

December 2020

# Kingsbury Good Neighbour Newsletter

## A Message from Kingsbury Good Neighbour

When our volunteer group first formed back in March 2020, none of us could have imaged that this horrendous virus would have impacted on us all as it has. Undoubtedly 2020, has been a roller-coaster of emotions, and for many, has had life changing consequences.

However, as a community, one positive thing each and everyone of us have shown, is the power of our community to pull together and support each other in any way we can, from checking in on our fellow neighbours, to supporting each other with practical tasks; such as shopping and 'running errands', and I know I speak for many of you when I say what a community we have to be proud of.

As we head into 2021, we do not know what is ahead, but what we do know, is that we must all look forward with optimism and hope for the future. On behalf of all our volunteers, we would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

If you need us; we can be contacted via: Telephone - 07990 154 743 Monday-Friday from 10am till 3pm, Email - kingsbury.goodneighbour@btinternet.com or via our Facebook Page - Kingsbury COVID-19 Good Neighbours Group.

**Debbie**

*"Nobody can help everybody, but everybody can help somebody"*  
*Denver Moore*

## Kingsbury Parish Council



Kingsbury Parish Council has recently created a new, more modern, and up to date website. This was only launched on 30th November and is still a work in progress. The old website (kingsburyparishcouncil.co.uk) will cease to exist from 13th December 2020.

The web address is now [www.kingsbury-pc.gov.uk](http://www.kingsbury-pc.gov.uk)

We have also set up a Facebook page and a Twitter account to keep you up to date with the latest information from around the parish. Please have a look and let us know if there is anything that you feel would be helpful to include on the website.

We wish everyone a safe and happy Christmas in these difficult times.

Clerk to Kingsbury PC



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## An Update From Cllr Andy Jenns



North Warwickshire  
Borough Council

**Mr. Mayor** - The Borough Council met by video on 2nd December to conduct the annual Mayor-making ceremony, postponed from May because of the pandemic. At the meeting Kingsbury's Cllr Brian Moss, who had been Mayor since May 2019, handed over to Ray Jarvis, an Atherstone councillor, who will now serve until May 2022.

Brian previously served as Mayor in 1988/89 and becomes only the second person in the history of the Council to hold the position twice. This, and the additional 6 months added to his term this time due to the COVID-19 situation, makes Brian the longest serving Mayor in the history of North Warwickshire Borough Council. Traditionally, the Mayor chooses a charity to support during his or her term of office. However, Brian decided not to nominate a specific charity and instead planned a sponsored African cycle ride, but unfortunately this had to be called off due to the pandemic.

Part of the Mayor's role is to Chair meetings of the Council and Brian always managed to move proceedings along with an amusing anecdote. He was thanked and paid a number tributes by councillors at the meeting. Brian is also a previous Chair of Warwickshire County Council (2014/15), where he represented Kingsbury as the local County Councillor between 2005 and 2017.

**County Council Power Grab** - In the previous village newsletter I wrote about proposals from the County Council to abolish the 5 District/Borough Councils and run all services from Warwick. These proposals have now been put to the Government who, I'm pleased to say, responded by saying they will not be taking the idea forward at this stage. Instead, they've chosen to work with three other counties to look at unitary councils - Cumbria, North Yorkshire, and Somerset.

However, Warwickshire County Council leaders and officers are still pushing for a Unitary Council and recently tried to win support from local Parish Councils and voluntary groups by inviting them to a Zoom presentation on the subject. Meanwhile, the District and Borough Councils have teamed up to produce their own report arguing against centralising everything in Warwick.

**Parking Matters** - Parts of Kingsbury have long suffered from inconsiderate parking by visitors to the Water Park. We have been continuing to push for measures to tackle the problem and the police have issued a lot of tickets this year, but are powerless when it comes to parking that is simply inconsiderate rather than illegal. To change this, new parking restrictions are needed but are unlikely until North Warwickshire gets Civil Parking Enforcement powers. These powers already exist in the other 4 Districts and Boroughs of Warwickshire but have previously been opposed by the County Council for North Warwickshire. However, after much pressure this has changed and the County Council is finally supporting the application for CPE which has now been submitted to the government. Unfortunately, the Department for Transport have said the legal process won't be completed before next November at the earliest. The Council will then be able to employ wardens to enforce new parking restrictions.

**Footpath Problems** - Following reports of a number of falls and tripping incidents we have been pushing for work to make safe the footpaths leading off the Sycamore Road end of Elm Tree Close. However, after poring over maps with Council officers before the pandemic it became clear that the paths concerned do not belong to either the Borough or County Council. Further research revealed that the ownership actually lies with Taylor Wimpey. After being passed around various offices at the company and pursuing the matter further we have now at last been promised by Taylor Wimpey that they will be instructing contractors to resurface the footpaths. The work will require the removal of a nearby lime tree and the Borough Council has agreed to this.

Be Whatever You Aspire To Be

**If you are unemployed within the local area**



**FREE** support with Personal Development

**FREE** support working from home, self employment, starting your own business

**FREE** support with employment, CV's, interviews, training

**FREE** seminar on the benefit system and how it works

Induction Day—January 13th    Training Day 1—20th January  
 Training Day 2—20th January  
 Benefit Day—20th January

All delivered within your local Kingsbury Community & Youth Centre

Please Call Anne on 0800 0934 089  
 Or Email: [info@businessdc.biz](mailto:info@businessdc.biz)

## Community Christmas Tree

As many of you will be aware, on Sunday 29th November 2020, we put up a Community Christmas Tree on the grass verge of Jubilee Parade. The purpose behind this was to bring a little Christmas magic for all members of our community to get involved.

It has been wonderful to see that some people have made their own decorations, as well as the seeing the use of the wooden decorations that have been decorated and/or have a very special message written on them. Due to the positive feedback, we are hoping we can work with our two local councillors to make this an annual tradition.

## Mike Overs - Why I researched Dad's Service History.



The lockdown between March and July gave many of us the opportunity to do many new things,

to try new things under strange circumstances, to fill time productively, to connect with family in new ways .... to slow life down and to pick up dust off old "projects"

My wife has spent many years researching our family history because she has an interest in social history but I was never interested in discovering what my family did in the past, there was never a connection.

But I have always enjoyed aviation and the chance joining of a volunteer aircraft restoration group brought me that connection with my father. A link was established. This connection was further strengthened when as a aviation photographer I discovered that a particular aircraft I was photographing served with my fathers squadron during the same time he served. A tangible link.

This was from 2015 - 2018. During this period I had begun to research my fathers service life by collecting lots of information in its simplest form, diaries, photographs, extracts from

books. But there it lay. Just raw facts ..... not a story.

Then came Covid-19 and the lockdown. The chance to create a story ....

My father Thomas Overs served in the Royal Navy from May 1943 until demobbed in May 1946. My research began as an attempt to understand what he and his ship and squadron mates did between those dates.

It became more than that. My research took me to places I never imagined and met people I never thought I would. I learnt about the geography, history, politics of the time and the present day of all of those places Dad visited, some only fleetingly, on His Majesties Service.

I learnt that Dad's first visit to Scotland was on New Year's Eve, his first step on foreign soil was in Algiers, then Alexandria in Egypt and Trincomalee in Ceylon.

Dad was present in Singapore as part of the Honour Guard provided by the Royal Navy at the Japanese surrender in September 1945. Knowing this, I made a point of visiting the Municipal Building and large square opposite myself on a visit to Singapore..

The link between Dad and myself is still there today. Through my chance involvement as a volunteer with The Buccaneer Aviation Group, I found myself sitting in the observer's seat of one of the Group's Blackburn Buccaneer maritime nuclear strike aircraft. This aircraft is resplendent in 809's colours. I am proud to say that I play just a small part in keeping the aircraft running and displaying today.

What did I know already about Dad? I knew he was in the Navy, served on HMS *Stalker*, or Dad's banana boat as Mom always jokingly called it, and with 809 Squadron. He was proud of all that. I knew he went to Egypt, Burma and Ceylon. I knew he worked on "Seafires", not Spitfires.

I knew all that. But what did Dad do in those three years between 1943 and 1946? Where did he go? What did HMS *Stalker* and 809 NAS undertake together as the Allies fought Nazi Germany and Imperial Japan?

I set out to see what I could find out and what I discovered is recorded in the following pages...

For further information you can email Mick directly:  
[michaelovers@btinternet.com](mailto:michaelovers@btinternet.com)

## USEFUL CONTACT'S

Pear Tree Surgery: 01827 872 755

Lloyds Pharmacy: 01827 874 927

Family Support Helpline: 01926 412 412  
(Mon-Fri 9am-4:pm)

Change Grow Live (CGL Drug & Alcohol Service): 01926 353 513

Warwickshire Local Welfare Scheme:  
0800 408 1448 / 01926 414 124

Warwickshire's Dedicated Hotline 0800  
408 1447

Samaritans: 116 123

Mind: 0300 123 3393 or text 6463

Mental Health Matters: 0800 616 171

Kingsbury Fruit & Veg: 07962185686

Kingsbury Village Café: 01827 872794

Jays Food & Wine: 01827 875 970

Top Scoff: 01827 872 700

A&D Superstore: 01827 872 533

Atlantic Fish Bar: 01827 870 350

Kingsbury Garage: 01827 874430



## Competition

It's competition time, to win a Wine Hamper, kindly donated by Lisa Purton, we are looking for a Poem or Limerick that will lift all our spirits. Please send us your entry

via: Facebook - Kingsbury COVID-19 Good Neighbours or email: kingsbury.goodneighbour@btinternet.com. Closing Date Thursday 23rd December 2020, where we will publish your entry and select a lucky winner - **Good Luck**

## CEV Funding



North Warwickshire  
Borough Council

We are pleased to announce that we have been successful in acquiring some funding from North Warwickshire Borough Council, who have recently allocated funds to groups supporting clinically extremely vulnerable adults. Thanks to this successful application, we have been able to offer Christmas Day Dinners and Desserts, as well as giving us the opportunity to expand our other initiatives 'A December to Remember' and Christmas Day Hampers.



### A DECEMBER TO REMEMBER CHRISTMAS TOYS & GIFTS FOR ALL AGES

WE HAVE RECEIVED A TRULY MAGNIFICENT AMOUNT OF TOYS AND GIFTS TO GIVE OUT TO FAMILIES AND/OR INDIVIDUALS IF YOU COULD BENEFIT FROM A LITTLE SUPPORT THIS CHRISTMAS, OR KNOW OF ANYONE, PLEASE GET IN TOUCH. ALL PERSONAL DETAILS WILL REMAIN CONFIDENTIAL AND YOUR PRIVACY WILL BE RESPECTED. WE WILL ALSO ENSURE COVID-19 RULES AND HYGIENE ARE MAINTAINED.

EMAIL: KINGSBURY.GOODNEIGHBOUR@BTINTERNET.COM  
TELEPHONE: 07990 154 743

treats to feed up to 8 family members), with The Royal Oak's support we have been able to expand this offer further to make Christmas as special as we can, for as many families as we can. **THANK YOU**

With the wonderful support and generosity of Elaine, Ray, Gemma and Adrian, from The Royal Oak, who have been busy organising Family Hampers which they have so very kindly donated (Christmas Dinner and



## POST LOCKDOWN ACTIVITIES KINGSBURY COMMUNITY & YOUTH CENTRE

We would like to let everyone know that we are now open again. Some of our regular customers are included in the exceptions under the government tier 3 guidelines and they have asked us if we can open. We also asked other groups who qualify and they have all said they wanted to start again. So the committee have decided to open. Hopefully under the review on the 16th December we may drop to Tier 2 and we can open fully.

Our user groups provide a range of fitness activities for their members including junior football clubs, boxing, Tae kwondo, Pilates, Badminton clubs, keep fit classes, and Dance groups. There are activities for juniors, seniors and everyone in between from beginners upwards. I am sure these groups would welcome new members and If you are interested in any of them, please contact us and we will pass on your details to the organisers.

Perhaps you have another interest or Hobby and would like to start a group? We still have some availability in both the sports hall and the community centre. Please contact us to discuss any ideas you have and we will try to help.

Our contact details are:- enquiries@kcyc.org.uk or visit our website/ Facebook.