for the longer term. After discussion with Abbots Langley Parish Council a proposed site for a shared shed has been identified. Councillor Andrew Hubberstey said 'A joint

venture, open to men and women from both areas is a possibility, although it is yet to be discussed in full due to Covid-19.' Subject to funding it could be up and running in around eight months from agreement.

Limited activity has been taking place in the Village Garden, with a skip full of dead wood removed following the high winds and wet weather we experienced. The plan is to create another flower bed in the grassed area at the southern end to provide more space for planting. 'We have been planting bulbs and shrubs in different seasons in order to provide colour and variety throughout the year,' explained Councillor Alan Johnson. 'We have been pleased to see local people spending more time in the Garden as part of their exercise regime – whilst maintaining a social distance!'

Obviously the monthly volunteer gardening afternoons and Sunday morning litter picks have been postponed for the time being, along with the many other planned events.

Neighbourhood Plan update

At a time when most of us are focusing on living one day at a time, it may seem odd to offer an update on the Neighbourhood Plan for the period 2020 to 2036! But it is more important than ever to plan for the village future and work towards the overarching vision:

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

Progress report:

1) Special Places Survey:

In January a survey of the places, views and buildings that KL residents most valued and wanted to preserve was conducted and had an overwhelming response. Key findings on what defines the village are The Common and the fields and farms that surround us, All Saints' Church and the High Street. Interestingly,

these defining features are probably the same ones that a survey 150 years ago would also have discovered. Let's hope they still will be 150 years from now!

2) Housing Needs Assessment:

A necessary component of a Neighbourhood Plan and an important tool in the overall debate, a major study has been commissioned through Urban Vision. The full report is due soon.

3) Draft Neighbourhood Plan Document:

First draft completed, covering every angle, with clear objectives throughout:

a. To direct new development to within sites allocated by the Dacorum Local Plan and to protect, so far as possible, the green belt, valued green space in and around the village, and local

character and heritage. Development should contribute towards a proven local need.

b. To require assurance of the credibility of any developer and an assurance of the environmental sustainability of any proposed development, with plans ideally approaching a 'zero carbon' goal.

c. Development must deliver community benefit.

4) Web site and Community Engagement:

The website will shortly change from klpp.co.uk to klnp.co.uk (for Neighbourhood Plan) and will post progress as well as plans for further engagement and input from the local community.

The Neighbourhood Planning Team are:

John Morrish, John Ingleby, James Markham, Chris Pichon, Eric Martin, Andrew Levy, and Alison Eardley

Lockdown at the library

After the three week closure for electrical upgrade work, the library only managed to stay open for a week before the Coronavirus crisis made it impossible for volunteers to work safely.

Since all libraries closed on 21 March, Hertfordshire Library Service has been making huge efforts to maintain services for library users by extending their range of online services. They were quick to reassure everyone that current loan periods will be automatically extended, and reservations will be dealt with as soon as practical – no need to worry about returning books or fines until libraries reopen.

Many more titles have been purchased for the Borrowbox app allowing borrowing of ebooks and audiobooks for free. This app has been a lifeline for those who are housebound and those who have sight problems. The technical teams from the Library service have made a range of online services such as *Ancestry* and *Find my Past* available to library members on their own devices at home.

Anyone not already a library member can apply for temporary membership online and gain access to all of these resources immediately. More details at www.bit.ly/kl-libr

The Community Library has been keeping in touch with their volunteer community and they would like to share a couple of good news stories with you:

Firstly, if anyone passed by the library recently you may have noticed a beautiful display of daffodils planted by two of our volunteers in the autumn. It is very reassuring that in these uncertain days nature continues as normal.

Secondly, one of our library volunteers Helen Hartley (and husband Chris) became grandparents for the first time, on the day of the official lockdown 23 March 2020.

So far they have only been able to see their beautiful grandson, Arlo, through a window and via photos and videos.

www.kingslangleyvillagenews.co.uk



PHOTO: ADELEWA DAVIES

The library volunteers look forward to seeing you all back in the library very soon. The very popular programme of events has been postponed for the moment and all ticket holders have been contacted. Check the library Facebook page and notices in the library when it reopens.

Community Choir Zooms in

With a full and varied spring and summer performance programme, the Community Choir was optimistically looking forward to 2020. On 7 March at the Beaconsfield Festival of Choirs, held in St Mary's Church, the Choir showcased its repertoire range to a packed audience of other choirs and the public.

That performance was to be followed by a wedding in late March at which the Choir would provide the music, both contemporary and leading the congregation in the hymns. Sadly the wedding has necessarily been postponed to late summer, and all other events through to July have been cancelled. Nonetheless, through the online wonders of Zoom, members continue to enjoy weekly rehearsals with Musical Director Katie Teage. So, for the wedding and the following autumn performance programme



PHOTO: PHILIP CHIVA

Meals on wheels?

Fed up queuing? Fed up with the shops not having what you want? Looking for something a bit different for a treat? If you're eligible you can order meals to be delivered at home.

During the current Covid-19 crisis Meals on Wheels will prioritise the elderly, and those identified by the government as being vulnerable. You are eligible if:

- you have difficulty preparing a meal safely
- you have a mental or physical disability
- your carer is unwell or on holiday
- you've just come out of the hospital or you're recovering from an illness
- you're unable to cook meals for yourself after someone dies.

There is no age limit.

You can contact Hemel Meals on Wheels on **01442 243352** or online at hertsindependentliving.org/order-meals/ In order to keep you safe, the pre-prepared, pre-cut meals are delivered to your front door with disposable cutlery.

Should you be self-isolating and be in need of food shopping, call Good Neighbours to have your shopping done for you **07790 668672**.

(check this on www.kingslangleychoir.co.uk) members will be ready with songs that include many new to the repertoire, for example The Beatles' *Here Comes The Sun* and Billy Joel's *And So It Goes*.

Anyone wishing to banish the isolation blues by joining the Choir should contact Pat Waterton at patwaterton@gmail.com or on **07714 701316**.



PHOTO: CAROLYN ANDREWS

Church services online

Methodists – from Moat to Facebook

Those who established Methodism in the village 150 years ago this month (in a small cottage known as 'The Moat' at the corner of Waterside and Church Lane) would never have comprehended how their successors would be worshipping today!

Kings Langley methodists are sharing a streamed service with Hemel every Sunday on the HHMC Facebook page, from 10am with interactive chat, followed at 10.30am by a service led by Rev. Andrew Brazier and his family. It is subsequently available to view on hhmc.org.uk.

Christ Church Baptist

Christ Church are keeping in touch via brief online Sunday morning services on the internet or by phone using Zoom. Please contact them at admin@christchurchbaptist.co.uk for more information.

All Saints during lockdown

Sunday service at 9.30am is live streamed on the All Saints Kings Langley Facebook page, and is subsequently available on YouTube (www.bit.ly/askl-yt). Father James is also leading morning and evening prayer Tuesday to Friday and a mid-week Eucharist on Wednesdays all live streamed on Facebook. All details and access links as well as orders of service and resources for children are on their (new!) website www.beneficeoflangelei.org.uk/allsaints/

Pictured above; Father James leads an All Saints Facebook live service from his dining room

Christian Aid week challenged this year

Coronavirus impacts all of us, but kindness unites us all. Now is the time to reach out to our neighbours near and far. Poor communities are hit hardest by coronavirus. It's affecting families living in overcrowded refugee camps, and many vulnerable people who have no water to clean their hands.



PHOTO: CHRISTIAN AID

This year Christian Aid Week 10 – 16 May is like no other. Because of the restrictions there can be no 'house to house' collections, but the international need is still there, more so as this deadly virus impacts the most vulnerable people and poorest countries.

Christian Aid raises about £8 million

pounds each year for aid and development across the world – please consider giving generously this year as you have previously, to help people access hygiene kits and safe water.

Every donation makes a real difference. You can give online at www.caweek.org



Watch out!

So far, we have no reports of dodgy strangers knocking on doors in Kings Langley offering help to isolated, vulnerable or elderly residents and we want to keep it that way.

Neighbourhood Watch messaging using the OWL system for sending emails is a way to receive accurate information about what's going on locally and keep yourself protected from current scams. If you think you're a NHW member but aren't receiving messages please go to owl.co.uk and choose the 'join a watch' option.

During these somewhat strange and uncertain times we are seeing an increase in online scams related to Covid-19. Older and more vulnerable people are particularly at risk from these scams as they may not have the experience and knowledge of the internet. Common scams are for anti-virus kits, self-testing kits, fake (and expensive) hand sanitisers, face

masks etc. In the majority of cases these 'products' don't exist in the first place (you will lose your money) or don't work (you will waste your money).

Other scams involve companies offering to get a refund for your cancelled holiday, or emails that appear to be from the government asking for donations to the NHS or towards development of a Covid-19 vaccine, the list goes on... There are also reports of criminals offering to do shopping, taking the cash to pay for it and never returning.



To report a scam call Action Fraud on **0300 123 2040** – and contact your bank if you suspect you have been scammed.

Remain cautious when accepting help from strangers, either online or in person. The community spirit and kindness that is being shown at this really difficult time is to be commended, but please remember that sadly not everyone has the best intentions.

Be wary about sharing personal information with people you don't know, such as your address or your pin number.

Prize Xword

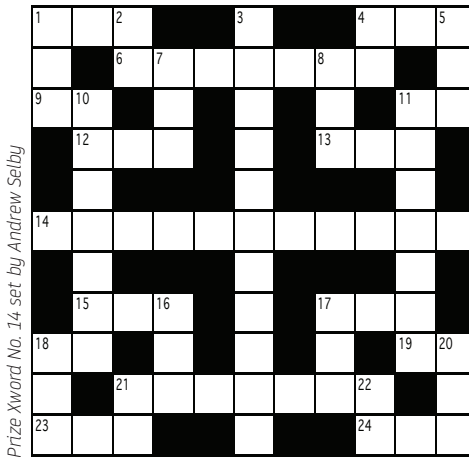
This issue's prize is a free wash and dry, kindly donated by Kings Langley Laundrette. Simply post or email your completed Xword to us (see page 2) to arrive by Friday 12 June. The first correct entry drawn from the hat will be awarded this month's prize.

Across

- 1 Extinct, giant New Zealand bird (3)
- 4 Came together (3)
- 6 This Village Road, in short, passes Nash Mills (5,2)
- 9 Links alternatives (2)
- 11 Preposition (2)
- 12 Writing liquid (3)
- 13 Small vegetable (3)
- 14 This narrow Village road adjoins 6 Across and runs out of the valley (7,4)
- 15 Seventh letter of the Greek alphabet (3)
- 17 Dark, sticky substance used in road-making (3)
- 18 Preposition found in the midst of a crater! (2)
- 19 Therefore (2)
- 21 This Village close is named after part of a church (7)
- 23 Constellation found near the stern of a galleon (3)
- 24 Low light (3)

Down

- 1 Sound made by a type of farm animal (3)
- 2 Chemical symbol for a light metal (2)
- 3 Village lane off Hempstead Road (7,4)
- 4 Come across a doctor in the middle of Camden? (2)
- 5 In addition (3)
- 7 Tree (3)
- 8 A quick sharp blow (3)
- 10 A very small stream (7)
- 11 Old name for several of the coins now worth 2½p (and also a small wood in Abbots) (7)
- 16 Burnt tree? (3)
- 17 A rocky peak (3)
- 18 Pointed tool for piercing holes (3)
- 20 Measure of electrical resistance (3)
- 21 A little company? (2)
- 22 Abbreviated old measure (2)



Prize Xword No. 14 set by Andrew Selby



PHOTO: BARRY KEMP

Our Issue 13 Xword winner was Geoff Budd. He is looking forward to claiming a free haircut, his prize kindly donated by the Kings Langley Barber Shop. We pictured him outside the closed premises as he joked 'By the time it's open again I shall certainly need my haircut!'

Correct Answers to Xword No. 13

Across: 1 Blackwell, 7 Copse, 8 Each, 10 Epic, 12 Eke, 14 Truer, 15 Equal, 16 Awl, 18 Abba, 20 Golf, 21 Cello, 22 Alexandra.

Down: 2 Arch, 3 Kapok, 4 Epee, 5 Great Park, 6 Rockcliffe, 9 Crumb, 11 Pluto, 12 Era, 13 Eel, 17 Wilma, 19 Acre, 20 Goad



Rectory Farm proposals – misuse of statistics?

The Kings Langley and District Residents Association (KL&DRA) have ceased active campaigning during the current pandemic. However, several local residents did contact a publication objecting to the proposed development at Rectory Farm.

This prompted developer Angle Property to respond publicly that it was 'feedback from the community which helped shape the (Rectory Farm) development plans'.

Angle's analysis is based on the feedback forms that were completed at the public consultation, which is fine except for the fact that of the 187 attendees at the consultation, evidently only 90 feedback forms were completed.

Gary Ansell, Chair of the Residents Association explains 'When the feedback form asked if respondents supported the scheme, 83 responded, of whom 51 said no. Angle's analysis said only 27% objected – which is based on the 187 attendees not the number of responders. This analysis is repeated wherever the responses are not supportive.'

Gary added 'Strangely enough, 'counting in' non-responders does not feature in any of the answers which were supportive. For example, Angle's analysis said 92% of respondents found the consultation informative or useful, without mentioning this is only 41% of those who attended.'

'In addition, the public consultation was on the basis of 70 units being built, not the 89 units (a 27% increase) in the current application. And no mention is made of the 99% who, in the village poll, were opposed to any Green Belt development.'

When staying at home isn't safe

Coronavirus is not responsible for domestic abuse, but the government's advice around social isolation and distancing has created further opportunities for perpetrators to exert power and control over their victims.

Help and support for people affected by it is still available despite the lockdown. If you are in immediate danger but are afraid to speak, call 999 then press 5 5. There is no

need to talk. Or if the matter is less urgent use the webchat service found at www.herts.police.uk.

The Herts Domestic Abuse Helpline is free and in confidence, providing help, advice and support on 08 088 088 088. It's open weekdays 9am – 9pm and weekends 9am – 4pm, and email advice is also available at Kim@mailpurple.org



Annie The Musical

Saturday 4 April should have been a busy and exciting day for the cast and crew of Kings Langley Musical Theatre Company (KLMTTC) and for Willow (pictured above) who was to be playing Sandy in their production of *Annie The Musical*.

But it wasn't to be. Along with hundreds of other amateur theatre companies up and down the country, they have been forced to cancel their shows and announce this to the cast members, musicians, costume hire, lighting, sound and special effects suppliers. And to Willow, who had been travelling from Luton for rehearsals, who was given the sad news that she wouldn't be getting the chance to make her stage debut!

Plans are already being made for the March 2021 production *The Addams Family*. KLMTTC are looking forward to it!

Puffaten

Puffaten road race will not take place in 2020. Next year's road race is 27 June 2021.

KL Cricket Club

Latest news at the end of April suggests there will be no senior Herts league cricket before 11 July at the earliest. The club will run whatever they can in junior and senior cricket when the government and ECB guidelines allow.

Carnival

It is with great sadness that the Kings Langley Carnival Committee have decided to cancel this year's event. During the current situation they felt they couldn't progress with any certainty and it was better to let people know in good time. Although disappointing, all the planning will not go to waste and they plan to come back bigger and better next year. Put the date in your diary – 19 June 2021.

Thanks for everyone's continued support and look forward to seeing you there next year.

Art

The Art exhibition planned for the summer featuring local artists at the Langley Hill School has been cancelled due to the cessation of Arts Council funding decisions and the redirection of investments towards Covid-19 emergency funding packages.

Post, please!

St Lauras care home residents would love to keep receiving the cards, letters and drawings from the families of the village to brighten their days – keep them coming please!

Evergreen club put on hold

After only two meetings in 2020 the Kings Langley Evergreen social club had to close its doors due to the Covid-19 crisis. The planned events for the coming weeks and months, which were to include a seasonal craft session, a talk about *Trees and People* and a visiting choir, will all be re-scheduled for later in the year.

There are more than 40 club members and a regular phone round to keep in touch has been a feature of the last few weeks, with birthdays being remembered and celebrated remotely.

Evergreen club hopes that all their club members and volunteers stay safe and well until they can all meet together again – and a party is planned for that time!

For details please contact Ann 01923 267605.



Monthly Market

The pandemic has forced the monthly High Street local produce market into hibernation, unable to trade or handle and distribute food while socially distanced.

The growing has been put on hold but prior to 'lockdown' all the beds at the farm had been prepared and plans are in place for when growing can resume! Maybe some readers would like to join the team?

To keep in touch see their Facebook page @foodforkings, the TiK website www.transitioninkings.org or the KLCBS website www.klcbs.org

KLFC

The season for Kings Langley FC has been officially ended and all results expunged so there is no promotion or relegation between leagues or levels.

Country Market

This year the Country Market would be celebrating 35 years of serving the people of Kings Langley every Thursday morning. Come rain or shine they have been producing their home cooked goodies for the village, now halted temporarily by an invisible virus!

On their Facebook page, you can now find tasty recipes using simple things you may have in your stock cupboard – they hope you will find these helpful in these difficult times. Search for 'Kings Langley Country Market' on Facebook.

DENS

DENS have had to cancel all fundraising events so are in urgent need of donations to continue to support the homeless in our local community. More info at dens.org.uk/appeal

Public Information

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

Parish Council Meetings are normally held on the first Tuesday of each month. Planning and Licensing on the first and third Tuesday of each month. Office hours 9.30am – 12.30pm Telephone: 01923 261828 or email klpc@kingslangley-pc.gov.uk