

# Village News

Winter Edition 2023  
December 2023

[www.lowerkingswood.co.uk](http://www.lowerkingswood.co.uk)



I'm delighted to welcome you to this Winter Edition and wish all our residents and businesses a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

I would like to start by saying a big thank you to Ian Floyd who is the outgoing Chairman for the LKRA. For the last three years Ian has been instrumental in supporting our residents with many campaigns for the village.

The LKRA has asked that myself and Lindsey Von Backström are to become Acting Chair and Acting Vice Chair respectively until the next AGM where all residents are able to vote or apply for all future positions.

I have many memories of growing up in the village when my parents moved here. The amazing open spaces on the doorstep, the village pubs and even the local video rental shop plus four petrol stations to choose from! I vividly remember the construction of the M25. I will never forget standing on the footbridge that crossed the M25 when this section opened for the first time to traffic. Lots of cars and lorries sounding their horns as they passed by the various bridges where large crowds had gathered with children waving at all the drivers going underneath them.

As the excitement and novelty of that day ended, the realisation and experience of the deafening noise 24 hours a day that kept residents awake for months and even years to come - a time when double glazing windows became an essential item to have in the village.

I moved out of the village in 1993 but my parents stayed, so I was able to visit the village regularly. I fondly remember getting in the car and having the annual trip to the village fete with my children to see so many friends and family and of course entering the dog show which is well known far and wide. I'm so pleased to read that the Village Fete Committee has announced that this flagship event will be going ahead next year.

And then, like the circle of life all these years later, I found myself fortunate enough to be able to move back to the village last year with my family which I hope will now be our final house move. I, therefore, find myself with an interest to give my time back and make a positive difference where I can.

I would like to say a big thank you to our volunteers who deliver our magazine through all weathers especially in these winter months. If you see them out and about, give them a smile, a wave or just say hello as I know they would really appreciate that.

And finally, keep warm, keep safe, check in on your neighbours and celebrate safely.

*Roger Childs Acting Chair Lower Kingswood Residents' Association*

To contact LKRA please use 07942 369478 [info@lowerkingswood.co.uk](mailto:info@lowerkingswood.co.uk) or the website  
Contact Us page on [www.lowerkingswood.co.uk](http://www.lowerkingswood.co.uk)

## Lower Kingswood Residents' Association

Acting Chair	Roger Childs	Dents Grove	Stella Rixon
Acting Vice Chair	Lindsey Von Backström	Greenacres	Belinda Harrington
Secretary	Gill Utting	Greenacres	Nicola Dunstan
Treasurer	Faye Miles	Holly Lodge	Mike Baker
Beechen Lane	Jackie Cox	Mogador	Sarah Lopez
Beechen Lane	Tracy Godwin	Mogador	Susie Homes



Dear Residents

We hope this newsletter finds you well. As we continue to work towards making our community a better place, we would like to remind you of the importance of reporting any defects or issues that you may come across in and around our village with the launch of our “Don’t Walk By” campaign.

# DON'T WALK BY



By reporting any issue, yourselves, you can help us maintain the safety and quality of our community and environment. Please don’t rely on others or think its so obvious that someone else would have reported it.

Its is important that whilst Surrey County Council and Reigate and Banstead Borough Council claim they are committed to ensuring that all reported issues are addressed properly and efficiently. There have been many occasions where councillors have been asked to look into issues such as potholes and road flooding for example where they haven’t been reported through the correct channels and issues tend to get lost or forgotten about which understandably causes frustration to our residents when issues are not resolved when they think they have been reported when if fact they haven’t.

Every time an issue is reported by a resident this is logged, and a unique reference number is then generated. By completing these reports and “not walking on by” the Council and your local council officials become accountable for the action or lack of action which is then taken.

Let’s work together and “Don’t Walk By” and report it. Even if it has been reported by someone else as any duplications show the importance of these issues to residents.

















As you can imagine common examples include broken street furniture, potholes, blocked drains, and excessive weeds to name a few.

So how do you report an issue and who is responsible?

Surrey County Council and Reigate and Banstead Borough Council are separate organisations and as such they have different statutory responsibilities for providing services within the community.

The following table shows items that can be reported through the Surrey County Council Website.

[www.surreycc.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/roadworks-and-maintenance/report-a-highway-problem](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/roadworks-and-maintenance/report-a-highway-problem).

 Potholes and other issues with roads and cycle lanes	 Flooding and blocked drains	 Pavements and kerbs	 Trees, hedges, grass and weeds
 Broken or missing drains or manhole covers	 Roadworks and road closures	 Road markings	 Street lights and other lighting
 Traffic lights	 Obstructions on the road or pavement (e.g. fly tipping)	 Parking	 Road and street name signs
 Street furniture (e.g. pedestrian railings and bins)	 Road safety and school travel	 Gritting and grit bins	 Bridges and structures

As you can see, they are responsible for a range of issues to support a safe community. The website is easy to use and when reporting an issue, you can easily take a photograph at the time and upload these as a picture. What do they say? “A picture is worth a thousand words”.

If you haven't got a camera, that's no problem it's not a requirement and I appreciate that some residents may not be able to access the internet so there is the main contact centre telephone number 03456 009 009 (9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday, excluding bank holidays)

So if the item is not on the Surrey County Council list above, then its more than likely the responsibility will be down to Reigate and Banstead Borough Council

Again, they have a useful website and can be found at:-

[www.reigate-banstead.gov.uk/report-it](http://www.reigate-banstead.gov.uk/report-it)



<b>Abandoned Vehicles</b>	<b>Dead Animals</b>	<b>Fly Tipping</b>	<b>Leaves and Detritus</b>
<b>Litter and Litter Bins</b>	<b>Noise (environment)</b>	<b>Accumulation and deposits of waste materials</b>	<b>Anti-social behaviour</b>
<b>Artificial light</b>	<b>Car Park Faults</b>	<b>Dog -Lost, found or complaint</b>	<b>Dog fouling</b>
<b>Dust and Odour</b>	<b>Filthy and verminous accommodation</b>	<b>Flyposting</b>	<b>Graffiti</b>
<b>Housing Conditions – Private rented accommodation</b>	<b>How's my driving</b>	<b>Needles/Syringes</b>	<b>Park Issue</b>
<b>Pets (rats, mice and Insects)</b>	<b>Recycle Centre</b>	<b>Removal Chewing Gum</b>	<b>Shopping Trolley</b>
<b>Smoke (e.g. bonfires)</b>	<b>Spillage on the road</b>	<b>Street Furniture</b>	<b>Tree Issue</b>

Same principles apply that they have an easy website to use, however again for those residents who don't have access to the internet then they also have their own contact centre on 01737 276 000 which is available Monday to Friday between 10am and 4pm.

Thank you for your cooperation and support with this campaign in keeping our community safe and beautiful, and providing the evidence and audit trails required for our councillors to be accountable for making Lower Kingswood the best place to live and do business.

Remember “Don't Walk By” “Report it”

Yours sincerely

Roger Childs

Acting Chair for LKRA - Working for the residents of Lower Kingswood.



## The Wisdom of God Church

### Christmas Hope

As you open this December issue of the newsletter, the race is on. It's a race to get Christmas cards out and into the post, to buy the presents; to buy food and drink and get it home; to get decorations up around the house. Hundreds of pounds are spent in each household in this annual extravaganza of celebration. For some the supermarkets and high street chains begin to seem like a second home. And no one seems to like the crowds that come out for Christmas shopping.

By this stage you'll probably be having some quite un-Christian thoughts and be veering less towards "goodwill to all" and more towards hoping that you'll have the strength to survive.

But all is not lost! Christmas is really about hope. The first Christians were not very interested in Christmas and celebrating Jesus' birth. They were preoccupied with his return to earth, his second coming. Later, when they realised that the second coming was not going to come so quickly, they turned their minds to celebrating the coming of God to earth in human form, and being born in Bethlehem. At that time they hijacked the pagan festival of the passing of the winter solstice. With the lengthening of the days, they realised, comes hope, just like the birth of a baby, and especially like the birth of Jesus.

It may have been hijacked from a pagan festival, but the time when the days begin to lengthen again is a wonderful time to celebrate the greatest time of hope in the year. For Christmas, with its message of hope, brings the possibility that the world might become a better place; that peace and goodwill to all might abound and that old wrongs might be righted. In spite of the fact that, as the Christmas carol says, "Beneath the angel strain have rolled two thousand years of wrong", we can see the possibility that the injustices that trouble us, the conflicts which concern us and the lack of care for the creation which worry us, might all begin to be changed for the better, if only the spirit of Christmas can live on throughout the year. So, wherever you are in these weeks before Christmas, let hope be at the centre of your celebration of the birth of Christ.

A very happy Christmas to you all.

Rev'd Chris Colton.

## Monthly Coffee Circle

Wednesday:  
November 1<sup>st</sup>  
December 6<sup>th</sup>  
January 3<sup>rd</sup> 2024  
February 7<sup>th</sup>  
March 6<sup>th</sup>  
April 3<sup>rd</sup>  
10.30 am - Noon



The Church Hall

Buckland Road, Lower Kingswood

All Welcome - Free

Coffee/tea and homemade cake

Please contact us if you require transport.  
Carers are welcome when accompanying those they look after.

We are also looking for volunteer drivers.

For more information contact Linda 833779.



## Wisdom Stories at Tea Time



A time for all the family to enjoy some action songs, a bible story and some prayers.

Every Wednesday at 3.30pm  
During term time.

The Wisdom of God Church,  
Buckland Road, Lower Kingswood

Refreshments supplied.  
All welcome

Pick up from Kingswood Primary school available by DBS checked volunteers. Parents can collect from Church at 4.30pm.

Contact: Kate Love 07957 510503. Free of charge.



## **KINGSWOOD PARISH FETE 2023**

### **Raffle prize winners**

**First prize:** £100 cash - Gillian Brice

**Second prize:** £50 voucher for Kingswood Village Store and Post Office - Nick Roberts

**Third prize:** £30 voucher for Lower Kingswood Village Store and Post Office - Nick Roberts

**Other prizes:** Bottle of champagne: - Alexia Hartman

Large potted plant: - Pat Kitchen

Box of seasonal fruit: - Nina Grice

Bottle of brandy: - John Eason

### **A step back in time from Yesteryears**

With our Newsletter moving forward we invite our readers to join us on a trip through time as we share some photos provided by our residents.

Writing an article about the history of the local community of Lower Kingswood can be an interesting and rewarding experience and we would love to see as many photos and memories being shared through these *Yesteryears* pages so that the whole community both young and old can see the changes that have taken place in the village.

Therefore, if you have any interesting photos and have talents as a “Wordsmith” to be able to provide a few lines and these can then be published for the community to enjoy. So start searching through those scrapbooks and putting pen to paper.

Within this edition the following photograph has been provided by resident Sharon Childs.



Dents  
Grove

Scrap  
Merchants

This aerial photograph is believed to be taken around 1978/79 and shows the final stages of Dents Grove being built at the top end of Buckland Road which was a significant development at the time.

Within the photograph you can also see the size and scale of the Scrap Merchants which was located behind The Mint Arms Public House which as we all know today has been redeveloped into Greenacres as it is today.



## Run the Rec 5k

Calling all Santas the 'Run the Rec 5k' event has gone all festive, please join us in your Santa suits on **Sunday 10-December 2023** Arrive at 9am in the **Kingswood Recreation Ground.**



All Santa's are welcome to run, jog or walk, open to adults & children of all abilities and you're welcome to bring your dog.

If you would like to join in the festive fun but not the activity you can help as a volunteer.

**eventbrite** To take part or to help as a volunteer in this event or our future events, please register on via <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/run-the-rec-5k-tickets-573052293837?utm-campaign=social&utm-content=attendeeshare&utm-medium=discovery&utm-term=listing&utm-source=cp&aff=ebdsshcopyurl>

Thanks for your continued support and we look forward to see you at our next event.

*Belinda Harrington & Jackie Cox*  
[lowerkingswoodjoggers@gmail.com](mailto:lowerkingswoodjoggers@gmail.com)

## Update from Cllr Rebecca Paul

### Proposed Expansion of Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Reigate & Banstead has some of the most beautiful countryside in the country. From Reigate Heath to Chipstead Downs, we have an abundance of amazing landscapes and breathtaking views on our door step. And that's why the Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) designation is so important. It protects some of our most naturally beautiful land ensuring that it is conserved for future generations.



And it's for all these reasons that I welcome Natural England's plans to expand the Surrey Hills AONB to protect even more of our local land.

The main changes proposed to the boundary of relevance for Lower Kingswood are as follows:

#### **Headley Hills**

To protect the pastoral and ancient woodland surrounding the village of Headley, the existing border is proposed to extend northwards up to the M25 towards Walton on the Hill taking in the area including Costal Wood, Frith Park and Queens Wood. The boundary expansion is proposed to stop at the M25 leaving Langley Vale and Banstead Heath outside the AONB, largely for reasons of M25 noise.

#### **Chipstead**

To protect the chalk valleys and ancient semi-natural woodland in this area, the existing border is proposed to extend northwards towards the urban fringes of Kingswood and Chipstead taking in part of Lower Kingswood and Banstead Woods.

A public consultation on the proposed changes ran earlier this year, and the responses are still being reviewed by Natural England. One of the concerns raised is that too much onus is placed on 'relative tranquillity' in determining eligible areas, which is especially detrimental for landscapes close to the M25. We should know by the end of this year whether or not Natural England will propose further expansion of the boundary in response to the public consultation.

## Anne Newton



We were very sorry to hear about the death of Anne Newton. For the past 13 years Anne has been LKRA's Independent Examiner of our accounts. She carried out this annual task as a volunteer with a very small token gift. It was not only our financial accounts that Anne examined. The list included WI including the Surrey Federation, Guides and allotment associations. Anne was a Fellow of the Association of Chartered Accountants

Anne lived most of her life in Misburn, Babylon Lane, the house that had been built by her grandfather. Anne's sister Liz & her family lived with her for the last 20 years

LKRA sends its condolences to Anne's family and friends, especially her sister Liz & nephew Nick in particular since the tragic death of Tim.

## LKRA Newsbites

### Relocation of Police public-facing front counter

Reigate Police Station public-facing front counter has been relocated to Caterham Police Station (CR3 6LD). This is due to Reigate Police Station, including the public-facing front counter area being built with Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC). So for health & safety concerns the counter has had to be moved. The counter hours at Caterham will remain the same as at Reigate 08:00 - 22:00 seven days a week excluding Christmas Day.

Reigate & Banstead's local Neighbourhood Policing Teams, who spend much of their time away from the police station patrolling & responding to 999 emergency calls, will remain based at the Reigate Police Station maintaining local policing presence.

### Unwanted items

After our last front page article about the Recycling Centre in Stubbs Lane we were contacted by a resident who informed us that they worked for a company that collects most unwanted household items, that are in good condition, right from people's doorsteps, which would be handy for the elderly or those who don't drive. They also donate a portion to charity for every collection. We were advised that in areas where this is used a lot it has helped to tackle some of the dumping issues. They also collect unwanted electrical items, books and bric-a-brac which a lot of companies don't.

More information can be found on their website

[anglo doorstepcollections.co.uk](http://anglo doorstepcollections.co.uk)

## Kingswood Village Hall Trust



In 2022, the Lower Kingswood Residents Association (LKRA), with some funding contributed by the Kingswood Village Hall Trust, purchased a bench for the recreation ground to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II.

Sadly, very soon after it was installed, the bench was subject to an act of vandalism that left it lying in pieces. Lower Kingswood Residents' Association (LKRA) had hoped that Reigate and Banstead Council may be able to repair the bench and it was duly collected by council employees. The Green Spaces team were unable to do it until they had more staff available. On making a third enquiry as to any progress it was found out that unfortunately, lack of storage facilities and resources meant that the council was unable to carry out the repair and it was disposed of. Fortunately the brass plaque was returned to the LKRA to be put on to another bench.

Recognising that our residents have been deprived of not only a pleasant place to sit but also a commemoration of the Jubilee, we are keen to provide a replacement bench. At a cost of up to £600 for a robust replacement, LKRA is not in a position to fund the total cost of a new bench. We are, therefore, looking to our community, whether individuals or local businesses, to help us raise the funds required or even source a new bench.

If you or your business would be like to contribute to the provision of a new Platinum Jubilee Memorial bench for our recreation ground, please get in touch with LKRA, [info@lowerkingswood.co.uk](mailto:info@lowerkingswood.co.uk)

Or donation cheques can be sent/delivered to LKRA Treasurer,

9 Smithy Lane, Lower Kingswood, KT20 6TZ or donations can be deposited into LKRA's bank account Sort Code **30-98-43**

Account Number **07002366**

Name of Account **Lower Kingswood Residents Association**

We and the community will be delighted to hear from you.

## The Old Pheasantry

The clocks have changed, its much darker in the evenings, Christmas is just a few weeks away, and the Summer is well and truly behind us. The Old Pheasantry has been looking lovely throughout the Autumn (some days, anyway!) and the flora and fauna are settling down for the winter ahead.

But we can't rest.

We have guests coming to stay and enjoy our lovely countryside throughout the next few months and well into next year.

We have just said a fond goodbye to a group from a Special Needs School from a deprived area of London, and last week we entertained children from a school in a Germany, who live in the town twinned with Reigate and Banstead. For obvious reasons, this is the first time in a few years they've been able to come and they had a fantastic time.

Meanwhile we have some great volunteers who come to help and work continues on making the old Paddock area into a Wildlife and Nature area, open to the community and guests at the house.

We continue to plant new shrubs and saplings, and of course if you have any small trees or shrubs that you no longer need-especially the flowering kind, we can find a place for them.

We have a new pond in the wildlife area, and in the next month or so will repair the roof of the old stable and put in in new guttering/downpipes, which will go to new water butts and then a pipeline to the pond.

We already see Badgers, Foxes, Deer, etc, in the area and once everything is established we hope it will become a very useful 'community area' for our wildlife.

We are really grateful to SESWater for a generous grant which helps fund this work.

If you want to have a look around and see what we do, please send us a message.

[oldpheasantry@btconnect.com](mailto:oldpheasantry@btconnect.com)

Best wishes,

*The Trustees.*



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Lower Kingswood, Surrey,  
KT20 6SY



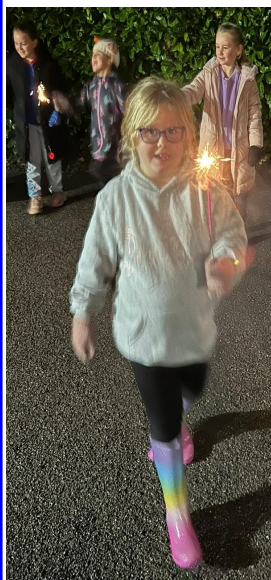


## Girlguiding

"The village Guides and Brownies joined together to have a bonfire but for the second year running the rain sadly put a stop to having it outside. We had been invited to go to the Old Pheasantry but because of the rain we rapidly organised it in the Church Hall with some quick improvisation. We have a small electric red glow camp fire, turned almost all the lights out



and we used our imagination to think we were out in the open with the lovely smell of a wood fire! We had a fantastic time and it was great to see so many having fun first of all with the parachute then having a proper camp fire sing song with Camp Fire's Burning, some action songs which the girls taught the Leaders and especially Jenny Bass who is the supremo with camp songs and really getting everyone involved. More imagination needed to think we were round the fire whilst eating sausages with buckets of tomato ketchup and, would you believe it, mayonnaise. After this it was outside to the car park and lots of sparklers. Finally coming back indoors for another riotous game devised by Shaz, our Leader. Time went so quickly and we had all had a fantastic fun evening"



## Lower Kingswood Village Fete

**Bank Holiday Monday 6th May 2024**

We are thrilled to confirm that, following a successful introduction meeting with lots of new volunteers, the 2024 fete will go ahead....and the planning has begun!

Thank you to all of the new friendly faces who joined the committee to ensure that there is enough support to plan and run the fete. We are always happy for even more new faces to join us too.

We are delighted to have appointed a new chair team (Bob & Jeff) and are sure that the next 7 months of planning will be a success.

Save the date in your diaries now please:  
Bank Holiday Monday 6th May 2024

The 2024 theme will be : "Traditional May Fair"



For all vaccinated puppies under 20 weeks of age!



## PUPPY TRAINING

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Amanda Childs  
APDT Member (#01379)  
ABTC Registered Animal Training Instructor

## 9<sup>th</sup> (Reigate) Lower Kingswood Scout Group

[www.9thReigate.org.uk](http://www.9thReigate.org.uk)



We have come back to another exciting term of activities. As the evenings get darker, we are taking the opportunity to do some indoor activities and complete some of our badges.

The Beavers have been learning about friendship and the green cross code building up to a chip shop hike to the chip shop in Tadworth where a leader was waiting with chips, which were thoroughly enjoyed by all! The Cubs programme this term has been focused on practising and racing with the push-karts and also making parachutes for their teddy bears as part of the air badge!

Both Beavers and Cubs recently heard from Thomas and Marcus' unique and interesting trip over the summer to the World Scout Jamboree in South Korea, where we got to hear what they got up to and got to try some authentic South Korean food.

We are searching for an enthusiastic individual or team of individuals to drive the group forward as Group Scout Leader. There is no weekly commitment or past scouting experience required for this, just a willingness to lead other adult volunteers. It is easier than you think, and full support and training is provided. If you've managed or currently manage people at work or in life - then you might be just who we are looking for!

If you have children who would like to join in the adventures:

Visit [9threigate.org.uk/join](http://9threigate.org.uk/join) or [joinus@9threigate.org.uk](mailto:joinus@9threigate.org.uk)

Beavers (6-8 years) – Thursdays 5.15pm – 6.15pm Rachel Thornhill 07855 388693

Cubs (8–10 ½ years) – Thursdays 6.30pm – 8.00pm Claire Butler 07711 574184

Scouts and Adults (10 ½ years onwards) – 01737 632115

**Did you know there is a 20 acre farm in Lower Kingswood which is also mobile  
Parties, schools, care homes, fetes, and much more**

**Appointment only**

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Lower Kingswood

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## Grassland management on the Banstead Commons

The UK has lost 97% of its wildflower meadows since the second world war. We are proud that Natural England have judged that the grassland areas on the Banstead Commons are in favourable condition. Our dedicated management has enabled rare and vulnerable chalk-loving plants and animals to return and flourish. In particular, butterfly populations across all four sites have increased dramatically this year, despite rather variable summer weather.



Approximately half of the 1350 acres of Banstead Commons is designated "priority" grassland. Two of our chalk downland sites – Banstead Downs and Park Downs - are Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and Banstead Heath is a Site of Nature Conservation Importance (SNCI). This places a legal obligation on the Banstead Commons Conservators to ensure that our management optimises the preservation and enhancement of their ecological health. There are three main techniques that we deploy on the Commons depending on resourcing and the topography of the grassland - essentially "cut and collect", mowing and grazing.



Ideally, we would always use the traditional pre-mechanisation system that led to the creation of the open downland habitat and its unique flora and fauna in the first place. Where timing and resources limit our flexibility and we have to use machinery, we try to do the opposite of what most people are familiar with when you're managing your garden and allotments! The rare plants we are trying to encourage depend on the soil being nutrient-poor because there is less competition from lush and aggressive grasses and other dominant plant species. We must therefore prevent any additional nutrients from returning to the soil so the Conservators use a **Flail Mower Collector** which is similar in principle to your home lawn mower (if you fit the collecting box on the back!). Cut and collecting is time intensive. To get a clean cut the tractor must travel at low speeds, the box gets full very quickly and it has to be emptied frequently well away from where we have mown, to ensure the nutrients don't leach back into the soil. If you spot a large compost pile hiding in the undergrowth on your next walk on the Heath, you will now know why it is there and that its location is not itself a "special" site!

In some areas, we have to use a **Rotary Flail**. We do this most often when managing bracken which, despite being a native plant (with an interesting ecosystem of its own) can become so "invasive" that it crowds and shades out everything else. This method is much faster, and therefore more economical, but it is less helpful to improving the grassland sward because of the "thatch" that gets left behind and adds nutrients to the soil.

Our much-preferred technique is **Conservation Grazing**. This is the most effective form of management for species-rich grasslands because it reflects our heritage that led to this valuable and attractive habitat and preserved it without external intervention until only a few years ago. Banstead Downs and Park Downs have been conservation grazed regularly by sheep for over ten years and this year we are working in collaboration with the Downlands Partnership to introduce a mixed sheep flock to Banstead Downs and goats and sheep to Park Downs. Whilst the animals are working hard to graze the woody scrub and grasses, staff are also kept very busy. Commons Legislation and our Byelaws prevent the installation of permanent fencing and we have a total of six enclosures to erect (and later dismantle) each season to ensure the livestock can be moved to new areas across the sites. We also recruit a team of volunteers to carry out daily checks on the welfare of the livestock and ensure that the perimeter fencing is secure to prevent dogs from entering the enclosures.

The Banstead Common Conservators are looking to recruit new volunteers to help us carry our grassland surveys on our site next year. If you have an interest in botany and would like to get involved, please get in touch to find out more. Training will be provided and no previous experience is required, although a passion for the natural environment and commitment to learn are essential.



Visit our website for more information – [www.bansteadcommons.org.uk](http://www.bansteadcommons.org.uk)

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After our last newsletter a resident kindly sent us this article

## **Memories of Mogador and the High Atlas**

This note is triggered by the recent vivid television coverage of the tragic earthquake in the High Atlas of Morocco.

Why Mogador?

As a child in the 1950s one of my hobbies was literally reading maps, which sounds a bit sad. On the one-inch OS sheet 170, next to my home sheet, I came across the hamlet of Mogador, a name I had seen on old shipping charts in the Greenwich Maritime Museum as a port on the Atlantic coast of north Africa.

I wanted a career connected with communication or measurement. I wanted to get behind the pips which came at regular intervals from the BBC Home Service. I learnt about the BBC Engineering Research Department, & was intrigued to find that their telephone number was Mogador 2361. I decided that I would work there.

When I got a driving licence I decided to make my first trip abroad from Mogador, Surrey to Mogador, Morocco & the High Atlas. I set off from The Sportsman with a copy of their sandwich price list as evidence of my starting point. At that time it cost 58s6d to cross the channel by boat but I flew with the car from Lydd to Le Touquet for 57s6d (just under £3). I reached Spain that evening. In Gibraltar I stocked up with essentials in Lipton's before crossing continents. I collected my mail poste restante at the Post Office, as this seemed to be the thing to do when abroad. To avoid dependence on Spain fresh water was collected from slopes on the side of the rock, & some places had three water taps, hot, cold & sea.

Arrival in Africa felt like entry to the land of the bible, with men wandering about in djellabas & road signs in Arabic script. When I arrived in Mogador I decided to pitch my tent in the Police Station car park for safety. Mogador harbour was heavily fortified & had been used by Portuguese pirates as a base for attacking passing ships. Fishing was now the main activity. At the time I was there the name was being changed to Essaouira, but I found a postcard of Mogador, Maroc (port de pêche) which I posted to The Sportsman. Salesmen plied me with mint tea. I resisted buying a marquetry table for about £12 ('we will deliver it to you') but I bought a wooden box with a secret opening mechanism as a souvenir. While writing this note I learnt from the internet that the name Mogador still applies to an offshore island, which is designated under Islamic rules as a place of quarantine for pilgrims returning by boat from the hajj.

I went on to Ouarzazate on the edge of the Sahara desert via a very rough route across the High Atlas mountains. No buildings could be seen but young children would appear from nowhere at the roadside offering pieces of rock with crystals growing inside. At one point I was alarmed to see the fuel gauge steadily falling towards zero. I looked under the car to see a neat column of fuel falling onto the ground. The drain plug of the petrol tank had sheared off. I whittled the conical ribbed plastic cap of a toothpaste tube & threaded it into the drain hole. I had a five-litre can of Beryl (the brand name of the local petrol). I tried every BMC dealer on my return journey but this fix lasted until I finally found a new drain plug at Caffyns in Eastbourne.

Within a month of my return to the UK, & with fewer than 4000 miles on the clock, the car was in head-on collision in Riverhill with a car driven by an unlicensed driver who had stolen it outside a pub. I kept my registration number & the wreck was written off as JNJ 999D. The other driver was disqualified from driving for three years starting if/when he was eligible to apply for a licence.

I worked at BBC Research Department for 26 years. I bought my boss's house when he retired so I could walk to work. It gave me a Mogador telephone number, but I would have preferred the number 2307 so that I could be called by dialling MOGADOR.

*John Chambers*

Photo on a page from 'Car Number Galaxy'  
The writer at the high point of the journey



Postcard - Mogador(Maroc)  
port de pêche

# **Kingswood Terrier Football Club**

## **Kingswood Ladies**

Our Ladies teams have had a busy start to the season with league and friendly games, as well as tournaments. Originally the teams played 7 v 7 but as clubs have attracted more players the league is now offering 11 v 11 - another exciting opportunity and a learning curve for some.



With over 35 enthusiastic ladies wanting to play recreational football, we have also signed up to Sussex FA league to give players as many opportunities to play as possible.



Thank you to Graeme Knibbs for attending our latest league matches to take photos and here are just a few.

If you want to play for fun, try football for the first time or are returning to the game, please contact us and come try out a free session.

## **Our Youth Teams**

Kingswood TFC has had a great start to the season with teams across all age groups playing in the Epsom & Ewell league, Surrey Primary league and Surrey Youth league.



For the first time in the club's history we have u18 teams. Our Blue team who plays on Saturdays and our Black team who plays on Sundays include many players that joined the club from 7 years old. We are delighted as a club to retain players for this length of time and be part of their football journey.

We are always looking for players and volunteers, to find out more or contact us please visit our website

<https://www.kingswoodtfc.co.uk>





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LOWER KINGSWOOD SOCIAL CLUB. (CIU AFFILIATED)  
BUCKLAND ROAD, LOWER KINGSWOOD



A warm welcome to Lower Kingswood Social Club.  
We have 2 fully stocked bars, with below Pub prices.  
Both bars are Fully Air Conditioned.  
3 TV's & a Big Screen offering FULL SKY & TNT Sports.  
Large seating area in the main bar area and a spacious  
Function Room. Function room can be Hired for Private Use.  
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Tues--3pm-11pm  
Weds--3pm-11pm  
Thurs--3pm-11pm  
Fri--3pm-11-30pm  
Sat--12noon-11.30pm  
Sun--12noon-10.30pm

Contact by phone on 01737 832609  
Email [secretarylksc@gmail.com](mailto:secretarylksc@gmail.com)  
Or find us on Facebook

New Members Welcome.  
Well Behaved Children and  
Dogs Also Welcome!



*The Lower Kingswood Residents Winter 2023 Newsletter is produced by volunteers and has a distribution of approximately 1,250. All articles in the newsletter are submitted by the contributors & are not necessarily the view of the Lower Kingswood Residents' Association.*

### **Useful Contact Details**

**Lower Kingswood Residents' Association**  
07942 369478

[info@lowerkingswood.co.uk](mailto:info@lowerkingswood.co.uk)

**Church Hall hire**  
Bookings: 07434 864772

[hall@parishofkingswood.org.uk](mailto:hall@parishofkingswood.org.uk)

**Mugswell Village Hall hire**  
Claire Terry [claireterry1@gmail.com](mailto:claireterry1@gmail.com)

**Church of The Wisdom of God**  
Rev'd Christine Colton 01737-241161  
[vicar@parishofkingswood.org.uk](mailto:vicar@parishofkingswood.org.uk)

**Baptist Church, Smithy Lane**  
Danny Ahir 01737 448012

**Member of Parliament**  
Mr. Crispin Blunt 0207-219-2254 or 07921-039891

**Reigate Town Hall/Joint Enforcement Team**  
JET team: 01737-276300 or 01737276000

**Surrey Police** 101  
[www.surrey.police.uk/contactus](http://www.surrey.police.uk/contactus)

**Citizens Advice Bureau** 0808 278 7945



JOIN US

for stress-free stretching, movement,  
music and fun

Mondays at 7.30 — 8.30pm  
Lower Kingswood Church Hall, Buckland Road,  
Lower Kingswood, KT20 7DN

For more details, contact Kim on 07768 736418  
*Suitable for all abilities*

### **Village Contacts, Meetings & Events**

#### **VILLAGE CONTACTS, MEETINGS & EVENTS**

**Baby & Toddler Group** – Meet in the Church Hall, Buckland Road on Thursdays 10am-11.30am during term time. £3.00 contribution

Contact: Lyn or Chris; email: [lowerkingswoodbabyandtoddler@gmail.com](mailto:lowerkingswoodbabyandtoddler@gmail.com)

**Rainbows** – Meet in the Church Hall Thursdays, 5.00-6.00pm during term time. Age range 5-7 years Contact: Jane Cramp, 01737 351033; email: [crampjane@aol.com](mailto:crampjane@aol.com)

**Brownies** – Meet in the Church Hall Mondays, 5.00-6.30pm during term time. Age range 7-10 years. Contact: Jane Cramp, 01737 351033; email: [crampjane@aol.com](mailto:crampjane@aol.com)

**Guides** – Meet in the Church Hall Fridays, 6.30-8.15pm during term time. Age range 10-14 years. Contact: Shaz Brown, 07753801171; email: [lkguides@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:lkguides@hotmail.co.uk)

**Beavers** – Meet in the Scout Hut, Buckland Road Thursdays, 5.15-6.15pm during term time. Age range 6 & 7 years. Contact: Rachel Thornhill 07855 388693

**Cubs** - Meet in the Scout Hut, Thursdays, 6.30-8.00pm during term time. Age range 8-10½ years. Contact: Claire Butler 07711 574184

**Enquiries about Adults or Scouts** – Age range 10½-14 years  
Contact: 01737 632115 ; [9threigate.org.uk/join](http://9threigate.org.uk/join), or [joinus@9threigate.org.uk](mailto:joinus@9threigate.org.uk)

**Kingswood Terriers Football Club** – several teams play in local Leagues  
Contact: Rowan Cox 07795 106257; [www.myclubhouse.co.uk/kingswoodtfc](http://www.myclubhouse.co.uk/kingswoodtfc)

**Kingswood WI** – Meet in the Church Hall, second Wednesday of each month from 2.15pm.  
Contact: Eleanor Dearn, 01737 241491; email: [eleanordearn@outlook.com](mailto:eleanordearn@outlook.com)

**Allotments & Garden Society Shop at Tattenham Way.** Open Sunday mornings 9 am-12noon all year for all your gardening needs. Contact: John Rowland 01737 813332

## LKRA Newsbites



### Poppies

At the end of October a group of Lower Kingswood Residents' Association (LKRA) Committee members & local residents installed the poppies on the lampposts around the village especially the A217 through the village, together with part of Chipstead Lane and Buckland Road. We really appreciate the positive feedback we've received from local residents.



LKRA was also represented at the large Banstead



Remembrance Sunday Parade



Photos of Remembrance Sunday at the war memorial in front of St Andrew's Church



### Postbox Topper

Our talented local people have been hard at work again and created this fabulous Remembrance Postbox Topper. They are looking for more local knitters to join them knitting some of the parts of future Toppers. If this is you please contact LKRA with your contact details.



### Christmas Trees

By the time you read this newsletter the LKRA Christmas Trees will be up or going up in the village. We hope you all enjoy them. The LKRA committee hope you and yours enjoy the Festive Season.

### Reigate & Banstead Borough Council Town Hall

RBBC Town Hall is now open  
Monday to Thursday 9am - 5pm  
Friday 9am - 4.45pm  
They use to shut at 2pm

Lower Kingswood Community Association

# Santas' Grotto

With Santas' shetland ponies in attendance  
11am-2pm

THE SPORTSMAN PUB  
THE LOWER KINGSWOOD RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION  
KINGSWOOD & FRIENDS

## Saturday 9th December

**Tickets Free of charge**  
donations welcome / Gift for each child  
**Venue**  
The Sportsman Pub Mogador Road, Lower Kingswood, Surrey, KT20 7BS  
**Tickets: [redcarpetentertainments.co.uk](http://redcarpetentertainments.co.uk)**

## Community Santas Grotto with Santas' ponies and helpers.

Santas is leaving the North Pole and coming to Lower Kingswood to visit the local children and he is bringing his ponies and elves.

This will be a free event for the children of the community of Lower Kingswood. Any donations are voluntary and will go back into the pot for another community event sometime in the future.

We have 50 free tickets available. LKRA are happy to announce that we are sponsoring a small gift for every child.

There will be raffle tickets for sale and drawn on the day by Cllr. Humphreys the Mayor of Reigate and Banstead.

A fun-filled community event in line with the theme of 'Togetherness' championed by the Mayor this year.

*We very much appreciate the support of our advertisers but their appearance in our newsletter/ website does not constitute a recommendation.*

*We should also like to take the opportunity of thanking Fidelity International for their continued assistance in the printing of Village News.*