



Kington Centre & Library

Kington Library is fully funded till 2018. However, this does not mean that it will be immune to future cuts in the budget. There is a small but growing group of Councillors and library users who are meeting regularly to produce a programme of activities to be held the library. This, we hope, will help towards the future sustainability of the library services and facilities. We meet on the SECOND Wednesday of the month.

All meetings will be at the Oxford Arms, Duke Street, Kington, 5.30pm. FFI: Steph Baines tel: 230286.

**SPRING GREENS ENVIRONMENT FAIR
TENTH YEAR CELEBRATION**

**5th & 6th
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A Makeover for Kington Recreation Ground

The play equipment was looking tatty and some of it needed repairing, so councillor Ian Wood-Johnson took on the task of sorting it all out.

A month's work has transformed the play area and it's looking great, not to mention being a lot safer too.

What's been done: new rubber surfaces laid; existing rubber matting pressure-washed; damaged equipment repaired and refurbished; all equipment rubbed down and given four coats of paint; seats painted; roundabout removed, taken to Leominster for refit with new bolts, new powder-coating and greased bearings; new swings and chains fitted. Woody took three and a half weeks to do all the cleaning, repairing and repainting and he made a new wooden litter bin too. Opened on 10 November 2017, the recreation ground is now a credit to the town. Well done Woody!



Kington Walks Spring Weekend

This is the first year of the Kington Walks Spring Weekend taking place from Friday 20th to Sunday 22nd April.

The weekend sets off with a 'Walk and Beer before Dinner' on Friday evening. The Offa's Dyke path from Knighton to Hay is covered in two days. More relaxed walks are 'A Birches Farm Nature Walk' and 'Rhodds Farm for Coffee and a Tour of the Gardens' and a walk of Hergest Gardens. Energetic walks are 'Llandegley to Llandrindod Wells' and 'Discovering Hollywell Dingle'.



There is the ever popular Eight Peaks Challenge taking place on Saturday. On Sunday there are two walks which include Sunday lunch. 'A Good Walk Unspoilt' with lunch at the Golf Club and 'Follow the Trail from Kington to Eardisley' with lunch at The Tram Inn.

As part of the Spring Weekend there will be a live band playing at the Oxford Arms on the Saturday evening. Admission is free.

The Autumn Festival will take place from Thursday 20th – Sunday 23rd September 2018. To book or for further information: www.kingtonwalks.org 07552 087786 or info@kingtonwalks.org

*We meet on the first Tuesday of the month: 5.45 at the Burton Hotel.
Please come along, all welcome.*

**MARCHES
MAKERS**



***Marches Makers Festival
5 – 7 May 2018***

This is a brand-new venture organised by the Marches Makers to showcase the wealth of talent we have in and around Kington. The remit is broad: from professional artists with international reputations to crafters reviving ancient practices, and community creativity that includes music, story-telling, textiles, jewellery, craft workshops, photography, painting, print-making and lots more.

Venues and Galleries

Over the three days of the bank holiday the Festival will cover a variety of venues in Kington. These will be open from 10am to 4pm, although individual galleries may have their own opening times. Participating galleries include Made in the Marches, Studio 54 and the Leg of Mutton. The Old Police Station will showcase work by up to a dozen makers, as will St Mary's church, while various shop-fronts will lend their windows for display.

Craft Market and Workshops

There will be the opportunity to see local makers at work in the Market Hall on Saturday 5 and Sunday 6 May at the Craft Market, and on Saturday, Harmony Handmade will host a craft workshop where you can try your hand at making something yourself. Also on Saturday, Kington Library will be holding a Making a Story event. Keep an eye on our News and Events pages for more.

Marches Makers cont'd

Marches Makers is a group of artists, crafters and makers based in and around Kington. The town has become something of a focal point for makers of all kinds over the years, and we felt we should come together to support each other, promote the fruits of our labours and let the world know just how much lovely stuff there is here. For more information, or if you would like to be involved, contact: info@marchesmakers.co.uk and see www.marchesmakers.co.uk



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Kington Street Sweepers

Local people may have noticed five retired ladies from Kington, brandishing brooms and bags, attacking our messy streets. We decided after several derogatory comments from visitors regarding the poor state of our streets, to take action in the hope that people would follow our example and continue the task. Positive reactions have already been received from visitors and locals.

It is hoped, therefore, that Kington will again look clean and inviting as people take a pride in their lovely town. We the sweepers acknowledge that Dick East has had poor health of late and has not been able to continue his efficient role of maintenance. We wish him a speedy recovery.



Kington Museum team are planning an exhibit around women. We would like to hear from families of those women local to Kington area who at the time of major changes in society in early 20th century lead and embraced change in their lives. From kitchen to workplace to political arena. Please contact Denise North on 01544 231319 or dzn20@aol.com

Rylee's Story

As part of Love Your Library Day held on Saturday 21 October last year, there was a short story competition for school pupils. There were some very good entries, and the winner was Rylee from Kington Primary School. Well done Rylee! Many thanks to all those who took part.



'Coming Home'

I fly out of the shed and stay in the sky. I feel the wind blow in my face as my journey begins. The clouds grow thicker as I go higher. My heavy wings seem lighter when I'm in the sky. I land on the branch of a dead tree and stare up at the sky. I was in a forest. It felt empty and very quiet. It felt as if she was churping in my ear. 'It's OK', I said it aloud so it would feel like she was right there next to me.

I lift my feet of the dead branch and soar through the sky and go where the wind takes me. I stopped at a lake. It was beautiful, the way it glimmered in the sun, it was beyond my wildest dreams. Then I looked at my reflection. I know it was just me but it felt like it was her waving back at me asking 'do you want to come and play?' 'I can't wait for home.' I say.

I venture on into the fog. I see mountains ahead of me, they seem to be whispering, 'don't stop now, you are so close!' So I followed their advice not knowing where I was or how I was going to get back home. I fly over the mountains and see the sea in front of me. It's wild like a lion let out of a cage ready to pounce. 'No matter how long it takes, no matter how much I have to go through, I will get back home.'

I fly on through the storm. Suddenly, the wind grew stronger. FLASH!!! I've been struck. Slowly but surely I fall down, down, down. But as I land, just before my eyes close, I see two men in orange and silver jackets saying 'Free' and that's all I got to hear before my eyes closed and my thoughts stopped.

I was woken up by the blinding light of the winter's sun. I look around and see a small house and on the windowsill I see a plate. On the plate is a few mince pies. I fly over to the plate and as I bent down to take a bite and I notice two feet of my own kind. I look up and it's ... her, right there my love, 'I'm home, and I'm never leaving again'.

Awarded 1st prize with the Judge's commenting 'A well-developed story with some lovely descriptions.'

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Kington Churchyard

Kington might be surprised to know that we are responsible for the upkeep of St Mary's churchyard, that treed and peaceful place up on the hill. As the Rev Ben put it, the Church has been burying-in and maintaining the churchyard for a thousand years so it's probably fair that the town looks after it now that it is no longer used for burials. We ought to make the most of our community "commons". First, you should know about the recent wall repair, just opposite the north door of the church, brilliantly carried out by Ade Burton and Ray Richards.



Not surprisingly, walls built centuries ago without diggers and cement, are inclined to move and grumble and occasionally fall to their knees. It is quite a challenge to find a balance between modern building techniques and ancient craftsmanship. I hope we now have a wall that looks beautiful and will be safe for future generations.

However, a call for volunteers! The old wall is covered by ivy; we need some work parties to gently cut it off, allow it to die, and then remove it. And it should be fun to do things together. Let Kington Town Clerk know if you would like to help.

Secondly, we have a lot of fine trees in the churchyard; little work has been done on them in years. After a very large limb came down in gales just before Christmas, we are now about to carry out some "crown reduction" on several of the more vulnerable

trees in order to ensure their long-term future.

And finally, we spend a lot of money each season cutting the grass. Whilst the Church generally likes things to look tidy, and parts of the churchyard serve as a car park, there is an argument for leaving some of the grass uncut until later in the summer to allow meadow plants to flower. God's Acre, a national organisation with a local presence, are keen supporters of conservation in churchyards. If you would like to be involved in churchyard work and conservation, let us know. We could start a conversation on Kington Chat, and of course we need to consult the PCC. Enjoy the churchyard, sit on a bench, come into the church and be grateful!

Cllr Rob MacCurrach

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Kington Town Council News

Next Council Meeting: Monday 5 February 7pm, large meeting room, Old Police Station. Members of the public are warmly invited to attend.

Also Monday 5 March, Monday 2 April, Monday 7 May, details as above.

Kington Town Meeting: Monday 30 April

Normal Council Office Opening Times

Please note that we are also here outside of these times and can be contacted by telephone on 01544 239098. Please also note that staff are sometimes out of the office on council business. If you wish to visit the office to discuss Kington matters with the staff, we advise that you ring the office first, to check that there will someone here.

In severe weather conditions it may not be possible to man the office at normal hours. However staff can monitor, and, respond to emails, so it is always worth emailing us if you have any queries

Monday: 11am - 1pm & 2 - 4pm; Tuesday: 1 - 3pm; Thursday 11am - 1pm. Friday: 1 - 3pm

Kington Food Bank

The food bank is open every Friday between 2 - 3pm at the Old Police Station. If you would like to donate, we need: non-perishable food items (tins, pasta, jars, packets etc), toiletries (loo roll, soap, toothpaste, feminine hygiene products, shampoo etc).

If you want to use the food bank, you need to be referred. Vouchers can be issued by: health visitors, head teachers, clergy, welfare teams, social workers and a variety of other organisations. Run under the umbrella of Churches Together in Kington.

Local Markets

Friday Market, Kington Market Hall & Place de Marines, 9 - 1.

Local food and crafts: bread, cheeses, meats, Survival Wholefoods, artisan chocolates, natural bodycare products, cakes and savouries, crafts. Plus the Locally Kington produce stall from April to October.

Contact:

www.kingtoncommunitymarket.wordpress.com

or 07867 483135

Art & Craft Market, April thru December, Kington Market Hall & Place de Marines, 3rd Saturday of the month, 9.30 - 3. Quality work by local makers. Refreshments and occasional music.

www.kingtoncommunitymarket.wordpress.com

or 07867 483135. We need volunteers to help

us expand and develop this growing market. 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

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

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

Please send us your events and activities:

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

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

Deadline for next edition 15 April

Brilley Events

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

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

Brilley and Borders Environment Photo Competition Winner

Thank you to all who took part in this competition. We had some fantastic entries, all of which were submitted anonymously to our judges Archie Miles and Rob Penn. The category of Beauty of Trees was the most contested with 43 out of the 71 entries and the judges had a hard time making a decision.

Category: Beauty of Trees. Winner: James Woolley, Brilley

Photo taken 14th October 2017 - Just outside Bredwardine towards Letton:



See the other winners at

<http://www.brilley.co.uk/environment/photo-competition-the-magic-of-trees/>

Kington Events

Litter-picking Group

We are a group of dedicated litter pickers who have been cleaning up around Kington and in the town for many years. It is sociable, rewarding and keeps you fit. We are always looking for new recruits and spend about two hours twice a month for most of the year. If you fancy joining us give Tina a ring on 01544 262762.

Saturday 3 February, 10am. Meet at Newton Lane. Saturday 3 March, 10am, meeting place to be confirmed. Wednesdays 21 February, 21 March, 10am, meet at the Co-op car park.

KLEEN AGM

The AGM of the Kington Local Energy and Environment Network will be held on Thursday 12 April at the Oxford Arms. All welcome! Come and find out more about Locally Kington, the car share club, community energy, forthcoming films and talks and other green goodies. See the website for more details: <http://www.kleen.moonfruit.com/>

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

***** Kington Scouts: New Group ******

This is a new group being set up in Kington. FFI: heather.smith@scouts.org.uk or 07539 936454

Herefordshire Wildlife Trust (Kington Branch)

Talk: **The Changing Face of Farming**. By Patrick Wrixon, Herefordshire NFU county chairman.

Tuesday 27 February, 7.30 – 9pm,
Kington Primary School, Mill St.
£2.00 members, £3.00 non-members.

Talk: **Farmland Birds**. By Matt Williamson of Natural England.

Tuesday 27 March, 7.30 – 9pm,
Kington Primary School, Mill St. £2.00 mem-
bers, £3.00 non-members.

Kington Allotments

Do you fancy growing your own fresh fruit and vegetables?

Kington Allotment Association has 38 allotments, of varying size, on the land known as Harry's Ground, situated just off the By-pass which was acquired almost 10 years ago.

The land is very fertile and sunny and surrounded on three sides by the river Arrow. There is an abundance of wildlife and birds making it a pleasant area to spend an hour or two whilst growing a variety of Fruit, Vegetables and Flowers. Many members also exchange plants and produce during the summer season.

If you would be interested in acquiring an allotment, when one becomes vacant, or would like further information, please contact 01544 598192.

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

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@googlemail.com or aarghh1@btinternet.com