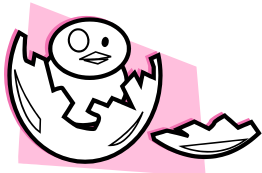




VILLAGE NEWS

www.lowerkingswood.org.uk
 Spring Edition 2010



March 2010

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Chairman's Report to Residents

Welcome to our Spring 2010 issue of *Village News* and we would like to extend a warm welcome to all those new residents who have moved into the village over the past few months. Please remember that *all residents* of Lower Kingswood are members of the Residents' Association, if you have any concerns about the Village, the Residents' Association Committee is here to try and help *you* and represent *your* interests.

Unlike most other local Residents' Associations there is no annual subscription payable – our running costs are met from the revenue of advertisements in our newsletter. So please help support our local businesses and advertisers. Please remember that, without the continuing support of local residents, our local businesses – both old and new – may find it difficult to survive.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AGM of the Lower Kingswood Residents' Association will take place at 7:45pm on **TUESDAY, 13th APRIL** at the Church Hall in Buckland Road; it will be preceded by the AGM of the Kingswood Village Hall Trust at 7:30pm. All residents are welcome to attend both meetings.

We hope to see as many of you as possible; please remember that this is your Residents' Association. As usual, we look forward to welcoming our Borough & County Councillors.

YOUR RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION NEEDS YOU

We appreciate that ALL the voluntary organisations in the village are dependent on what seems to be a small nucleus of dedicated volunteers who are willing to **give freely of their time and effort**. Your Residents' Association Committee is no exception to this in that we all have our "day jobs" and yet are willing to give up some of our free time to try and represent the interests of our residents – including lobbying our local Councillors and Police representatives on a variety of issues.

If YOU feel that you have something to offer the local community, why not attend our AGM or contact our Chairman and offer to stand as a member of YOUR Residents' Association Committee?

PLANNING ISSUES

There have been a couple of recent issues that have been raised with our Committee members and these have been forwarded to our Borough Councillors for further comment. At the time of going to print we are awaiting their response.

POLICE NEWS

We are fortunate that instances of criminal activity within Lower Kingswood remain low; but that is not to say we should be complacent.

Our local officers (PC Ed Ferris & PCSO Laura Nolan) have stressed the importance of reporting all crimes to the Police as that may well help them build up a case against those responsible. This even includes instances of break-ins to outbuildings. **Don't forget, ANY suspicious activity in your neighbourhood, should also be reported to the Police.**

YOUR LOCAL BUSINESSES NEED YOU

The impact of the economic recession seems to show no signs of abating in the near future and this obviously has a knock-on effect on spending - particularly in the retail sector. Within a month or so there will be a General Election and it is clear that, whatever party takes power, they are going to have to take tough decisions about cuts in public expenditure and/or increases in taxation. It is very important that Lower Kingswood residents continue to support OUR local businesses and services otherwise we could find that the remaining ones will not survive.

You can help our local businesses by giving them the opportunity to provide a quotation for any goods or services that you may be contemplating ordering.

Complaints have also been made to our local Councillors about inconsiderate parking outside the various shops etc. on both Brighton Road and Buckland Road. Please bear this in mind since these businesses may well be reliant on passing trade.

VILLAGE NEWS

Once again thank you to all who have contributed articles and helped with both the production and distribution of this newsletter. *Village News* is distributed free to all households in (and around) Lower Kingswood, and this is only possible because of the assistance given by volunteers in its production, printing and distribution. If you can spare the time to help – particularly with distribution – please contact our Chairman.

Don't forget - if you use the services of one of our advertisers, please mention that you saw their advertisement in *Village News*.

We would also like to acknowledge the continuing support of Fidelity International.

Surrey Police report



PC 3029 Ed Ferris
Tadworth Village, Walton, Kingswood, Lower Kingswood, Hooley & Netherne Neighbourhood Specialist Officer (NSO)
Banstead Police Station
OWE 157613
Alternative contact North Reigate and Banstead Safer Neighbourhood Team EXT 39707 or website r&b_snt@surrey.pnn.police.uk

Editor's Note

Statistics for the area comprising Tadworth, Walton, Kingswood, Lower Kingswood, Hooley & Netherne covering the 3 months November 2009 to January 2010 with the same period in 2008/9 show an overall decrease of 12% and whilst most types of crime have decreased there have been increases in violent crimes (4.8%) and anti-social behaviour (50.6%). Full details of the crime statistics can be found on the Surrey Police website. However, comments from our local police officers indicate that Lower Kingswood itself continues to have relatively low levels of reported crime. Nevertheless you should notify Surrey Police immediately of any suspicious callers or people loitering in your area, any unfamiliar vehicles, or any suspicious activity at neighbouring properties.



CRIME PREVENTION ADVICE – VEHICLE CRIME

- 1 Remove the ignition key and lock the car when leaving it – even while paying for petrol or ‘popping’ into the local shop.
- 2 When leaving your car unattended, retract the aerial, ensure windows and sunroof are closed, lock the doors and turn on the alarm.
- 3 Remove your radio/CD player or fascias and sat-nav – and don't forget to wipe those telltale sucker marks off the windscreen and dashboard
- 4 Don't leave mobile phones, handbags, briefcases, laptops or loose change in your car. Nor a coat or jacket – a thief will think it's concealing something valuable.
- 5 Don't leave valuable items in the glove compartment or boot.
- 6 Never leave children or pets alone in a vehicle.
- 7 Have your registration number etched on the windows.
- 8 Use lockable wheel nuts and fuel cap.
- 9 Secure index plates with clutch head screws or fit anti-theft DVLA approved ones.
- 10 Keep your registration document, MOT and insurance certificates in a safe place at home.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Perhaps the most successful crime prevention scheme ever conceived Neighbourhood Watch is well established in East Surrey.

However, we are always keen to hear from potential new members in areas not currently covered by the scheme. NHW membership carries numerous benefits. Please contact us for more details.

Street surgeries are scheduled to be held outside Kingswood Primary School, Buckland Road on Wednesday 14th April, Wednesday 12th May and Wednesday 9th June (all from 8:30am - 9:00pm).



Do you want to do something positive to benefit your local community?

If so, how about becoming a **Special Constable?**

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are now recruiting

Special Constables

Special Constables are volunteer police officers who wear the same uniform and hold the same powers as Regular officers. Working for a minimum of 16 hours a month you will be an important part of our Neighbourhood Policing teams. We welcome applicants from all backgrounds who are reasonably fit and are of good character. For more information and an application pack:

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If you have information about crime and don't want to leave your name, call Crimestoppers on:

0800 555 111



If you have a genuine emergency requiring the attendance of the police, such as a crime is in progress or someone is in immediate danger, call:

999

(Minicom users: 01483 539999)

For non-emergency policing matters only, call Surrey Police on:

0845 125 2222

Village Fête - Bank Holiday Monday 3rd May

The Fête Committee have now held four meetings to plan for the May Bank Holiday Fête on 3rd May.

Many plans are underway and there seems to be a wide variety of attractions for hopefully all ages. Chairman Claire Larbey has been very welcoming to Committee Members and there have been a number of new faces for the 2010 Fête.

The Committee hope that villagers will be able to support the raffle when tickets appear during April, as the sales do help if the weather lets us down once again. The WI is running a cake stall and they would appreciate any donations on the morning of the Fête, so, if you love baking, do feel free to bring your cakes along.

The Committee are hoping to have the classic cars on display again this year; they were much enjoyed last year. Depending on the weather the mini cars are hoping to be there. Bouncy castles, roundabouts, toddler corner, Jazz Band, Radio Redhill will also be there. The local organisations will be holding their stalls. The Old Pheasantry is holding a bric-a-brac stall. The ever popular Punch and Judy will be present.

The Pink Ladies Cheerleaders will be performing early in the afternoon. Following this, they will be running a workshop on

how to become a Cheerleader for the 4-14 year olds. The workshop will be in the Church Hall for any in the age group who wish to join in. It will last half-an-hour. The workshop participants will be showing off their newly learned skills in the arena later in the afternoon.

The Dog Show will be held as usual. Tabletop sales will be available, but will have all been booked by March 1st. The School Choir will be taking part, which will be a new item to enjoy.

The Fete will begin with a procession probably including - Rainbows, Beavers, Cubs, Brownies, Guides, Scouts, and other groups of young children who wish to join in. The procession will be led by The Institute Jazz Band and will leave Church Hall at 1:15pm and arrive in the Recreation Ground for the opening.

We do so hope that this year the sun really will shine. Programmes will be delivered around the village nearer the date, so you can check what will be on offer. We look forward to seeing you all in May.

Don't forget - Monday May 3rd - Lower Kingswood Recreation Ground from 1:30pm to 4:30pm.



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Reigate & Banstead Borough Council reports

Spring is arriving, and the world and the Borough immediately looks better to me. I know that this past winter has been hard for us all, snow and ice causing havoc, and more potholes rearing their ugly heads as soon as the snow melted. 5,000 new potholes arrived in this Borough after that dreadful winter. Well, what are we doing about it? I am pleased to tell you that Surrey County Council has a plan for addressing the state of our roads. A report was tabled at the County Executive to discuss what they accept is the appalling condition of our roads. I have a copy of that report and feel reassured that at least they have scoped the problem, accept the urgency, and are starting to address it. Our County Councillor Michael Gosling, an Executive member at County is working hard on this area, as well as his own heavy portfolio, and keeping me fully informed. However, you must understand that here, in Surrey we receive the lowest allowance from Government of any County in England, and very great statutory obligations.

At a local level we are looking at salt and grit provision for the Borough for this winter, and many of you will know Government prevented us from acquiring salt last year!! We are also looking at new methods to assist our freighters to get access to the difficult parts of the Borough, which unfortunately includes us! More of this at your AGM.

This year, for the first time in the Borough's long history, we have managed to present to you a 0% increase in council tax. No easy task. It has taken officers and Executive members many hours to pare down the budget to achieve this including: a pay freeze for staff and councillors alike, the end of "extras" for staff and a long list of efficiencies.

Now, what is on the agenda for this financial year? Well more changes I am afraid including different ways of providing the services. We, the Executive and Conservative group, are exploring several different ways of keeping your tax down again this year.

The Chief Executive of Reigate and Banstead is retiring after 35 years service with this Council after the elections in May. He will be greatly missed as he has so much Borough knowledge. We are now searching for a new Chief Executive, and have a great number of applications. We are sorting through and will make a long list and commence interviewing. It is such an important role that we must be thorough in our interviewing process. This person must take the Borough through the next stage of change. Even after the election, whichever party wins there will be no more money for Surrey! We must manage our budgets, get sharper, more efficient, and totally committed to best value for everything. We have made efficiencies for the past 10 years, so now we are looking at radical change to help us balance our books. WE SHALL MANAGE, I PROMISE.

What will we NOT do:

1. We will not reduce from weekly your collection of food waste.
2. We will help you recycle more
3. We will continue with our improvement programme.
4. We will always reply to your telephone calls, letters and e mails as soon as possible, and we will get answers to your queries.

Keep in touch with us. Tell us what we can do to make life easier.

Joan Spiers and Ros Mill
Borough Councillors

I am pleased to confirm that the Borough Council's Community Awards have been awarded to both the Lower Kingswood Fete (£500) and the 9th Reigate Scout Group (£500) with the latter being for the improvement of the Scout Hut's grounds.

I am also concerned that there have been so many lorries using Josephine Avenue that have since cut up the grass verge on the end of this road. We also have had a lot of concern yet again with residents' parking so close to the end of these roads making it almost impossible to turn into the side road.

I would please ask all that do park as they do to consider that, although we may not like it, vehicle owners need to park more sensibly thus allowing for these lorries to have access to the road. Vehicle owners also need to consider that emergency vehicles (e.g. ambulances, fire engines etc.) and the Borough Council dustcarts also need to have a clear access route.

In the meantime I wish you all a very happy Easter and look forward to the daffodils!

Julie Tomlinson
Borough Councillor

Lower Kingswood **Residents' Association AGM**

Church Hall,
Buckland Road
7:45pm on Tuesday
13th April 2010

Invited guests
include:
Borough & County
Councillors

(NB. This will be preceded by the
AGM of the Village Hall Trust
commencing at 7:30pm)

Kingswood Primary School



I am sure many members of the community will see children cycling, scooting and walking to school on a daily basis. Kingswood has just received the 'Bronze Bike It Award' to show the commitment the school has shown towards sustainable transport. We are one of only six schools in the country with this award!

This term sees some adult learning opportunities being offered to members of the local community. We are hosting an internet course for beginners after school and we hope that it will be both popular and successful. If anyone is interested in finding out more about this course please contact the school.

Duncan Steele
Headteacher

The start of the New Year saw the weather turn colder and snow descend upon the school. Unfortunately we had to close for a couple of days but when the children returned they took part in a snow sculpting contest producing some very creative designs!

Year 5 children enjoyed three busy days at an outdoor centre near Tonbridge Wells participating in a range of activities including rock climbing and dry slope skiing. The whole school took part in an inspiring story telling week in January based around the children's story 'The Little Red Hen'. The work produced by the children was very impressive and our own 'little hen' (Daisy) appeared during the week, courtesy of Annabel from the office.

The Millennium Garden has now been improved and will be opened up for the children to enjoy in the summer term. We are also planning for the village Nursery to be involved with this area of the school so children from both Kingswood and the Nursery can work together to care for and plant herbs and flowers. On the gardening front, our first crop of vegetables should be ready to be harvested in the early summer term!

Polite Notice

On Saturday 19 June 2010 the Kingswood Primary School FPTA will be holding their Annual Summer Ball which is being held in the school grounds from 19:00 till late.

Tickets are still available. For more information please contact the school office.

Many thanks, FPTA Committee

Kingswood Village Hall

Fund

The Trustees wish to remind residents within the Parish of Kingswood the existence of the above fund.

The Kingswood Village Hall Fund is a charitable trust set up in 1964 with a capital sum being the proceeds of the sale of land first purchased with a view to building a village hall in 1938. Time and circumstances changed the original intention and the capital was invested by the Charity Commissioners and a scheme was set up for the administration of the income from this for the benefit of local groups and organisations.

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| CHIPSTEAD | TADWORTH |
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| KINGSWOOD | WALTON-ON-THE-HILL |
| LOWER KINGSWOOD | WOODMANSTERNE |

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LOWER KINGSWOOD BOWLS CLUB



The 2010 outdoor season will soon be upon us and our members would like to extend a warm welcome to anyone who wishes to join us for our first Club Night and Practice evening of the new season on:-

**Tuesday 4th May 2010
(6:00pm for 6:30pm start)**

**At the Recreation Ground, Buckland Road,
Lower Kingswood**

(Beginners are welcome. Please note that you must wear flat shoes on the green although bowls can be borrowed from the Club initially)

Afterwards, why not join us for a chat and a drink at the bar of the local Village Club where drinks can be purchased at reasonable prices.

We are a friendly club, which arranges both informal & league matches against other clubs in the area at weekends and some mid-week afternoons and evenings during the season. In addition, we organise internal competitions between our members.

* * * * *

If you are interested in joining us or would like further details about the Bowling Club please contact the Club Captain

1st Lower Kingswood Brownies

As the snow clears, Brownies have had a busy start to the Spring Term. We have welcomed another two Brownies while two more have made their Promise. Brownies continue to work towards their Adventure 100 badge, in line with the Guiding Centenary Celebrations this year. A number of Brownies have completed the final part of their Seasons badge and all Brownies enjoyed making pancakes (to celebrate Shrove Tuesday) and Valentine's cards. Brownies also enjoyed an exciting visit from Bentley, a Kent Search and Rescue dog. He brought his owner with him who taught us all plenty about the work they do and what we should do if we should ever get lost.

As we head to Easter and lighter evenings, Brownies will be learning about World Thinking Day and Road Safety, as always earning badges as they go.

1st Lower Kingswood Brownies meet on Mondays at The Church Hall, Buckland Road from 5:00pm to 6:30pm.



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The Wisdom of God Church

The Jesus Nut

Dear Friends,

As we have recently been discovering at our joint Lent Study Groups, most helicopters are kept aloft by a single nut or pin that holds the main rotor blade to the mast. Without this component the whole mechanism falls apart, and it happens actually to be called 'The Jesus Nut'. Most people think of religious faith as an optional extra that a few might 'bolt' onto an otherwise ordinary life. In fact, instead of being an extra option on life's menu, faith is the 'Jesus Nut' that holds all of life together. Sometimes we feel that our life is falling apart and that God is inaccessible to us, on the contrary it is then that he is at his nearest and only a prayer away.

*I wish you every blessing,
Garth Barber, Vicar
St. Andrews with the Wisdom of God.*

You are invited to attend the following Spring Events:

Taizé Services Monthly on Sundays at 6:30pm:

- 18th April - St Andrews
- 9th May - Wisdom of God
- 13th June - St Andrews

Holy Week:

- Palm Sunday 28th March
- Holy Communion with Long Gospel 9:30am - Wisdom of God
- 11:00am - St Andrews
- 6:30pm - Devotional Service for Holy Week - St Andrews
- Monday 29th March
- 8:00pm - Compline - St Andrews
- Tuesday 30th March
- 8:00pm - Compline - Wisdom of God
- Wednesday 31st March
- 8:00pm - Compline - St Andrews
- Thursday 1st April
- 8:00pm - Last Supper - Wisdom of God

Good Friday 2nd April
2 hr service 1:00pm to 3:00pm & St Andrews

Saturday 3rd April
8:00pm Service of Light - St Andrew's

Easter Sunday 4th April

9:30am in the Wisdom of God

11:00am in St Andrews

Annual Parochial Church Meeting
Sunday 25th April at 11:00am

Wisdom of God Church, Buckland Road following a Joint Parish Service at 9:30am. Coffee/tea/biscuits. Children will be entertained in the Church Hall.

Ascension Day Thursday 13th May

8:00pm Holy Communion in St Andrews



Churches Together Pentecost Service
6:30pm on Sunday 23rd May
Church of the Good Shepherd, Tadworth.
All welcome.

*Advance Notice:
Parish Fete Sunday 27th June
12:00 noon to 3:00pm in the
Vicarage Garden*

*Information on all Parish Events is available
from our Parish Administrator
Lindsay Cole - telephone: 01737-830167*

Parish Away Day

Worth Abbey, Turners Hill, Crawley
Saturday 22nd May 10:00am to 4:00pm
at Worth Abbey

A very worthwhile opportunity to spend a day with other parishioners and an experienced external facilitator. All welcome.

Art Workshops in St Andrews

Friday 30th April - KEITH MORTON
Portraits from Photos

Friday 28th May - ADRIENNE PARKER
Acrylics

St Andrew's Art Workshops are included in Surrey Open Studios this year and will open to the public Saturday 5th/Sunday 6th June 11:00am to 5:00pm; Thursday 10th, Saturday 12th/Sunday 13th June. Everyone will be very welcome to come and see our work - meet the Artists and see us at work. even have a go.

Friday 25th June - GEOFF THORPE
'Woodland Scene' in mixed media

Friday 23rd July - BRIAN COPPARD
'Animals' in pastels

All courses 10:00am to 3:30pm – cost £25.

Church Hall

There isn't much news from the Church Hall at present. The Hall is available for children's parties and other events.

Please ring Marianne & Laurie Kaye on 01737-832848 for information on booking.

The Christmas concert given by the South London Concert Band, was much enjoyed, but not supported so well this time by local residents. The Band and Hall shared the profits. The Hall Committee are very grateful to Rev Garth Barber and the PCC for allowing The Wisdom of God Church to be used for this event. We thank Margaret Taylor for her generosity with her delicious mince pies once again. Margaret has donated the mince pies for a number of years and has decided that the time has come to retire from this most gratefully received gift.

Once again the Committee thank all those who regularly use the Hall for using it so carefully. The snow in January led to several groups having to cancel meetings, but hopefully all will be well from now on.

Lower Kingswood Evangelical Church

This is the first time that I have written in the *Village News* so let me introduce myself. My name is James Murkett. My wife Eve and I have recently moved into the village to work for the Evangelical Church. Prior to moving to Lower Kingswood we lived in Enfield, North London where I was at a training college for Church leaders. We have enjoyed getting to know some people in the village and have found Lower Kingswood to be a **friendly and welcoming place**. People actually say “hello” to you when you walk past them in the street, which is a bit different from where we used to live!

In the past few weeks as a church we have just celebrated our 87th birthday. It is amazing to think that the Church has existed in the village for that many years. On Saturday 27th February we hosted a special event to explore how the Bible answers the tough questions about suffering in our world. This question is always a challenge to Christian faith, especially in light of the recent earthquake in Haiti. Although the church is 87 years old, **we are passionate about addressing real issues in today’s world** and showing how the Bible helps us understand them.

The verse from the Bible that we are focusing on as a Church for this year is: ‘let us fix our eyes on Jesus’. We believe that the best thing we can do is look to Jesus and focus on him. We be-

lieve that he offers stability in a world of uncertainty and hope in a world of confusion. This is great news for the world we live in where the ‘credit crunch’ threatens much of what we once relied upon and trusted. We have found this to be true for ourselves. Maybe it could be true for you too?

As a church we are excited about the future and are looking forward to all that will happen in the coming months and years. If we can be of help to anyone and can provide spiritual support then just drop into one of our services on Sundays at 10:30am or 6:30pm. Alternatively, you can find us on the internet at www.lkec.org.uk. We look forward to welcoming you!

James Murkett



CAMEO Club—‘Come And Meet Each Other’

CAMEO met on Monday 8th February for the first meeting after the Christmas break. The weather was not good; there were flurries of sleet & now together with a cold wind and we did consider cancelling. However, despite the cold weather over 45 members and visitors came along and enjoyed Mr David Richmond-Coggan (a representative from the Royal National Lifeboat Institution) who gave a most interesting illustrated talk and a film showing details of the real life hazards the crews have to deal with. We were also shown slides of the intense training that

the volunteers undergo enabling them to save many lives.

By the time this issue of *Village News* is published, the March meeting will already have been held when Mr Kilburn will have brought along slides entitled: ‘Sixty Years on Return to China’. Then in April we will have another visit from Molly Toomey who will bring along her ‘Decorated Eggs’.

We meet at the Lower Kingswood Evangelical Church in Smithy Lane, on the second Monday each month at 2:00pm.

Our numbers are continually increasing; if you also would like to come along please contact us for more information. We welcome both men and women of all age groups to our informal meetings, which finish with a light tea followed by a short epilogue. If you are looking to make new friends or renew old acquaintances this is the meeting for you.

Lower Kingswood Strollers

Since the last issue of *Village News* the Strollers could be said to have been idle – because November and January were both “rained off” (although the decision in January was perhaps premature, as the sun appeared just before 2:00pm and proceeded to shine through most of the afternoon!) – or you could say we were conserving our strength! The bottom line is that we have done little strolling as a group, though some of our more hardy folk did venture out independently in January. December is always different, and we greatly enjoyed meeting up for a lunch together, safely sheltered from the snow falling outside!

However, we are strollers. Not hikers or fell walkers, cross country runners or even ramblers, but strollers: and strolling is what we do best. Over the years there are some locations to which we have returned several times. Lower Kingswood can be used as a base for many wanders over Gatwick Farm land, Reigate, Walton and Banstead Heaths, Gatton Park and Banstead Woods are just some of the localities visited several times. We

do try to avoid extreme hills and too many stiles, though we have found that many of the up and over stiles have been replaced by kissing gates – and some even have large gaps in the fence just beside them! Living as we do in such a beautiful area of the Surrey Hills, we do not have to venture far even on strolls starting from the village itself to find relatively unexplored corners – at least by us!

However, for the Spring wanders we are contemplating some new locations which, not being exactly on our doorstep are a short car journey away. Spring is waiting its turn to bloom, and share its wonders with us – and with you as well if you can join us for some gentle exercise in this beautiful part of the world. We usually meet at about 2:00pm on the fourth Monday each month.

Kingswood W.I.

Kingswood Women's Institute was established 79 years ago this March and currently has approximately 30 members. We meet on the second Wednesday of each month at 2:00pm at St Andrew's & The Wisdom of God Church Hall in Buckland Road. Why not come along as a visitor, enjoy the entertainment, a tasty cup of tea and make a few new friends.

Our programme for the next few months is as follows:

14th April - a talk on 'Felons and Fingerprints'

12th May - a lunch followed by W.I. Resolution meeting

9th June - a talk with slides entitled 'The Rocky Mountaineer - Calgary to Vancouver'

14th July - a talk about Rudyard Kipling.

We also organise other group meetings during the month for Crafts, Hand Bell Ringing, Play Reading and Rambles.

We look forward to welcoming you on one or all of the above occasions but, should you require further information, please contact our President or visit our cake stall at the Village Fête.

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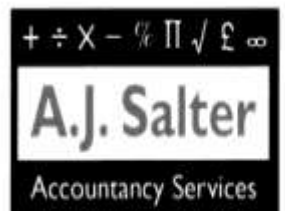
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Kingswood, Walton & Tadworth Horticultural Society

SPRING SHOW

Saturday 10th April – open to the public at 2:00pm at the Church of the Good Shepherd Hall, Tadworth.

A sea of golden daffodils catches your eye as soon as you enter the Hall, but walk on a little further and you'll find the more delicate blooms of hellebores, pansies and violas, vying with tulips, primroses and other Spring flowers for your attention. The nimble-fingered flower arrangers are creating tiny "Arrangements in a sea shell", with "Spring Wedding" and "Yellow, blue and white" sure to be eye-catching.

In the domestic section, those old favourites Marmalade and Cheese Scones will be joined by Victoria Sandwich and decorated Cup Cakes. New at this Show will be the chance to buy either whole cakes or plates of "mixed cake slices" from 4:30pm onwards, so if you're tempted come along and bag a bargain for tea.

The daffodil theme continues in the Photography competition – the subjects being "A Host of Golden Daffodils" and "Spring has Sprung". As always the photography competition is being judged by the public, so remember to bring some small change and cast your vote.

The Craft competition is also being judged by the public – with subjects ranging from Knitting and Needlecraft to Painting/ Drawing, hopefully something will catch your eye.

The Juniors will be busy with vegetable Easter Bunnies and Chocolate-dipped fruit. They'll also be displaying their computer-generated interpretations of "Pond Life".

Members, before you leave, don't forget to pick up your plug plant. Grow it on at home, before bringing it back – dead or alive - to the Summer show in August. Juniors can also take home a packet of seeds to grow.

The raffle, teas and plant sales will all take place as usual.

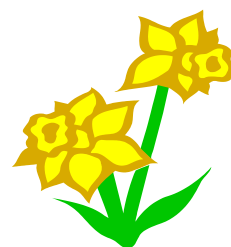
Gardening 'Hints & Tips'

The recent wet and cold weather will have taken its toll on many of the borderline tender plants made so popular by the predictions of global warming. Years ago I was told it would not necessarily mean warmer weather all the time, but definitely extremes. In my own garden I have kept to old fashioned cottage plants and shrubs and, so far, lost very few. There is little to be done outside until the ground dries out and warms up. **Then it's time for an assessment of the winter losses together** with a clean up, turning the top few inches of soil after the compaction caused by snow and rain to let air back in, followed by a top dressing of a general purpose fertiliser such as 'Gromore' or fish, blood & bone. The latter is slow release and will work for several months.

As soon as the soil has warmed up seed potatoes and onions can go in, and then seeds such as parsnips, carrots etc can follow. Early carrots seem to miss the carrot fly that can ruin a later crop, and if your soil is acid top dress with lime for brassicas to avoid club root.

The lawn will have taken a battering too, patches of pale dead grass after the snow are caused by a fungus, and a lot of the goodness will have been leached out of the soil by the rain. Again, wait until the soil has dried out, treading on soggy ground compacts the soil and ruins the aeration so necessary for healthy growth. Once dry - at least not squelching - the lawn can be raked to remove dead grass and debris - a good raking with a spring rake helps aerate it, and is brilliant exercise too! Then the round of feeding and mowing - not too short - can begin.

At present the Allotments shop is still up and running (Sunday mornings from 9:00am to 12 noon in Smithy Close) for your gardening needs and lots of advice.



Lower Kingswood Parent & Toddler Group

It's been a busy time for the Parent & Toddler Group. We had a fantastic Christmas Party, complete with a visit from Father Christmas. This term, we've been enjoying some new toys and a very varied craft table. On April 14th we're holding a Ladies' Night at 8:00pm in the Church Hall to raise money to buy lots of new books for the Group. To purchase brand new crash mats and other equipment we're applying for a local authority grant, so keep your fingers crossed for us! Our little ones will be doing a "Toddle Waddle" for the Meningitis Trust in April, which I hope everyone in the community will support - look out for sponsor forms.

Playgroup is open every Thursday in term time, from 10:00am to 12:00 noon, in the Church Hall on Buckland Road. All children 0-4 years old are welcome to come along and enjoy craft activities, a safe baby zone, 'ride-ons', dressing up, song & story-time and so much more. And for the mums, dads, childminders and grandparents there are plenty of refreshments and lots of chatting! Entry is only £2. Hope to see you there.

Ladies' Night!!

Wednesday 14th April 2010

8pm – 10.30pm

Church Hall, Buckland Road,
Lower Kingswood

A chance to meet up with friends, have a natter, a drink, a boogie, a laugh and do a spot of shopping

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In aid of the Lower Kingswood Parent & Toddler Group

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Bring a bottle & a plate of party food

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Sarah Locke BA Hons
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ARE YOU READY FOR THIS YEAR'S GENERAL ELECTION?

While the date for this year's general election is not (yet) known, Reigate & Banstead Borough Council is urging residents not to wait until the date has been announced before they secure their right to vote.

"The time between the election date being announced and the last chance to register to vote can be a matter of a few days", warns Returning Officer Nigel Clifford. "If you are not on the electoral register, you won't be able to vote."

"Many people assume that they are automatically on the electoral register if they pay council tax or if they have voted before. This is not the case; you need to register every year. And if you have moved house, you need to re-register with your new address."

Registering to vote only takes a few minutes: print off a form from www.reigate-banstead.gov.uk or telephone 01737-276000.

The Returning Officer is also reminding electors who can't access a polling station for the election that they can apply for a postal vote. The deadline for postal vote applications is 5:00pm on 20th April.

"So if you want to vote in the General Election, now's the time to act and make sure nothing stops you."

For further information contact:

Electoral Registration Office, Reigate & Banstead Borough Council, telephone: 01737-276000

Editor's note: - Reigate & Banstead Borough Council have recently agreed a voter engagement strategy, which includes a focus on ensuring that people are registered to vote and have a postal vote if they prefer to vote this way. This is supported by a national campaign by the Electoral Commission.



9th Reigate Scout Group

Lower Kingswood



Another new year and all 3 sections - Beavers, Cubs and Scouts are already well underway with exciting programs of activities. In particular we have some major changes taking place this year in the running of our Scout Troop...

A new programme for our Scout Troop

Dan Daley (known as Baloo to our Cubs), is rejoining our group as an ASL (Assistant Scout Leader). Dan is a fully trained leader who lives in Lower Kingswood and who has in the past helped run our Cub pack. With Dan joining Jon Woodhouse our Scout Leader, and Ian Parfitt our ASL, we will have 3 warranted leaders running the Troop.

In his working life Dan is a well qualified activity instructor, and we are linking our Scout Troop with the many adventurous activities professionally managed by the company that Dan works for. This will be tied in as part of Scouting programmes and structure. The Scouts will be learning exciting new skills, leading to activity qualifications and Scouting awards. Just some of the activities envisaged are: rock climbing, kayaking, skiing / snowboarding, survival skills, camps etc. Later on the Scouts will be able to join in more with more major expeditions including travelling abroad etc.

All our adventurous activities will use fully qualified instructors and will be run with all the necessary safety and insurance requirements in place. To ensure the Scouts behave sensibly themselves they will sign up to a written code of behavior, counter-signed by their parents and the leaders. This policy has been used with other groups of young people and is very clear and effective. Communications for both parents and Scouts regarding activities and events will be greatly improved with extensive use of email and networking sites like Facebook.

One implication of the new programme is that we are moving away from our traditional Friday slot to Monday evenings, partly to keep activity costs low. Our leaders will be making more use of minibus transport, but will still need parents and supporters help to get to and from events.

We strongly encourage parents and other adults to get involved in our new Scout programme, both helping with transport and joining in with the adventurous activities based away from HQ, and helping our Leaders to run our regular Monday meetings at the Hut.



BEAVER SCOUTS are aged 6 to 8. Our Beaver Colony meets Thursday evenings at 5:00pm



CUB SCOUTS are aged 8 to 10½. Our Cub Pack meets Thursday evenings at 6:30pm



SCOUTS are aged 10½ upwards. Our Scout Troop meets Monday evenings at 7:30pm

Our adult volunteers make Scouting happen - why not be one of them? Interested?

Contact:

Mike Buzwell Group Scout Leader - 9th Reigate (Lower Kingswood) Scout Group

Telephone: 0844-414-2215

or email: Scouts9thReigate@live.co.uk

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