

Kingsbury Informed

The Youth Club and Sport's Hall

Following on from our August Newsletter, as noted, On Tuesday 18th July 2023, Kingsbury Sports and Community Centre; formally named Kingsbury Community and Youth Club, celebrated its 50th Birthday. To mark history this Carole Haines and members of the Kingsbury History Society has shared a story and pictures—Thank you, and here's to the next 50 years...

The first Youth Club was started by Jack Sales in 1937 and was held in the Methodist Church with dances in the village hall. By 1965 a purpose-built Youth Centre was opened on land behind Pear Tree Terrace and was managed by the Coal Industry Social Welfare Organisation. Although plans had been put into effect by Atherstone Rural District Council to buy some land from the Youth Centre for the redevelopment of Kingsbury, they did not materialise because the Youth Council had plans of their own. A grant of £14,500 was obtained from selling the land and this was put towards the estimated cost of £20,000 needed for a new Sport's extension. In 1972 Warwickshire Education Authority and Atherstone Rural District Council provided the shortfall and the building was constructed by T.C.Hilton Ltd with some help by the Youth Club members.



On Wednesday July 18th 1973 HRH the Duke of Edinburgh, came to Kingsbury by helicopter to open the new Sports Hall at the end of a 'whistle-stop' tour of North Warwickshire. He had been invited to come by two of the trustees who got in touch with the Lord Lieutenant of Warwick. He is the only known royal visitor ever to have come to the village and over a thousand villagers turned out to welcome him. He chatted to the public before meeting Alderman Peter Barlow and his wife Peggy for the unveiling ceremony.



Inside the hall, Prince Phillip was entertained by pupils from Kingsbury High School who showed off their skills at basketball, hockey, football, netball, badminton, volleyball, weight lifting, high jump, table tennis and judo. He was most impressed with the building, stating that it was, 'a splendid job for a small village' and he felt sure the villagers would appreciate what had been done for them. He was also delighted with the reception he received and was told the Duke of Edinburgh Award

scheme was used in the Youth Club when he enquired.

Before he left the Duke suggested to Alderman Barlow that an additional arts centre would widen the complex's use as a leisure facility but unfortunately did not have any suggestions for raising the necessary money needed to do so. He spent an hour in the village before leaving and surprised everyone by flying the helicopter himself and waving to the crowd as he flew over the centre.



A December to Remember Appeal



Following the really positive success of previous appeals, we are once again

hoping to run the 'December to Remember' initiative. We appreciate that the cost of living has impacted on all of us; however, if you are able to donate a toy or gift as part of the appeal we would be extremely grateful.

Given our experiences of running this initiative for a number of years, we would politely request that only **new and/or unused** items are donated. There will be four drop-off boxes situated in our local shops and pubs. We will then collect all donations, wrap them and deliver them to local children and families.

Additionally; should you be able to volunteer some of your valuable time in December, we will be looking for volunteers to assist in wrapping the gifts, and will provide more detail about this closer to the time.





Parish Council News

Recreation Ground

Kingsbury has been experiencing a lot of anti-social behaviour in recent months, something the police are attempting to deal with. The play equipment at the Coventry Road recreation ground is amongst the property that has been damaged.



Equipment has been repaired at considerable cost only to be vandalised again soon after. Replacement parts are once more on order for some of the damaged equipment but there is a long delivery

time, and further items have been damaged in the mean time. One option open to the Parish Council is to close the play area and remove the equipment entirely. It will be a great shame if it comes to that as the playground is used responsibly by many local families who derive great enjoyment from it and it seems very unfair that the actions of a few selfish individuals might deprive others of the benefits the playground brings to the community.

Bench

Residents might have noticed a new bench at the location of the bus stop at the end of Mill Crescent. This was installed after councillors Andy Jenns and Debbie Bates were approached by a group of residents who had nowhere to rest their legs when waiting for the bus. The County Council provided the bench on condition that the Parish Council take responsibility for insuring and maintaining it, which Parish Councillors were happy to do. The Parish Council is also responsible for a number of other benches in the village.

"The Smallest act of kindness is worth more than the greatest intention" Oscar Wilde

Indoor Sports Centre Revitalised by Biffa Award



Kingsbury Sports and Community Centre has secured a £56,600 grant from Biffa Award, a multimillion pound fund that helps to build communities and transform lives through awarding grants to communities and environmental projects across England and Northern Ireland as part of the Government's Landfill Communities Fund.

After 50 years of near constant use, the indoor playing surface at the Kingsbury Sports and Community Centre reached the end of its useful life and the centre was facing the prospect of closure. This would have meant the loss of over 2,500 hours per year of sports activity for adults and children, whose lifestyles, physical and mental well-being would have been adversely affected.

In addition, small businesses in the vicinity would have experienced a reduced footfall, and consequently a loss of economic benefits in the community.



The grant, from Biffa Award is for the replacement of the 5,000 sq. ft playing surface, together with the substrate and re-levelling of the concrete base. In addition, layouts for badminton, basketball, netball and football courts amongst others, will also be renewed. The sports hall will be re-opened on 23rd September 2023 by Craig Tracey M.P.

The funding will enable the Kingsbury Charity, which is managed by a committee of volunteers, to continue with its published objective to provide sports and community amenities for the local and wider populace and potentially develop new participation opportunities, in particular for people with disabilities including physical and mental health issues. Over the past 5 years, the charity has undertaken considerable renovation and renewal work, to ensure that the centre continues to provide the amenity for decades into the future.

Jon Crossley, Trustee and project manager said; "We all cheered when we heard that our application for a grant from the Biffa Award scheme had been approved. It means our sports hall will be able to continue providing a venue for all sorts of sporting activities and social functions for the benefit and general wellbeing for the whole community for the foreseeable future. We would also like to add our grateful thanks to ABS computers Ltd of Fazeley for providing a generous donation in order to secure our Biffa Award Grant."

For further information please contact: Mr Jon Crossley, Chairman KSSC Management Committee and Trustee:- kycchair@gmail.com
Mr Ian Jones. Committee member and Trustee :- ianj@kscuk.org or Biffa Award PR & Comms Officer: biffa-award@wildlifetrusts.org



Mill Island

County Councillor Andy Jenns recently met with County Highways officials to discuss possible measures to help tackle the number of road accidents occurring as cars enter the village from the A4097 Mill island. Officers had spent several hours monitoring traffic at the location and in the time they were watching there were no accidents. However, one car, driven by a young female, did seem to momentarily lose some control, an incident which appeared to be due to speed. It was noted that the bend in the road when leaving the island is sharper than might at first be apparent, and also that the growth of roadside vegetation over recent years obscures the forward view of the road at the bend. This was particularly apparent when the current Google Streetview image was compared with those from previous years.

The initial proposal for the island is therefore to clear the overgrown vegetation, place a speed warning sign near the island, and to paint white lining and hatch markings that will encourage a reduction in speed and direct drivers to the safest angle when taking the bend.

Power Boats

The County Council will not be renewing



North Warwickshire
Borough Council

Injunction

In April last year North Warwickshire Borough Council obtained an interim High Court injunction to prevent disruptive and dangerous protests by Just Stop Oil in the area around the Kingsbury oil terminals. A further court hearing is set for November this year, where the Council is seeking to make the interim injunction into a final injunction, and recently Andy Jenns, Debbie Bates, and other Borough councillors have been bombarded with emails from many of

the current lease of the Power Boat Club in Kingsbury Water Park when it finishes at the end of September. The club was given notice in February. The Council's intention is to introduce some non-motorised boating opportunities for visitors and to expand the park's fishing offer. The Sailing Club's lease is to be renewed, while the lease held by Jet Ski Club still has a few more years to run.

Blossom Tree Gone

Residents were greatly saddened when the beautiful cherry blossom tree near the corner of Mill Crescent was cut down. There had been some complaints from people who had walked in to a low branch overhanging the pavement and work to cut back part of that branch had been expected, but it came as a shock when the tree was completely removed.

Unfortunately, on arriving to carry out work on the branch the County Council's Forestry Team discovered decay at the tree base. In some cases it is possible to lessen the weight of a tree by undertaking a crown reduction. However, in this case the decay was quite advanced leading to very little integrity in supporting its overall structure. It would have needed several main limbs to be cut back and the amount of pruning would have been detrimental to the health of the tree. In addition there was a longitude split within the main fork and the Agricultural Manager had no choice but to condemn the tree. A large hole in the remaining stump is evidence of the basal decay that had been observed. County Councillor Andy Jenns has been given an assurance that a replacement tree will be planted.

those named in the injunction, asking for it to be dropped. That's unlikely to happen as the Council applied for the injunction due to serious concerns about the safety of the site, which is one of the most hazardous in the Borough. The Council has a legal duty to do all it can to avoid dangerous incidents and the injunction was obtained because of concerns for the safety of those in the vicinity of the site as well as the local disruption and the possible environmental consequences. It had nothing to do with the Council's views on climate change. The application, and the judgment of the Court, made it clear that the Council had carefully balanced these safety issues with the rights of individuals to protest lawfully.

You Said, We Did...

Councillors

Our local Borough council is one of the smallest in the country, serving a population of not much more than 60,000 residents. It operates with traditional committees rather than the type of cabinet system now used by many larger councils. There are 35 Borough councillors and Kingsbury is represented by two of them, Andy Jenns and Debbie Bates. They hold a monthly surgery which takes place between 7.30 pm and 8.30 pm on the last Friday of each month, at the Community Centre in Pear Tree Avenue.

Fly Tipping

We have continued to receive reports of Fly-Tipping by residents leaving unwanted household items; such as fridge freezers on public pathways. As previously noted the illegal dumping of waste, or fly tipping will lead to prosecution and fines.

To prevent this; and to reduce time and cost to the council, please use the bulky waste disposal service for a small charge; £29 for up to five items, £6 for each additional item (maximum three). Please visit: www.northwarks.gov.uk - Bulky Collections.



Jigsaw Library

Did you know that Kingsbury has a free jigsaw library?

It operates at the old stables building in the grounds of Kingsbury church on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month from 11.00 am to 1.00 pm. The organiser, Carol Young, is grateful to all those who have donated puzzles but as the library now has over 200 and storage space is limited she is unable to take any more at the moment.

Useful Contact Details:

Warwickshire Police:

- nwe.snt@warwickshire.police.uk
- www.warwickshireconnected.com

North Warwickshire Borough Council:

- Phone - (01827) 715341
- Email - customerservices@northwarks.gov.uk
- Website - (Main Home Page) www.northwarks.gov.uk

Kingsbury Parish Council:

- Email - clerk@kingsbury-pc.gov.uk or kingsburypc@outlook.com
- Website - www.kingsbury-pc.gov.uk

Local Facilities & Services:

- Pear Tree Surgery - 01827 872 755
- Lloyds Pharmacy - 01827 874 927
- Kingsbury Water Park - 01827 872 660
- Kingsbury Sports & Community Centre - Email: enquiries@kscuk.org or Telephone: 01827 872 330
- Kingsbury Methodist Church - Email: info.kingsburymethodist@gmail.com
- Cliff Lakes - Call or email on 01827 230 656 / hello@cliffakes.co.uk
- Samaritans - Telephone: 116 123
- Warwickshire County Council - Mental Health and Wellbeing: www.warwickshire.gov.uk/mentalhealth
- North Warwickshire Citizens Advice - Website: <http://www.nwcab.org.uk> Email: advice@nwcab.org.uk or Telephone: 0808 250 5715

What's On...



* There are a variety of clubs and social activities throughout the week for all ages and abilities, for full details email: ianj@kscuk.org



* **Kingsbury History Society** - To research and record the history of Kingsbury and its environs. Email carole.haines92@btinternet.com.

* **Coffee Morning** every **Tuesday 11:00 - 13:00** (Welcome Hall rear of the Methodist Church).



* Kingsbury Leisure Centre, located within Kingsbury School. Enquiries to: **01827 875 501 or Kingsburylesure@castlephoenixtrust.org.uk**



* Do you want to make new friends and help support our local 'Clean-Up Group' along the way? Why not join our litter pick group. If you could spare some of your valuable time please email debbie.bates7@icloud.com.



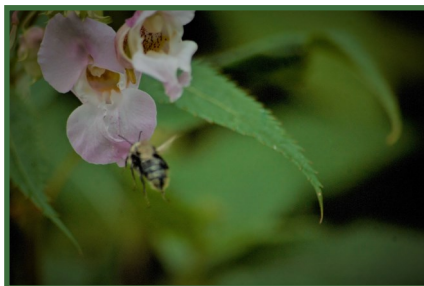
* Do you enjoy knitting or crochet, or would you just like to have a cupper and chat. If so why not join the **Knit and Natter** group at Jubilee Court every Monday @10:30am, just £1.50 with Tea/Coffee, biscuits and great company.

History Society Anniversary Tea

Members of Kingsbury History Society do more than research local history and meet for historical talks. They also visit places of interest and recently members gathered to enjoy a delicious Sunday afternoon tea at Planters Garden Centre, an event held to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the group's founding. Folders showing highlights of the Society's four decades of activity were on display and one of only a handful of the remaining founding members, Dave Hampson, paid tribute to the fantastic efforts of Carole Haines in establishing the group back in 1983 along with her friend Pam Page, and for growing and leading it over the years. New members are always welcome and anyone interested in knowing more can contact Carole by email at carole.haines92@btinternet.com

Through The Eye of A Lense.

Taken by: Mark Hayes



Get In Touch:

Do you have a news story you would like to share or a community event, if so drop us an email for consideration in our next Newsletter.

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