

The Kington Chronicle



Bumper Christmas Edition!



FESTIVE FOOD & DRINK FROM THE BORDERS
Saturday 2 December, 9.30 – 3.30

The 13th annual festive food event organised by Kington Chamber of Trade will take place on Saturday 2 December with over 85 fantastic exhibitors and many other attractions. The variety and quality are second to none for a day's enjoyment. Music will fill the street with buskers and many local choirs plus a Pop Choir, while the Poobaahs will entertain throughout the day. From Friday to Sunday the pubs will have a Real Ale Trail; a competition which went well in the summer, so is being repeated for winter. In the morning an important visitor in red (Father Christmas) will start his visit from the Town Clock and make his way to the library. Free entry and lots of free parking. Begin the festive season in Kington!



Enquiries kingtonfoodfest@gmail.com

NEW BUSINESSES IN KINGTON

We are fortunate to have not one, not two, but SIX new businesses that have recently started up in our fine town. We extend a warm welcome to them all. See inside for more information.

Potholes!!!

The town clerk is getting snowed under reporting potholes and other highways and byways related problems this time of year. Please, if you want to report potholes, go to the Hereford council web site, under the title "Travel and Transport" you will find a sub menu "Roads". This is the place to report all things road related including potholes and pathway problems. This will help Liz (the clerk) get on with more important matters, like sorting out the budget for next year's burdens that Herefordshire council will lumber local communities with.

<https://myaccount.herefordshire.gov.uk/report-a-pothole>

Councillor Fred Hawkins

Small Business Special

We extend a warm welcome to the following small businesses for their vote of confidence in Kington, bringing their new enterprises to the town. Good luck to one and all.

The Story Behind THE WALKING HUB

It seems to be a familiar theme in Kington, of people randomly arriving here and then never leaving. There is something special about this little border town that draws you in and makes you



feel like you've finally come home to where you have always wanted to be. I claim to be one such person. My story takes me from my birth in Hull, to growing up in London, living my adult life in the Rocky Mountains of the USA, finding my way back via the Queen Mary to Southampton and then arriving in Kington. I could have reinvented my life anywhere but have chosen Kington, or like to think that Kington has chosen me! So I bought a shop (formally Granddad's Shed) and on 15th September opened The Walking Hub.

Overwhelming support for The Hub has shown me that I'm not the only one to think that the "Centre for Walking" (referring to the Welcome to Kington signs on entry into town) should have a shop for walkers. Blend that with my love of walking and the local landscape and you have a match made in heaven and hopefully a recipe for success. Just a tiny shop, but perfectly positioned in the centre of town to welcome walkers, be a knowledgeable resource and provide both locals and visitors with carefully selected outdoor gear. The Hub's aim is promote year-round walking for all ages, to encourage Kington's growing identity as a walking town and support its amazing annual Walking Festival – soon to be biannual, with the addition of a Spring Walking Weekend. Further wanting to share my life with walkers I've also opened up a B&B above The Walking Hub providing accommodation specifically for walkers.

If you haven't already (or even if you have) please stop in and visit The Walking Hub at 26 High Street Kington; peruse the maps and guidebooks, purchase a pair of lifetime guarantee walking socks, a funky walking stick, technical Nordic poles, or simply just say hi. Muddy boots, dogs, suggestions and comments are welcome.

"Thank you Kington for giving The Walking Hub such a warm welcome"



Ali Allen
Owner of The Walking Hub

HARMONY HANDMADE

HARMONY HANDMADE opened on Monday 2nd October 2017 at 47 High Street Kington. It has been a long-held dream of mine to open a craft shop with a difference! And when the opportunity presented itself I had to jump right in and try.

The shop has lots of finished quality handmade products, a good range of craft supplies from the odd zip to paper punches. This is complemented by craft kits for all sorts of interests and abilities. The different thing is the workshops being planned, such as graphite pencil art sketching, paper crafting, needle felting, rag-rugging, textile art, knitting, crocheting and jewellery-making. There really is something for everyone.



The shop is open for retail from Wednesdays to Saturdays 10am – 4.30pm, leaving Monday and Tuesdays for the workshops. They can be run mornings afternoons and evenings, hopefully catering for everyone wanting to come along. I am usually working on one project or another when the shop is open and always happy to have customers ask questions about the various crafts on offer. I can be contacted on 07980455997 or at:

vonnie.smeaton@hotmail.co.uk

Hope to see you soon, VONNIE



WEB CENTRAL has recently moved into 61 Bridge Street, Kington (the old Get-Connected shop). Sue and John Hewitt are the new owners of the property and have moved their well-established web design company, Cottage WebCraft, into the shop. With over 1,500 websites already created for customers in the UK and overseas they have a wealth of experience and a loyal customer following. Cottage WebCraft specialises in creating affordable, professionally designed websites for individuals, start-ups and small to medium sized businesses. They have particular expertise at helping new business get off the ground and have also provided websites for a number of schools in Herefordshire and beyond.

In the past the business has been home based, but since moving into Kington in September they have been overwhelmed by the warm welcome they have received from the locals. Web Central also runs EZ-Hosts, offering competitively priced, fully managed Website Hosting packages, Domain registrations, Business Mailbox services, Dedicated Servers, Cloud Servers and more. All of their hosting is based in state of the art UK based server centres. Their aim is to make

website hosting easy! They offer a free support to anyone looking to transfer their website to any of their hosting packages. Web Central also provides computer repairs to PC's and laptops, they have a workshop on-site so your computer stays on the premises and is not sent to a third party. They offer a no-fix-no-fee service and will be happy to quote for computer repairs, servicing and upgrades.

John and Sue also run their own portfolio of successful websites that operate world-wide. Locally they run the definitive guide to the Black and White Trail: www.blackandwhitetrail.org This highly popular site consistently appears at the no: 1 slot on Google, has high visitor numbers and offers free advertising for local businesses, who are encouraged to create their own listing on the site.

For further information about Web Central you can contact them by email at info@webcentral.co.uk, call 01544 599385; visit their website at www.webcentral.co.uk or just pop in for a friendly chat.

BAILEY'S BOUTIQUE AND GIFTS

Named after her two-year-old daughter Bailey, this new shop was recently opened by Katie Smith at no.13 High St. The empty shop-front caught her eye and after a chat with the landlady, Christine Sargent, the idea of a clothes shop for Kington was born. The Boutique stocks ladies' fashions and a range of gifts including scarves, bags, pictures, candles, petticoats and much more. For Christmas there is a selection of children's toys – already selling fast – and the choice of goods will expand to include men's and children's clothes. Katie, who lives in Old Radnor, said, "I wanted a more flexible lifestyle as I have two small children to look after. When the opportunity came up to run my own business I decided to go for it." Katie's partner, Bruce Childs, has been very supportive and helps with budgets and finance, while Katie's creative talents are employed in researching new products and running the business. "I stock select lines of clothes and just a few of each, so the range is always changing, and I'm open to suggestions as to what people would like to see in the shop." Her four-year-old son, Xavier, is not left out: he is Chief Lollipop Tester and takes his work very seriously.

Open: Mon, Weds, Fri 9-5; Tues, Thurs 9-1; Sat 9-4.

"I would like to thank everyone for the continued support. Pop in for a chat and a browse". Katie.

NO.36 COCKTAILS & TAPAS

Many of you will remember The Chocolate Box, which closed about a year ago. Now the same premises enjoys a new lease of life as a smart, modern, dare we say sexy tapas and cocktail bar that places Kington firmly in the 21st Century. Tina Lewis has thoroughly remodelled the interior in cool greys and blacks, but the atmosphere is warm and welcoming. Tina, who has a background in hospitality and catering, and her son Dave, who has run pubs, both bring a wealth of experience to this new venture and are delighted with all the local support they've had. Tina cooks all the food from scratch, using local ingredients; her famous scones are still on the menu along with delicious tapas that include a charcuteria plate of cured meats chorizo and hams, lemon butter chicken and patatas bravas (my personal favourite).

Whether you want a coffee and pastry or an elegant evening out, this is the cool place to be. As if all that wasn't enough, there are two B&Bs upstairs as well.

Open Tues-Sat 5-11 (food 6-9) and Sun 2-7.30 (food 4-7).

STUART M. FLETCHER, BUTCHER

It may be a new shop but Stuart is an old hand at butchery, having worked for Baxters in Kington 30 years ago, training under Reg Davies. Stuart sold his shop in Leominster four years ago and when the lease on this new premises came up, he seized the opportunity to return to Kington. He cures his own bacon (using the bare minimum of saltpetre), makes his own sausages (with natural skins) and hangs his beef for a minimum of 28 days; his own pies will shortly be joining the wide range of produce which is from local farms and includes game from Wynne Jones of Lingen.

The Christmas order book is now open and you may want to treat yourself to a Welsh Mountain free-range turkey from Bryn Blodau Farm, a free-range barbary duck or a farmyard cockerel for Christmas dinner. Tel 230470.

National Tree Week 2017 - Kington Area Events

Bradnor Green Coppice Volunteers

This winter our coppice volunteers will re-cut the second area of this woodland. We use hand-tools and our muscles to do the work. Please get in touch if you would like to get involved and I'll let you know when we'll be working (*contact details below*).



Tuesday 21st November - Deadline for Entries

"The Magic of Trees" - photography competition. From the trees and woods in the Wild West of Herefordshire. Photos from a 10 miles radius of Brilley between 1st August & 21st November 2017. Open to all ages -exciting prizes - FREE to enter - 3 Prizes in each of 3 Categories: The Beauty of Trees; Trees & People; Trees & Wildlife. Winners announced by Archie Miles on Tuesday 28th (see below)

Email entries: brilleyandbordersenvironment@gmail.com

Visit: www.brilley.co.uk/environment/photo-competition-the-magic-of-trees/

Friday 24th November from 1:30-4pm

Coppice Woods Walk with Kington Tree Warden Richie Cotterill. Visiting local hazel & sweet chestnut coppice woods & some of Kington's Community Orchards. 5 Mile walk taking in some fairly rough terrain. Suitable for strong children and dogs on leads. Bring drinks & snacks; wear sensible clothing. FREE – just turn up at Kington Market Place

Friday 24th November from 7:30-9pm

Presentation by David Lovelace - Countryside Historian, "Coppicing: the History, Biology and Utility of an ancient wood harvesting system". People have worked with trees for thousands of years; co-creating rich & diverse habitats; supplying sustainable wood products. Also: [Turnham Green](#) - coppice products for sale - Lewis Goldwater. FREE – just turn up at The Oxford Arms

Saturday 25th November from 5-7:30pm

From the Art of the Wood. Special H.Tree Week Exhibition Launch with live acoustic music by Richie & Celia playing Welsh waltzes. Tree-themed drinks & nibbles with local fruity, nutty, squirrely ingredients! FREE - just turn up at the Made in the Marches Gallery, 12 Church St, Kington

Tuesday 28th November from 7:30pm

"Heritage Trees of the Welsh Borders" Talk by Archie Miles – photographer & author
Stunning slide-show & stories about these amazing trees. Also, announcing the Brilley Tree Photo Competition Winners (see above). Admission £5 - includes refreshments at Kington Primary School

Sunday 3rd December from 1:30pm – Dusk

"Ancient Trees of Hergest" - walk & talk with Rowan Griffiths – Hergest Gardener Catalogue & International Dendrology Society & Richie Cotterill – Kington Tree Warden. Visiting fabulous old trees in Yeld Wood and on Hergest Ridge, Park Wood, Haywood Common and back to Hergest Croft Park. Well behaved dogs and children welcome – bring cake to share! FREE – just turn up at Hergest Croft Visitors Car Park

For more information about Kington Tree Week Events contact Richie Cotterill:
Email: kingtontrees@live.co.uk - Tel: 07777 661252 – Facebook: Kington Trees

For more events in Herefordshire throughout National Tree Week
visit: www.h-trees.net/

Love Your Library Day

This event was held on Saturday 21 October and we were glad to see so many people attending both the morning and the afternoon sessions. In the morning librarian Angela Davies held a craft session for children to make a stick figure and listen to storytelling. At 2pm Poems in October: a Celebration of Dylan Thomas, was performed by actor Bill Bingham, involving audience readings from Under Milk Wood and some wonderful old recordings of Thomas' work read by fine Welsh actors Richard Burton, Anthony Hopkins and Philip Madoc as well as Thomas himself. Our grateful thanks go to Angela for enabling the library to be open all day, to Bill Bingham for a very enjoyable poetry session, to councillors Christine Forrester and Bob Widdowson for initiating and supporting the library development group, to Mary Tolhurst for all her hard work and to the members of the library group for their time and enthusiasm. If anyone would like to join the support group please get in touch; Steph Baines tel. 230286.

Kington Markets

Kington is fortunate in having not one but two thriving markets held in the historic Market Hall and the adjacent Place de Marines. The Friday Local Food and Crafts Market is held every week from 9:00am - 1:00pm, while on the third Saturday of each month (from April to December) the Art and Craft Market takes place between 9:30am and 3:00pm.

The Friday Market has grown from a few stalls into many, offering a wide range of high quality foods that can provide the basis of your weekly shop. Stall holders are local and the emphasis is on healthy, high quality produce with low food miles. Regular stalls include Alex Gooch's award-winning bread, Weobley Ash meats, sausages and apple juice, Celia's handmade organic skin care products, artisan chocolates by Alexandra of Continuum Concepts, Amanda's Bakery's cakes and savouries, a wide range of dried pulses, grains, spices and nuts from Survival Wholefoods, and delicious cheeses from No 25 Deli. All this plus periodic hand-made crafts and clothing.

A unique seasonal part of the Friday Market is the Locally Kington stall, which offers anyone with spare produce a venue to sell their garden surplus. Between April and October the Locally Kington table is laden with freshly harvested or foraged foods, plus flowers, eggs, homemade jams and honey. You might like to plan your next year's veg garden with this resource in mind! Vendors keep most of the money their produce brings, and the small commissions that are collected are donated to local projects.

While the Local Food Markets in many neighbouring towns are held only once a month, we are very lucky to have this on our doorstep every week.

The monthly Saturday Art and Craft Market showcases one of the standout features of Kington: the high concentration of talented artists and makers.

This growing market fills the Market Hall and Place de Marines with paintings, prints, photographs, ceramics, textiles, jew-



ellery, artisan paper art, knitwear and crochet, hand-turned wooden bowls, glasswork, and more. Walker's Cottage adds French delicacies to the mix, and Boy Scouts serve hot drinks and food to shoppers in need of sustenance. Many months we are treated to music by local buskers. This market also features the very popular Repair Café, run by Kington KLEEN, where you can bring hand-held items for our fixers to bring back to life.

With the Christmas season upon us, the Art and Craft Market offers a place to shop for gifts that are locally produced, of high quality, and unique. The Market will be held twice in December, on the 9th and the 16th. Both Markets are always happy to welcome new stallholders.

Our hardworking Market Team (Celia Kibblewhite and Nancy and Peter Frost) are also looking for volunteers to help with market work, particularly in the area of publicity and advertising. We believe we have a very special thing happening here in Kington, and would like help getting the word out.

Email: kingtoncommunitymarket@gmail.com
Phone: Nancy on 07867 483135

Listings section

Please send us your events and activities:

fred.hawkins.1964@googlemail.com or aarghh1@btinternet.com

Remember to include date, time, location and contact details.

Deadline for next edition 15 January

Markets

Country Market, Fridays 9-11.30, Baptist Church Hall. Fresh local veg and fruit, bacon, ham, cakes.

Friday Market, Place de Marines, 9-1. Local food: bread, cheese, meat, fruit & veg, eggs, Fairtrade, crafts. For contact see below.

Art & Craft Market, Place de Marines, 3rd Saturday of the month, 9.30-3. November 18, December 9 & 16. Beautiful handmade crafts including ceramics, prints, knitwear, herbal bodycare, jewellery and much more. Beautiful and unusual gifts for Christmas. www.kingtoncommunitymarket.wordpress.com or 07867 483135. We need volunteers to help with the markets. Please get in touch.

Repair Café. At the Art & Craft Market as above, 10-3. Run by volunteers. Bring your hand-held items (no fridges) and see if they can be revived/sharpened. Contact Gordon Coppock 01544 232722 or kleen@live.co.uk

Kington Fleamarket, at Livestock Market, Love Lane. Every Sunday 10-4. Bookings 01544 231527 email kingtonflea@gmail.com website: www.kingtonfleamarket.co.uk

Kington Events

Kington Fire Brigade Annual Bonfire and Fireworks, Saturday 4 November, 6.45, the Rec. Adults 4.00, kids & concessions 2.00.

Annual Autumn Fayre, Friday 6 November, 7pm, Kington Football Club. For Macmillan Cancer Support. Free.

Christmas Tree Festival, 9 December to 7 January 2018. St Mary's Church. Twenty trees decorated by local groups. Also musical events. See our Parish Magazine for more information.

Music to Celebrate National Tree Week, Saturday 25 November, 5-7.30pm, Made in the Marches Gallery. Celia Kibblewhite and Richie Cotterill. Refreshments from local farms, gardens and kitchens.

Kington Choral Society, Messiah Part 1, Hallelujah Chorus, G.F. Handel. Saturday 25 November, 7.30pm, St Mary's Church, Kington. Earlybird 10.00, on the door 12.00. Tickets from No.25 Delicatessen, High St, Kington; Courtyard Antiques, Presteigne; Ye Olde Steppes, Pembridge; Central Stores, Eardisley; online at www.kingtonchoral.org.uk

Kington Walks AGM, Wednesday 15 November, 7pm, Bradnor Room, Burton Hotel. Refreshments. All welcome.

Walking for Health (W4H) intermediate walk, Mondays 2pm, 1 hour, around Kington. Thursday 10.30am, Every Step Counts, 15-30 minutes. For those with limited walking ability. Thursday 1pm, progression walk, 1-3 hours, sometimes strenuous. All walks meet at the bench opposite the YMCA in Victoria Rd. Dogs on leads. FFI: Paula Whitehouse 01544 598192

Huntington Events – Huntington, please get in touch!

Brilley Events

<http://www.brilley.co.uk/> Check out Brilley's website for lots of information and interesting stuff.

Brilley and Borders Environment photo competition: The Magic of Trees. See information under National Tree Week.

Flicks in the Sticks

First Thursday of the month, 7.30pm. Brilley & Michaelchurch Village Hall. Cabaret seating. Bring a drink and snacks if you fancy. November 2: Hidden Figures. December 7: Lion.

Brilley Events cont'd

Sunday 5 November Bonfire Night, 6-9pm, VH. Bring fireworks. There will be snacks and a bar.

Saturday 18 November Quiz Night, VH. 7.30-10.30pm. bar open, hot snacks served.

November 24 Social Night: pudding tasting, VH 7-11pm, VH.

Friday December 8, 7.30pm, Village Christmas Party, VH.

Thursday 21 December carol singing, 5pm, Brilley.

Monday Club. Every third Monday, VH. September to April, 7.30pm. Speakers, outings. Contact: 01497 831735

Walking Group. Every Wednesday, 10am at VH. 2 – 4 miles. No dogs. Contact: Trish 01497 831735

Brilley Patches. Quilting and patchwork group. Fortnightly, Thursday, 2 – 4.30, VH. £3 incl tea/coffee. Contact: Phyllis 01497 831535 or Trish 01497 831735

Herefordshire Rural Hub CIC

Herefordshire Rural Hub is a business support organisation for farming and rural businesses across the county. The Hub keeps you up-to-date with the things that matter. We inform you of: business development opportunities, funding opportunities, changes to rules and regulations, assistance with applications, local events of interest and more. We do this through our regular newsletter, email updates and events and workshops.

Membership of the Hub is free. We currently have over 1,700 members. If you would like to join them, visit the website at <http://www.herefordshireruralhub.co.uk/> or 01432 268428

Kington Town Council

NEW OPENING TIMES: The Old Police Station Monday 11-1 & 2-4; Tuesday 1-3; Wednesday 11-1; Thursday closed; Friday 1-3pm. You can contact the Council by phone outside these hours: 01544 239098 or clerk@kingtontowncouncil.gov.uk

Full Council Meetings: Monday 6 November, Monday 4 December, Tuesday 2 January 2018. All at 7pm in the large meeting room, The Old Police Station. Come along and see how your town is run on your behalf.

Kington Library Development Group: meets 2nd Wednesday of the month, 5.30pm, the Oxford Arms. Come and join us to support our library. FFI: Steph Baines Tel. 230286

The Kington Chronicle needs your help! Send us your comments, articles, local information and events. We cover Kington Town, Kington Rural, Huntington & Brilley. Let us know your news and we will do our best to publicise it: fred.hawkins.1964@gmail.com or aarghh1@btinternet.com