June 2020

Kingsbury Good Neighbour Newsletter

A Message from Kingsbury Good Neighbour

With support from our volunteer William and sponsorship from Ocado Foundation, we are absolutely delighted that we have been able to produce our second Newsletter, which we hope you will all find informative and useful.

The reason behind producing these Newsletters, and why our wonderful volunteers hand deliver them to every household in the village, is to enable us to reach every member of our community; in particular, those who do not have access to Social Media and/or the internet, to ensure everyone can access information and support available. With this in mind, we would like to ascertain if you would like the Newsletter to continue in the future, if so, what would you like us to include? Please email us your thoughts to enable us to make a decision and plan going forward.

Just like the majority of our Volunteers, we know that many people are slowly returning to work, and some children are returning to school; however, please be assured we will continue to offer our support for as long as we can; as we really are all in this together. If you need us; we are available 7-days a week from 10am till 4pm. Telephone - 07990 154 743, Email - kingsbury.goodneighbour@btinternet.com or our Facebook Page - *Kingsbury COVID-19 Good Neighbours Group* ***Debbie***

Inspired by Captain Tom



Gemma James from The Royal Oak wrote to tell us about the wonderful efforts of Roxy, Roxy has been doing cartwheels since the start of the lockdown to raise money for the NHS. Roxy has committed to doing 30 cartwheels every day until she goes back to school. Initially Roxy's target was £100, however she has exceeded this by raising £1,049.00 to date. Gemma, who is a close friend of Roxy's mother Sam said " we are all so proud of her, with mom and dad gleaming with pride, she is only 8 years old and wanted to do something like Captain Tom to help raise money and help as many people as possible". Well done Roxy! *To donate, go to Roxy's Just Giving Page: https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/samantha-kate-morton.*

Kingsbury Methodist Community Cafe

Unfortunately our Community Cafe has been unable to operate during COVID 19. Alongside providing food, the cafe also offers an opportunity to swap/take books, a need identified when the library closed as many people were unable to physically access the mobile library.
We have been able to continue providing books safely outside on the church drive, whereby we crated them to ensure they could be viewed easily. Disinfectant wipes, gloves and hand sanitiser were provided and social distancing maintained at all times. It has been good to meet many new people, some we see regularly. One man called in every week before shopping for his mother. He said she was very pleased to have some different books to read are looking forward to visiting when we are able to open again.

It has been good to be able to meet a community need during a difficult time and have time to listen. The church building may be closed but we are still able to demonstrate the love of God. ***Diane.***

VE Celebrations



Pictured centre top row, 89 year old Ronnie Yates loves nothing more than putting his blazer on with his medals. He has stayed in isolation for the last 12 weeks, which he has found very lonely at times. During the VE Celebrations we were all able to celebrate together; whilst following social distancing measures, by having a wonderful street party. Ronnie did his National service and is very patriotic, an opportunity none of us could miss to thank him and fellow service men and woman. ***Karla Pratt***

Thank You From Kim Ricketts

As a family we would like to thank Alan Pearce for organising all of Micks friends/neighbours to line the streets in the village to pay their respects to my husband Michael Ricketts on the day of his funeral on 20/4/2020.

It meant a lot to the family, as we couldn't give Mick the funeral he deserved because of the lock down. The family were so touched by this and would like to thank Kingsbury for what they did.

Making New and Long-lasting Friendships

For many of us during lockdown we have had to find new ways of keeping in touch with our family and friends, through using and learning many different ways of communicating; such as Zoom, Teams and other social media platforms.

For some however, the good 'old fashioned' method of putting pen to paper has also been reignited, as demonstrated by Lia and Elsie who became Pen-Pals.

Martina; Elsie's mother, said "a family friend asked would anyone like a Pen-Pal, Lia and Elsie had only ever met when they were babies and they both loved the idea".

Elsie explained that she was so happy writing the letter's and said "I can not wait to see her again, we are going to have great fun" with Lia echoing similar words including "we will be best friends forever". It is so lovely to hear you have formed a fabulous new friendship during such a difficult time.



Lia and Elsie who have finally been able to meet again; at a distance, following the lift of some of the restrictions.

Kingsbury and Baxterley Group of Churches

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND BIRMINGHAM

Group of Parish Churches

The Church buildings are still closed for now...

...but the Church is open!

The work, worship and prayer of the churches in the Kingsbury and Baxterley Group of Parishes is continuing, but in new ways.

Kingsbury and Baxterley Churches Online

For the latest news, services, videos and reflections

find us at www.facebook.com/kingbaxgroup.org.uk

or on the parish website www.kingbaxgroup.org.uk

No internet? **No problem!**

Dial a Sermon

To listen to a recorded reflection and prayer from one of the ministers in the Kingsbury and Baxterley Group of Churches, just call this number:

01827 211 125

Your call will cost the same as to any other 01827 number.

If you would like to talk personally to a minister, call Revd John on **01827 874252.**

Kingsbury Community and Youth Centre update

We are, as always, following Government guidelines and remain closed. We do however anticipate, as further relaxations continue of the lockdown, that we may be included and be able to open our doors again to the Community.

Whilst we have not had any official communication from the Government/Local Authority as to how we can open and what restrictions may be required, we have been observing various other groups which have been allowed to open and are currently drafting an "expected" list of Actions that will enable us to open. This will always be in the interests of keeping our community safe, while allowing us all to pursue our favourite pass times.

Hopefully being prepared will enable us to open as soon as the green light is given.

In Addition, we are still looking for active individuals within the village to help us progress in delivering a service which fits the needs of the community.

If anybody is interested in joining our team of volunteers you can inquire via our Facebook page (Search-Kingsbury Community and Youth Centre). Or you can email us at Enquiries@kcyc.org.uk

We Look forwards to seeing you all soon.

Ian Andrew (Management Committee Member)

An Update From Cllr Andy Jenns & Cllr Brian Moss

North Warwickshire Borough Council

Village Notice Board: The Parish Council has obtained funding to erect a Kingsbury Village Notice Board and has permission from the Borough Council to install it near the Jubilee Court shops.

Community Grants Fund: The Borough Council has a established a one-off Community Fund using some previously ear-marked reserve funds which had not been spent. The money will now be used to provide small grants to support projects in local communities across North Warwickshire. Councillor Brian Moss and I want to make sure Kingsbury benefits from its fair share of the money, so would like to hear from local groups with projects in mind. For more information please email me at Andy.Jenns@aol.co.uk

In Touch: Councillor Brian Moss and I like to deliver a regular "In Touch" leaflet to local residents. We had the latest one ready just as the lock-down was announced but decided it would be best not to distribute it at this time.

Planning Appeal: The Independent Planning Inspectorate has considered an appeal against the Borough Council's refusal of planning permission for the dwelling in Cliff known as "The Willows". The Inspector has upheld the Council's decision which was made on green belt grounds.

Meetings: April and May's Parish Council meetings were cancelled due to the Coronavirus situation, but the Parish Clerk and Councillors have been keeping in touch by holding a weekly catch-up on Zoom. A short formal meeting, using Zoom, will be held in June to approve the annual accounts; members of the public can join this if they wish.

Councillor Surgery: The monthly surgery Councillor Brian Moss and I hold at the Welcome Hall has been suspended since the start of lock-down. We look forward to being able to start the surgeries again as soon as possible, but until then we can be contacted by phone, email or through the Borough Council website about any local concerns or council-related personal matters.

HS2: For the latest Community Engagement report. Go to: www.hs2.org.uk/documents/community-engagement-progress-report-July-to-December-2019/

Spreading a Little Bit of Cheer

At the beginning of May; following an inspirational idea from one of our volunteers Clare, we set about to spread a little bit of cheer to our fellow neighbours. With support from other members of our team; along with Kingsbury Junior and Infant School and Kingsbury High School, we placed two brightly decorated 'Drop-Boxes' outside each school, for members of Kingsbury Village to post pictures, messages and poems, for us to distribute to fellow members of our community.

It is clear that so much thought, time, care and attention was put in by all involved, and with the support from our volunteers, Revd Dr John White and Revd Stephen Froggatt, all contributions where distributed and greatly appreciated.

Here are a selection of messages we received: "Please thank everyone involved, particularly those children at Kingsbury Primary School for this fantastic effort. It means a lot and I will display it in my window". (Michael Overs), Rita and Allan Smith "Thank you Eric from Kingsbury School who drew a lovely tulip for us it gave me such a warm feeling from such a small child" and Pauline Rollings who emailed us to say; "Thank you for delivering the card., it was lovely. Thank you to all of you for everything, much appreciated".

Well done to everyone who got involved and **THANK YOU!**



"The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members" Coretta Scott King

Kingsbury Parish Council Press Release

Kingsbury Parish Council has called on Warwickshire County Council to urgently reconsider its policy of limiting parking spaces at Kingsbury Water Park and requiring visitors arriving by car to pre-book a space.

Parish Clerk, Sue Humphries, said "Some visitors to the Park have always chosen to leave their cars on local roads, sometimes in dangerous positions, in order to avoid the car park fee, but the Parish Councillors are concerned that since the County Council decided to limit parking during the Coronavirus pandemic, and impose an advance booking system, the problem has grown out of all proportion.

Quite simply, those visitors who do not know they need to book a parking place, or just can't be bothered to do so, get turned away at the gate and rather than go elsewhere or return home, choose to leave their cars on local roads. This is happening in huge numbers throughout Bodymoor Heath and in large parts of Kingsbury village, creating a hazard at junctions, damaging verges, blocking pavements, and impeding access to local businesses and private driveways. There is also a noticeable increase in littering in the areas where cars are parked.

There have been times when cars parked on both sides of the road have prevented the bus from passing along Mill Crescent, forcing the driver to carry out a three-point turn and go back, and on numerous occasions the police have had to issue fixed penalty notices for dangerous parking. We are told that upwards of 300 such fines were issued in May alone.

The Parish Council is asking the County to review the policy as a matter of urgency and fully reopen the Water Park car park without delay. We are supported in this by our County Councillor, Andy Jenns, who has been pushing for measures to restrict parking in the places where it causes most problems.

The Parish Council fully endorses the suggestion by Councillor Jenns that while the Coronavirus situation continues, the Water Park car park should be made free and only closed if it becomes full - something that, as far as we know, has never actually happened. We believe visitors can be trusted to socially distance within the parking areas just as they do elsewhere in the Park. We also support the sensible calls made by Councillor Jenns that, going forward, the double yellow lines on Bodymoor Heath Road should be extended, and that double yellow lines be introduced to the A51 in Kingsbury, together with clear new signage to the local free car park and time limits placed on parking in some side roads and near local shops."

Help for Homework

We are currently looking into potential funding for children who are struggling with school work, due to not having electronic devises and/or internet access.

If you would like to benefit from this possible opportunity, please contact us on 07990 154 743, to express your interest.

USEFUL CONTACT'S

Village Greens: 01827 767 575

Jays Food & Wine: 01827 875 970

Top Scoff: 01827 872 700

A & D Superstore: 01827 872 533

Atlantic Fish Bar: 01827 870 350

Dental Surgery: 01827 874 210

Pear Tree Surgery: 01827 872 755

Lloyds Pharmacy: 01827 874 927

Competition Time



One of the pupils from Kingsbury High School; Morgan Ankritt, has been very busy setting up his very own Sweet Business; Confection Crate, whereby you can choose from a selection of your favourite sweets; beautifully presented for any occasion.

Like Morgan, we know how busy and creative many of you have been over the last couple of months, so we are looking for your stories or pictures to show the wonderful things you have all been doing at home during the lockdown. Have you learnt a new skill, redesigned your garden, or started a new hobby? If so, we would love for you to share these with us on our Face-book Page: *Kingsbury COVID-19 Good Neighbours Group.* With thanks from Planters Garden Centre, we will randomly select 2 entries to receive either a £10 Gift Voucher or a Family Adventure Pass for Planters Sky Trail Adventure. Closing date 04/07/20.

To purchase your own customised sweets, please go to: Facebook@ConfectionCrate · Sweet Shop, Email ccorders20@gmail.com or Instagram @confectioncrate.

National Volunteer Week

National Volunteers' Week is an annual celebration which takes place during the first week of June, to acknowledge and celebrate the many wonderful volunteers across the UK who give their time and skills to help others in their communities. In light of this, Kingsbury Good Neighbours could not let the wonderful efforts of our very own community volunteers go unmarked. We therefore asked our volunteers to tell us a little bit about themselves, and why they choose to volunteers, here are a couple of *'Stories Behind The Volunteer'*

"Hi, I have lived in Kingsbury for about 55 years, I love this village so much that; when I realised there was a good neighbour volunteer group I decided that I really needed to join, and hopefully help anyone who needed it in these very difficult circumstances". ***Karen***

"Having worked in the NHS for the past 25 years and being a Kingsbury resident for the last twenty, I am very aware of the impact of this pandemic on people's health and well-being and was very keen to join the Kingsbury Volunteers to help where I could. My main task has been developing the Resource Register, which I hope is providing useful information and signposting to community support services. I have also walked the streets on a cold wet Saturday delivering the first newsletter; on what seems like such a long time ago now!" ***Sally***

"As a Kingsbury childminder I suddenly found myself at a loose end. I thought the Kingsbury good neighbour volunteer group was a great idea and hoped I could help. I've particularly enjoyed the weekly buddy calls because everyone I have chatted with has been so appreciative. It's taught me that little things can mean a lot". ***Donna***

On behalf of all members of our community, we thank all our volunteers for all you have done to support us, you are all truly amazing! Rita and Allan Smith explains what your support has meant to them "Thank you to all the people of Kingsbury who have helped us through the last weeks. My husband and I had to stay in due to our age, we are well into our eighties so decided to take up offers on your leaflet. Thank you to Jays Food Store, Village Greens and the young lady who fetched our prescriptions. This awful time seems to have bought us together especially on Thursday nights clapping. Thank you all again for your kindness".

Kingsbury and Cliff Residents' Group

It has been a while since we have been in contact with you but hope that you are all keeping well during these challenging times. We were disappointed that we were unable to hold our May Day Fun Day this year but we know that many of you held your own celebrations on 8 May; hopefully we will be able to have a great time next year to make up for it.

Whilst isolation restrictions have been in force, some of the work of our group has continued. We joined forces with ladies from Kingsbury Krafters, Kingsbury WI and other local residents to purchase material and help make laundry/scrub bags for nurses at Birmingham Children's Hospital and other local hospitals. You may also have seen the results of our village planting campaign with the flowering of spring bulbs in the village Recreation Ground. In addition, we hope you have had an opportunity to see the new bin we purchased to accompany the new bench on the corner of Tamworth Road and Trinity Road. Trustees are currently considering what activities we may be able to arrange when things return to normal; perhaps you will consider joining us as a volunteer? If you would like more information, please contact us via our e-mail or Facebook pages KingsburyAndCliff@protonmail.com and Kingsbury and Cliff Residents Group. We look forward to hearing from you.