



**KINGS NORTON
TEAM PARISH**

THE MAGAZINE
FOR CHURCH & COMMUNITY

November 2018

£1



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A Church of England Team Parish serving all in Kings Norton and Druids Heath through the Parish Church of St Nicolas and the District Churches of Hawkesley and Immanuel
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Registered Charity 1134799



Front cover photo: The Remembrance Service at St Nicolas' Church, 12 Nov 2017.

This page: Jesus and Nicodemus, one of the stained glass windows of St Nicolas' Church.

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Copy for Publication

Please email items for
publication to:

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Please submit text in an editable
format, preferably plain text or
MS Word. Printed material
entrusted to the Parish Office
should be sealed and marked for
the attention of The Editor.

Submission Deadlines

Items for inclusion in the
December 2018 edition must
reach the Editor by midnight on
Friday 9th November.

Items for inclusion in the January
2019 edition must reach the
Editor by midnight on **Friday 7th
December.**



Of the hundreds of thousands of cities, towns and villages in Britain, only 53 in England and Wales were fortunate enough not to have members of their communities die in the First World War. They were known as 'Thankful Villages' where all those who left to serve came home again. Not one Thankful Village exists in either Scotland or Ireland.

After 1918, war memorials were erected all over Britain and several of the Thankful Villages built memorials to express their gratitude. Our own memorial to Kings Norton's victims and heroes can, of course, be found in St Nicolas' Church, where we invite you to gather just prior to the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month to reflect on the events of 100 years ago (details on p.6), 'lest we forget' what we are capable of.

We may not be a Thankful Village, but this edition reminds us once again that there are many who are thankful to be here, or to have returned to Kings Norton after a long absence (p.14). This month's inevitably sombre reflections on our capacity for destruction (pp. 4 & 38) are balanced by good news about a reinvigorated 6th Form college (p.50) and plans to reduce local traffic congestion (p.48), by signs of hope from friends in Bolivia (p.18) and by the promise of local supplies of bacon sandwiches on cold winter days (p.42). Even our 'What's On' pages remind us that there is much friendship and profitable activity to be grateful for in this unique corner of Birmingham, which still sees itself as a village, despite the march of time.

The Editor

FROM THE RECTOR

1914-1918

Remembrance and Remorse

November 2018 marks the culmination of four years of commemorating the centenary of the First World War. Many fine words will be spoken, much symbolism will be on show, church services and civic parades will mark the occasion. Many of us, to some degree, will be touched by the stories of those, now long dead, who were caught up in this first truly global conflagration, and will be thankful for the sacrifices made. Twenty seven years from now (2045) we will, no doubt, be recalling the centenary of the end of the Second World War in similar ways: two world wars in two generations.

Remembering with reverence will be the primary tone of events marking the end of World War One; but I wonder if we will note any public expressions of remorse, or even repentance? One of the dangers of commemorating past events in civic celebrations is that we are drawn into a type of theatrical experience which honours the dead but avoids the difficult questions of why they died and the lessons which may have been learned. In the case of 1914-18 and 1939-1945, why did it happen twice? There are the political reasons, which have been endlessly written about. 1914-18 was a war of nationalism and patriotism predicated on the European nations competing claims to supremacy in world affairs and their



imperialist expansion. 1939-45 was a response to a resurgent Germany mesmerised by the rise of fascism within its body politic, a fascination matched by similar dictatorial, anti-democratic regimes in Spain, Italy, Japan and Soviet Russia. All had their spheres of influence and each held dangerous, delusional beliefs in their destiny as rulers of their own empires.

By 1939, the scientific and industrial advances of the first part of the century

were enlisted into a highly efficient, mechanised, manufactured output of war machines on an unprecedented scale . Between 1918 and 1939, noble efforts went into seeking ways in which nations could avoid war through multilateral diplomacy. The League of Nations was born and became the forerunner of the United Nations. The League was not a success, obviously, but it grew out of a belief that there must be a better way for nations and peoples to resolve their competing claims than by declaring war.

Is war inevitable? Is our capacity for violence and conflict so much a part of human life that we must always be prepared for, and indeed glorify, war? Similarly to other religions, Christianity has ambiguous viewpoints on war and conflict. Governments and armies make claims for divine justification for waging war. In the 13th century, the Christian doctrine of a Just War was promoted to set limits on the destructive power of warfare and, in the process, the Church conferred its 'blessing' on war waged according to these principles. In both World Wars and to this day, religious chaplains serve in armed forces across the world, and some have died alongside those to whom they ministered.

Christianity began in the Roman Empire as a religion of peace. One of the reasons for its early persecution was that Christians often refused to take up arms and join Roman legions.

Throughout the Bible there are books which glorify war and those which condemn it. The absence of war is seen as a sign of God's blessing on a nation and there are many passages which proclaim peace as the better way. As with other moral issues, the spectrum of attitudes to war is present in the scriptures of all religions.

'Is our capacity for violence and conflict so much a part of human life that we must always be prepared for, and indeed glorify, war?'

Religions also share a fundamental understanding that human beings are subject to inner conflicts of conscience and character, where our baser instincts compete with the 'better angels of our conscience' and form our attitudes and

actions. Our inner conflicts are played out in the world as we posture and impose our will on others, or defend ourselves against the unwelcome imposition of the will of others.

Competition for resources or power seems to dominate our species, making conflict inevitable. Yet, despite our innate capacity for conflict and destruction, we are still here as a species. Still flourishing, in most places, still producing the next generation, still making advances in science, still creating great works of art, still seeing people live lives of courageous self-sacrifice for others and seeing enemies become friends and reconciled.

It seems there is another way of being human in our world, the way of cooperation and collaboration rather

than competition and conflict. So, maybe we do have other impulses within us: to build up rather than destroy, to seek peace rather than conflict, to make friends not enemies; to make love not war. Good religion, when practised with conviction, nurtures our peaceable instincts. Humanistic philosophies do the same, in their own way.

Practising peace in our lives, our homes, our neighbourhoods and nations is to join the flowing river of peace, compassion and charity which is as much a part of our human make-up as our capacity for violence. Peace be with you!

Revd Larry Wright

World Peace Prayer

*Lead me from death to life,
from falsehood to truth.*

*Lead me from despair to hope,
from fear to trust.*

*Lead me from hate to love,
from war to peace.*

*Let peace fill our heart,
our world, our universe.*

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY SUNDAY 11TH NOV 2018



- 10.15 am Remembrance Sunday Parade gathers outside the Post Office on The Green.
- 10.30 am Service of Remembrance at St Nicolas' Church commemorating the centenary of the end of the First World War.

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Garden in a Day Visit

FOR BELL'S FARM COMMUNITY CENTRE

Bell's Farm Community Centre experienced a whirlwind visit in October from BBC Radio WM's 'Make a Difference' campaign, which helps worthy causes in Birmingham and the Black Country.



The Centre, which occupies one of Kings Norton's most significant heritage sites, includes a garden where local people can sit, relax and reflect. The WM team of volunteers made a range of quick-fire enhancements to the garden, including pathways, new

plantings and the installation of a traditional garden seat. The team was headed by Midlands' gardening guru Darren Rudge, who is regularly involved with the spectacular gardens at Winterbourne House in Edgbaston.

The Community Centre has been in the historic Bell's Farm for several decades. As many readers will know, Bell's Farm is a Grade II Historic Listed Building, an atmospheric timber-framed structure, important in being a relatively little altered since the 16th and 17th century. The part of the farm house in current use was restored in 1988.

Though it had been sited at Bell's Farm since 1981, over the next 20 years the Community Centre became effectively dormant and was hardly used by local people. However, in 2001 it was taken in hand by an organisation called the Spearhead Trust, created by local residents Sid and Dot Forster. They wanted to provide a safe and welcoming place where local residents would be able to access vital services. The Forsters successfully applied for funding to modernise the facilities, which have grown progressively to include computers, tables, chairs,

settees, kitchen equipment, sports equipment, interactive white boards and overhead projectors.

Now, it's a hub of activity, providing a remarkable and admirable range of support services to the Druids Heath community, enabling 'hard-to-reach' families to access help and advice from a range of services such as family support, education, health and social care, parenting and domestic abuse. It provides formal educational courses including Maths and English, Personal and Social Development, Caring for Children and Children & Young People's Mental Health; and there recreational activities such as arts and crafts and cooking. The Centre has close links with local schools and nurseries.

The Family Support service is managed by a Senior Family Support Worker who is available on Tuesdays and Thursdays, offering help with benefits, debts, housing and much more.



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A recent innovation is fortnightly 'drop in' sessions with HRS, the family law solicitors, providing advice about children, relationships, divorce and other topics. There is a popular OAP club every Wednesday between 12.00 noon and 2.00 pm with a homemade lunch and pudding free of charge. There's a free Breakfast Club on Tuesdays, Wednesday and Thursdays, a Youth Club every Wednesday, and a 'Stay and Play' session for mothers and children up to four years of age every Tuesday.

The organisation has a project manager and several volunteers who help out daily. It addresses a number of complex social issues within the community, engaging with residents of all ages and ethnicities from various backgrounds. It is particularly proud of its pioneering approach to community engagement and addressing cohesion issues within the local community.

The Centre can be contacted on 0121 433 3532



Adventures at the Back of Church

The difference between church
with & without kids

Part 3

In the third of a series of articles written especially for this magazine, Gemma Harris takes an honest look at the joys and the challenges of bringing small children to church.

Every year, certain services tended to give me the heebie-jeebies. Remembrance Services were the worst of them. Getting two boys to be silent for a whole minute used to stress me out so much! While they were tiny, I knew that people would be understanding. But as they got bigger, more insistent and louder, I really felt the stress mount up. Once, the church put out *Play-Doh* for the kids to play with to keep them quiet. All Dylan wanted was to knock skyscrapers of *Play-Doh* pots over, making the most tremendous, appalling, clattering noise. Mortifying! One year, I arrived without the usual bag of food to hand,

and all the mums shared food to hush everyone's kids up, including mine. I was **so** grateful as my greedy boys snaffled their neighbours' dried apricots and stole raisins.

I have subsequently seen the same looks of worry or concern on mothers' faces at different points in many services. Usually, a family arrives for a friend's christening, to have their own Banns of Marriage read or to receive christening blankets. Their faces have that same look that I know I had: 'How am I going to survive this?' During those services, church can be something to be endured, and the sympathy and

empathy of those around you make a palpable difference to your sanity.

I now make a point of greeting new parents as often as possible, of retelling tales of my own boys' shenanigans over the years to calm the nerves of any new mum who is afraid that their child will be held responsible for ruining the service.

And yes, we actually **do** think that. Whether they're there to get a baptismal blanket or to support a friend or to prepare for their own wedding, many mums and dads all have that fear in common: will my child single-handedly ruin the service? It's illogical but no matter how many times I was told (usually by Pauline Weaver) 'It's ok; it's their church too,' I didn't quite let go of agonising over every loud noise they made that might distract the congregation.

Points in the service I used to cherish for their soothing spirituality were the worst. Quiet times, like prayers, made me feel bereft because I missed joining in with a full heart; yet I always had half a brain and one eye alert for what these kids would do next!

**'Other people's kids
all seemed so quiet!
They'd just sit still!
How did they get
them to do that?'**



All parents suffer to a certain extent from anxiety. And from paranoia. Other people's kids all seemed so quiet! They'd just sit still! How did they get them to do that?

When my son was 20 months, old I was privileged to bring another boy into this world and into this church community. And what a blast it has been! Any nerves I once felt because of my (I have since realised) quiet child soon got shot out of the water by his noisy little brother. Dylan has done it all. He has screamed through the service until I had to carry him out, leaving Josh with a kind mummy while he played; he has meowed like a cat through the prayers; crawled up to the altar to receive a blessing at Communion on all fours; made such a smell that he literally turned heads; and argued with the

vicar, insisting he wanted to receive bread at Communion. Not to mention the time he dragged the mop and metal bucket slowly across the floor all the way to the Communion rail, or took Snowy, the giant polar teddy bear, up to the front for a blessing. I am now officially immune to any chaos. I can pray through anything!

As my confidence grew, the boys accompanied me when I led readings and prayers. And guess what? The church is still standing! They have forced me, finally, to believe that all contributions at church matter, the noisy and the quiet.

And when they join in in their own way with a dance, an 'Amen' or by asking "Is Pauline God?", I know they are on the right path.



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Gemma Harris



I'm Back!

I arrived in Kings Norton on November 19th 1946. My dad, George Godson, was demobbed after the war and, with my mum Lily and daughters Barbara (me) aged five and my sister Valerie, aged just two months, the family moved into a brand-new prefab on the edge of the park on Westhill Road. There were 14 or 16 of these new homes and most were occupied by young families. There were lots of youngsters so, as we were growing up, we already had lots of friends of all ages. A club was formed and we congregated on the park steps in Westhill Road. The group was called The Pigeon Club. All the members wore feathers provided by my granddad, who kept the pigeons. Valerie and I still remember the names of our playmates and school friends. I wonder if some of them still live in the area?

Some Of My Memories

The church, where we had family weddings and christenings including my own wedding. At Sunday church parade, I was the standard bearer for the Girl Guides. I loved walking down the aisle, feeling very proud to do so. The Reverend Ashford was the vicar then. The school, with Mr Roberts, Miss Elberg and Mr Jenkins. I enjoyed the lessons, but not the outside loos, especially in winter! The Guides met there one evening a week. I was a 'Bantam' patrol leader for a number of years.

The Saracen's Head (now Saint Nicolas' Place) had a magic lantern shows. Sunday school took place in the building and the Scouts met there each week. The

Guides would join them for the Christmas party.

On The Green was (and is) Chas Mann's shop, where I acquired my first bike. The Outdoor, which sometimes had a parrot on the counter. If you took the empty pop bottles back, there was tuppence for each one. Hiron's grocery shop stayed open late to bake bread and we would go and get a cob, then pop into the chip shop for six pennyworth of chips, not forgetting the batter bits. We sat on the steps of the cinema to eat them (photo, opposite page). There was the little sweet shop next to the picture house. It was always busy. It is now the Post Office and the Clifton Cinema disappeared long ago.

Each week, there were three different films and we were regular visitors. The children went to the Saturday matinée as well.

Coronation Day, 2nd June 1953. The Mop Fair came. It was so exciting for everyone. The street party was held at The Camp pub and my family and others watched a neighbour's television and saw the complete ceremony. We were lucky to be invited.

I left Kings Norton in 1961 after my wedding and moved to Great Barr, in north Birmingham with my husband Keith, because he worked at nearby IML. Although I have visited relatives in the area over the years, it has taken me over 55 of those years to return to 'my old

home town'. There have been many changes, of course, but the number of cars parking here was the biggest surprise. There were few cars around when I was cycling in the '50s. The school hasn't changed much, but the outside loos have gone! The Saracen's Head (St Nicolas' Place) has had a great restoration but still has the lovely frontage. Through Birdcage Walk there were allotments: now it's a new estate. It used to be a short cut from the shops to the prefabs. The cinema is no more, but my new home is where it used to stand and I am looking forward to spending future years in the 'village' of Kings Norton, which I now call home.

Barbara Wilkinson (née Godson)



Beating the Bounds

In the September edition of the Parish Magazine our Editor mentioned that the parish of Kings Norton was a great deal bigger in the 18th century than at present. It reminded me that a group of church members walked the boundary in 2001/2. The route had been researched by some members of the Kings Norton History Society and local historians in 1988.

The Parish of Kings Norton was part of the Royal Manor of Bromsgrove and did not become independent until 1846. The map on the right gives an idea of the area it covered in the early 19th century.

Our nine Saturday morning walks were accompanied by Francis Hopkins, Chairman of KNHS and researcher of

the route, The Revd Heather Flack, and my dog, Meg!

We started on the 1st Saturday morning in November 2001 by taking the 45 bus to *The Man on the Moon* pub and walking in a clockwise direction. On our route, we walked through or very close to Austin Vilage, over the Wasthill Canal Tunnel and Bournville. Water courses were used, such as the Rivers Rae, Cole and Chinn. Ron and Margaret Wills arranged for us to be shown round St Alban's Church, Highgate, which they attended before moving to Kings Norton.

We celebrated our 26 mile walk with lunch at our starting point on 6th July 2002.

Greta Lacey

SEPTEMBER 2018

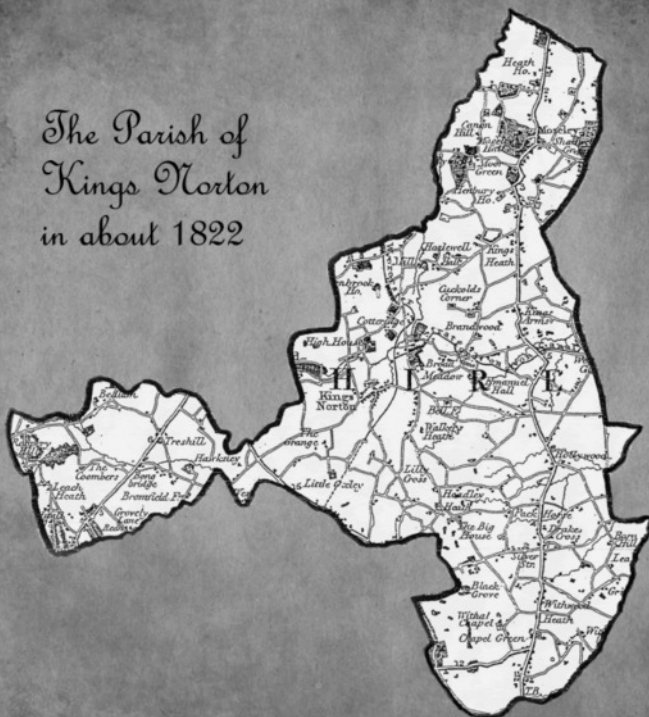
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Where do your Parish Magazines go when you've read them? Would you consider giving your copy away to a friend, neighbour or stranger instead of recycling it?

If each copy we printed passed through the hands of 3 readers, starting with the person who paid for it, each article and advert would be seen by over 1,300 people. That's 5% of the population of Kings Norton!

If only 2% of those 1,300 people chose to become regular subscribers each month, our cover price and advertising fees could remain stable for the foreseeable future. At the moment, however, despite our best efforts, we are not covering our printing costs. You can help us to do so if you...

...pass it on!

Mission, People and Places

Revd Eliakim Ikechukwu, Assistant Rector of Kings Norton Team Parish, concludes his report on his recent trip to Bolivia.

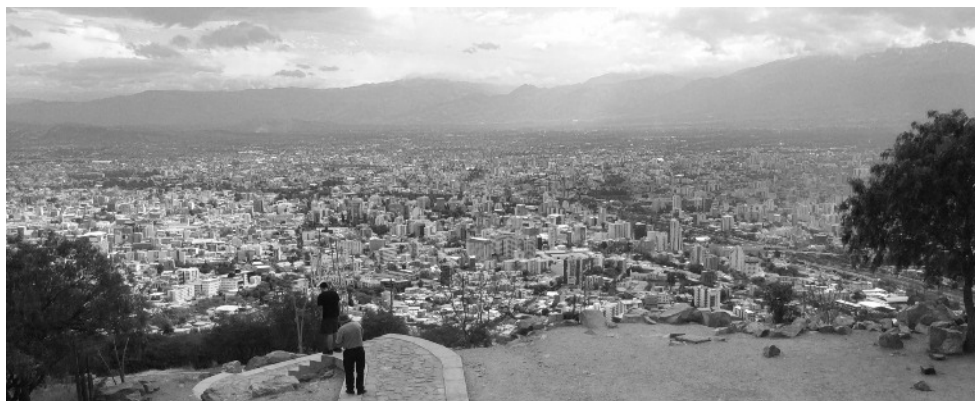
Although Cochabamba is not the capital city of Bolivia, it is famed as the heart of the nation, probably because it lies at the centre of the country and is host to several tourist centres. Among the tourist attractions of this city is the world's second-largest image of Christ, commonly called the *Cristo de la Concordia* (Christ of Concord), second only to a similar one in Poland.

This imposing statue has a height of 34.2 meters and stands on a pedestal 6.24 meters high, which makes its height a total of 40.44 meters. Its altitude is estimated at 7,000 meters above sea level. It was not only an exciting sight for first timers like us, but also a huge challenge for anyone not used to such heights, where it is hard to get sufficient oxygen. Not to worry; we survived anyway!

However, our hosts would not let the opportunity of our visit to this centre pass without taking advantage of it. The Team Vicar of La Trinidad Church,



the Reverend Tammy Firestone, along with some lay members of the parish, quickly engaged our team with what she called Prayers of Agreement. You will remember that Jesus once said, 'Truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my father in Heaven.' (Matthew 18:19). Tammy maintained that praying together over the city of



Cochabamba from such heights held remarkable significance, with potential blessings for the church and its mission to the entire nation. So we agreed to the request.

We visited other tourist centres in Cochabamba including the Tarata Centre Retreat House. Named after

Saint Francis of Assisi, this place is said to be the centre of Franciscan spirituality in the country. Managed by the Franciscan Order, the centre has 60 individual and 10 double self-sufficient rooms for those who desire a place of quietness for meditation and prayers. It also has a fairly large auditorium that can seat 100 people





comfortably and two other smaller conferences rooms for any group with less than 100 people in attendance. There is a chapel that can seat 100 at a time for daily worship. The silence of its monastery halls, the open central gardens and the Eucalyptus forest, invite contemplation, a fruitful rest and a real experience of peace.

We visited another area in Tarata where indigenous sculptural works make a significant difference to the life of the people. It is in a rural setting, with much life and fulfillment from various works of art produced locally from the peculiar soil texture of the place. Different forms and styles of ceramics produced by the people from start to finish captured our admiration. This natural resource offers huge opportunities for mission-

sponsored, micro-financed projects, and could make a great difference to the life and future of the rural communities if further explored.

Although tourism was integral to our visit to Cochabamba, our major assignment was to attend and participate in an international ministers' conference which took place from Wednesday 15th to Saturday 18th August 2018. The aim of this conference was to meet with and to encourage wider groups of clergy and lay participants, to explore opportunities for mission and ministry. The teaching and training sessions were focused on developing gifts and team spirit. The topics covered by various facilitators included developing local leaders, working in teams, working with change and taking ownership, walking with Christ, listening to the voice of God and world mission. It proved to be a time of spiritual rejuvenation for visitors and hosts alike.

On Sunday 19th August, the team moved to La Trinidad Church which





shares a flourishing partnership link with Kings Norton Team Parish. I was nominated by our team to preach the Gospel and to share my experiences with the church as a representative of our parish in Birmingham. I shared some thoughts about living out our Christian identity in the community. It was an exploration of the text from 1 Peter chapter 2 verses 9-10, where we are told as Christians to conduct ourselves properly in the community and to display the virtues of Christ, who called us out of our fallen state to

become God's special people. We shared prayer ministry among the team and our parish made a cash donation towards the host parish's leadership training projects.

On Monday 21st August, the team, led by the parish priest of La Trinidad Church, embarked on a prayer walk around the city. It was an awesome experience. We walked past shops, business centres, offices and streets where people either live or do businesses, saying silent prayers inviting God's blessing on each person and place. That was my last activity with the team before I left on the 21st August to head back to UK. While the rest of the team split, with some going to Tarija and others to La Paz, for me it was mission accomplished.

Eliakim Ikechukwu



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WHAT'S ON IN KINGS NORTON?

Our guide to the best of Kings Norton's lively community life starts here. In this section of the magazine, you will find:

- A list of **Societies, Clubs and Venues** active in and around Kings Norton
- A summary of the **regular services and activities** organised by the church in this parish
- A detailed **Diary of Events** organised over the coming month by the organisations listed and others.

We divide the publicity which we offer to the local community into **advertising and listings**. We charge for **advertisements** placed by local businesses who are seeking to attract paying customers. Meanwhile, in *Societies, Clubs and Venues* and the *Events Diary* we print, free of charge, **listings** of events organised by local social or charitable groups, together with their contact details and a brief description of their aims.

To add your organisation's events to our *What's On* guide for next month, contact Michael Kennedy (michaelkennedy@talk21.com) by the submission deadline shown on page 3. To advertise in the pages of this magazine, contact The Editor, David Ash (editor@kingsnorton.org.uk). Details of advertising charges are available on request or can be viewed on the magazine page of the parish website at www.kingsnorton.org.uk.

Societies, Clubs & Venues

Contact information for Kings Norton organisations and locations that offer opportunities to get together for events and/or to meet people who have similar interests.

LOCAL INTEREST GROUPS

Kings Norton History Society www.kingsnorton.org.uk, clivehartwell48@sky.com

The Society's meetings take the form of talks covering a wide variety of subjects of historic interest, concentrating on the West Midlands region. We also run day visits to places of historical interest. Meetings are normally held in St Nicolas' Place on the last Monday of the month, unless otherwise specified, from September to May. Membership is £12.50 per annum. Talks are free of charge to members. Visitors are always welcome but a charge of £3 per talk is made.

Friends of Kings Norton Nature Reserve www.fknnr.org.uk, Amanda Cadman on 0121 624 3865 or 07 887 512 382

An informal pressure group to lobby for environmental improvements in and about the reserve. We organise a weekly working party on site (the Tuesday Workout from 10.30 to 1.00 pm, open to all) to manage the Reserve, to increase biodiversity and habitats and to enhance its value for both people and wildlife. We also organise a monthly walk. Dates and meeting locations are on our website.

Friends of Historic Kings Norton www.kingsnorton.org.uk, fhkn@btinternet.com, St Nicolas' Place 0121 458 1223

We raise funds for the restoration of the historic buildings that are known collectively as Saint Nicolas' Place (SNP), through membership subscription and events organised by the group. Members receive regular newsletters containing updates about SNP and listings of Birmingham-wide heritage events. Membership is £7.50 per annum or £5.00 for those not in full-time work. We also arrange guided tours of the Saint Nicolas' Place Heritage Buildings.

Friends of Kings Norton Park friendsofkingsnortonpark.blogspot.com, info.foknp@gmail.com

The Friends of Kings Norton Park and Playing Fields are a group of local volunteers who come together regularly to improve and protect the Kings Norton Park and its neighbouring playing fields. We plan activities and events which aim to make a positive difference to the recreational experience of the people who use these spaces, and we liaise with organisations, including the City Council, which organise events in the parks.

The Fields Millennium Green Trust www.fieldsmillenniumgreen.btck.co.uk, Maggie Sweet 0121 628 1247, sweetc5@sky.com

The Trust and its volunteers meet regularly to maintain and improve the Millennium Green for the benefit of the community. We work closely with the National Trust who, with their young Urban Rangers and others, organise a programme of training and conservation activities. We usually work on Saturdays fortnightly from 10.30 am to 3.00 pm, and sometimes during school holidays.

SOCIAL CLUBS & SOCIETIES

Kings Norton Society John Bowen (Chairman) 0121 458 3747

Our origins go back to Kings Norton Youth Fellowship. We still have a few who remember those days but most are much younger. We normally meet at Kings Norton Tennis Club on the fourth Friday of the month for a bite to eat, a chat and general socialising. We have the occasional walk, quiz or speaker or best of all, we organise our own entertainment. If you know a member tell them you would like to come, or call the number above.

Kings Norton Seniors' Club *St Nicolas' Parish Office, 0121 458 3289*

The Seniors' Club is for men and women aged 65 and over. We meet at Saint Nicolas' Place every Wednesday from 1 – 3 pm and have a varied programme of events.

Kings Norton Women's Fellowship *Carol Devic 0121 458 7667, St Nicolas' Parish Office 0121 458 3289*

A group for women of all ages. We meet on the first Thursday of every month from 2-3 pm at Saint Nicolas' Place and offer a variety of activities.

Kings Norton Women's Institute

The WI is now the largest voluntary women's organisation in the UK. It plays a unique role in enabling women to take part in a wide variety of activities and to campaign on issues that matter to them and their communities. To accommodate the preferences of members, the Kings Norton WI activity is divided into afternoon and evening groups, each of which meets once a month at the Friends' Meeting House, Watford Road, Cotteridge.

Women's Institute (afternoon group) *Sally Saunders 0121 458 6019. Meets every third Tuesday of the month from 2pm till 4pm.*

Women's Institute (evening group) *Marion Atkin 0121 441 5817. Meets every third Monday of the month 7 pm for 7.30 pm.*

Kings Norton Rotary Club *Colin Guy 0121 444 2020, colinguy1930@yahoo.co.uk*

Rotary is an international network of clubs for business and professional men and women, both active and retired. Clubs are committed to helping local and overseas communities. The local branch meets most Tuesdays for lunch and fellowship at the Kings Heath Cricket Club, 247 Alcester Road South, Birmingham B14 6DT. Visitors are welcome at most meetings, but should contact Colin Guy in advance.

Bournville Townswomen's Guild *Sue Davis 0121 608 0646*

South Birmingham only has two local Townswomen's Guilds and the appropriate one for ladies in Kings Norton is the one based in Bournville, established 65 years ago. A flourishing Guild, it covers parishes within a five mile radius and several current members come from Kings Norton. The group meets every fourth Monday of the month at the Friends' Meeting House in Bournville from 2.00 pm to 4.00 pm.

Kings Norton 41 Club *Michael Bunn 07 831 775 473*

We are a group of former Round Tablers which meets on the second Wednesday of the month at the KN Tennis Club for dinner and a themed talk. Any former members, or former Round Tablers, interested in joining us please make contact beforehand.

Kings Norton Supper Club *Annette Dickers, ardickers@outlook.com*

We meet every month at Kings Norton Golf Club for a two-course evening meal with coffee followed by a speaker. Membership is £12 per annum plus payment for the supper.

SPECIALIST INTEREST GROUPS

U3A (University of the Third Age) *www.u3a.org.uk, knu3a.membership@gmail.com, John Taylor 0121 458 6397*

Kings Norton's local U3A was successfully established in the first few months of 2017. The U3A is a nationwide organisation based on local groups providing opportunities for retired and semi-retired people to come together and develop their interests. Run on a voluntary basis, it sees members sharing their knowledge and experience with others in interest groups through informal activity sessions covering a wide range of subjects and activities.

Spoken Trend *tom_mccann@hotmail.co.uk and on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter @spokentrend, Tom McCann*

Spoken Trend is King's Norton's first regular venture into 'open-mic' spoken word and performance poetry. Launched in January 2017, it is already attracting a significant audience. It gives participants of all ages, many completely new to the activity, the opportunity to perform their own works in front of like-minded people. It takes place on the first floor of the Bull's Head pub on the last Wednesday of every month. Those wanting to perform should check in from 7.00 pm. The event is free for performers while spectators pay a £3 entry fee.

Kings Norton Photography Society *www.kingsnortonphotographicsociety.com*

Membership is open to men and women of all ages, from beginners to advanced. We meet at Kings Norton Tennis Club most Wednesday evenings from 8.00 pm-10.00 pm throughout the season (October – April inclusive) with a varied programme of events and outings.

Kings Norton Patchwork and Quilting Group *Sally Barney 07778 025725 or Deirdre Barker 07980 284416.*

We welcome people of all levels of ability. The group meets every Tuesday in term time at the Friends' Meeting House in Bournville from 10.00 am till 3.00 pm.

Birmingham Philatelic Society *www.birminghamphilatelic.co.uk, Robert Shaw, 0121 415 5226*

We are a group of stamp and postcard collectors, sharing our hobby through displays, buying and selling material, auctions and visits. Everyone with an interest is welcome including beginners. Our daytime meetings start at 2.00 pm at the Friends' Meeting House in Cotteridge.

Greenlands Chess Club www.chess.com/club/greenlands, Richard Collett 0121 458 7617 or 07874 216935

We are a small, friendly chess club, meeting most Tuesdays from 7.00 pm at the Greenlands Social Club in Longbridge Lane. We have members of all standards playing friendly or competitive league chess. New members are always welcome. There is a fee of £2 per night (the first two visits are free) or annual membership is £40.

Kings Norton Fundraising Group for St Mary's Hospice www.birminghamhospice.org.uk
suebarkerdaves@gmail.com, Sue Davies 0121 608 0646

We are a local group of volunteers who raise money to care for people living with life-limiting illnesses, their families and carers in Birmingham and Sandwell. We organize fundraising activities such as regular charity quizzes and stalls at local festivals. We also aim to raise awareness of the wide range of services offered by the hospice. We meet locally at 7.00 pm on the 2nd Monday of each month so, if you can spare a few hours to help, please contact Sue (above).

SPORTS & EXERCISE CLUBS & ORGANISATIONS

Health Exchange www.healthexchange.org.uk, 0800 1583535

Health Exchange creates an ongoing dialogue with the Birmingham community about health and wellbeing. It advises local volunteers who wish to offer relevant activities. A Health Exchange-supported walk, lasting for up to two hours with a break, takes place every Friday from 10.30 am, beginning in the car park of Kings Norton Park. Anyone interested in joining the group should contact walk leader Sally Saunders on 0121 458 6019.

South Birmingham Ramblers www.sbramblers.co.uk

Every week we meet up in Kings Norton Playing Fields Car Park to car share to the start of our walks. These are between 5 and 11 miles on various days of the week. For our current programme, please see our website and contact the walk leader for further details. For those interested in gentler exercise, we also have fortnightly mini walks on Tuesdays of approximately 2 miles, starting at 10 am: please contact Jenny (0121 444 4094) for further information.

Active Parks, www.beactivebirmingham.co.uk, 0121 464 2012

Active Parks, part of the City Council's Birmingham Wellbeing initiative, works in partnership with various organisations in order to offer a wide variety of free physical activities across Birmingham parks. With the Friends of Kings Norton Park group, depending on the season, it offers a range of local events, from jogging to Tai Chi, normally meeting in the Westhill Road car park at Kings Norton Park.

Kings Norton Tennis Club, Grange Hill Road B38 8RE www.kingsnortontennis.co.uk, 0121 458 2351

Our members benefit from all-year round use of tennis courts (except on rare occasions when club matches or coaching take priority) and access to members' club nights. Membership fees are lower than many clubs in the area, with discounts for couples as well as families.

Kings Norton Motorcycle Club www.evoice.org.uk/knmcc, Gordon Green 07504 676766

Formed in Kings Norton in 1944, we are a family-friendly motorcycle club with interests ranging across all types of motorcycles, from classic to modern. Some members take part in trials, scrambles, and hill climbs. We meet weekly on Thursdays at the Woodbourne Sports and Social Club in Rumbush Lane, Earlswood from 8.00 pm onwards. There is a thriving programme of social activities.

Kings Norton Golf Club Brockhill Lane B48 7ED, www.kingsnortongolfclub.co.uk, 01564 826789

We offer one of the premier golf courses in the West Midlands, set in 220 acres of beautiful parkland and featuring 27 holes of championship standard, a par 3 short course, a putting green and practice facilities. Applications for membership are welcome. Our impressive Grade 2 listed Weatheroak Hall clubhouse is also a popular venue for weddings, private parties and marketing events. Throughout spring and summer 2018 the club is running a series of lessons for ladies who want to get in to golf. Participants do not need any special golf gear, clubs and balls are provided. The cost is £25 for 5 lessons. More details on the Home and Ladies' pages of our website.

Push Bikes www.pushbikes.org.uk/event/bournville-gentle-cycling, John & Hilary Porter 0121 477 2156

Push Bikes is a Birmingham campaign group for better cycling, encouraging people who are not regular cyclists to get on their bikes for easy and sociable outings. Routes, normally of 10 to 12 miles, are mostly traffic-free, exploring local paths and parks and going at the pace of the slowest participant. New riders are always welcome. The nearest local group to Kings Norton meets at 10.00 on Saturdays at Rowheath Pavilion, Heath Road, B30 1HH.

Black Adder Clog Morris, blackaddersecretary@gmail.com or find us on Facebook

Morris Dancing is an ideal way of having fun and keeping fit. Dancers and musicians, beginners or advanced, men and women are welcomed by Black Adder. We meet most Thursdays (except August) from 8.00 p.m. to 10.00 p.m. in Selly Oak Friends' Meeting House at 930 Bristol Rd South, Birmingham B29 6NB. If you want to come along, please email us to check we're meeting that week.

COMMUNITY CENTRES & VENUES

Saint Nicolas' Place, 81 The Green B38 8RU, www.saintnicolasplace.co.uk, info@saintnicolasplace.co.uk, 0121 458 1223.

Kings Norton Library, Pershore Road South, Birmingham. B30 3EU
kings.norton.library@birmingham.gov.uk, 0121 464 1532

A wide range of books, CDs and materials for all ages including community information and local history. There is also a meeting room for hire and internet access. The Library organises a range of regular events including activities for children, reading and writing groups and our regular coffee mornings. A number of other organisations hold events at the Library.

Bells Farm Community Centre, Bells Farm Close B14 5QP, www.bellsfarm.org.uk, 0121 433 3532

Greaves Hall, Greaves Square B38 9LX www.opkn.co.uk/greaveshall, 0121 448 8760

Hawkesley Community Centre, 51 Edgwood Road B38 9RN,
www.facebook.com/HawkesleyCommunityCentre, 0121 399 0122

The centre organises a number of regular activities. Each Monday, between 5.30 and 7.30 pm, we offer exciting free activities for young people aged 11-17: just turn up. We also have a weekly Wellbeing Wednesday lunch for those aged 50 and over, with a free activity, costing £5.50. Please book in advance. We also run a drop-in centre for young adults aged 18-25 for help with job applications, or just a cup of tea and a chat. You can bring children, but please ensure they are supervised.

Manningford Hall, Bells Lane B14 5RY, www.manningfordhall.com, 0121 430 6005.

MUSIC VENUES

Tower of Song, 107 Pershore Road South, B30 3JC, www.towerofsong.co.uk, 0121 486 1300

We are a thriving music venue, created by a team of local volunteers and featuring music to suit all tastes. Most shows start from 8:30-9pm. Every Wednesday we have Rea River Roots and every Thursday is our Crossroads Blues Club. Please check our website for information on all events.

The Church in the Parish

We are a Church of England Team Parish in partnership with the Methodist Church, serving all in Kings Norton through St Nicolas Parish Church and Hawkesley and Immanuel District Churches.

**We believe that the church in Kings Norton exists
To be a worshipping transforming partnership in Christ
To live out God's radical hospitality for all
To be equipped for work in God's world**

St Nicolas' Parish Church

on The Green, Kings Norton, B38 8RU

Sunday	9.00 am	Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
	10.30 am	Holy Communion (with "Oasis" for 7's-11's)
2nd Sunday	10.30 am	Parade Service or Morning Worship for all ages
	4 pm	Holy Baptism (1 st and 3 rd Sundays of the month)
	6 pm	Evening Worship (see below)

Every Sunday evening we offer prayer, music and quiet. 1st Sunday: Taizé Prayer, 2nd Sunday: Holy Communion with Prayer for Healing, 3rd Sunday: Night Prayer (Compline) and Reflection, 4th/5th Sundays: Evening Prayer or Creative Worship.

Mon & Weds	9 am	Morning Prayer
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Hawkesley Church (Anglican & Methodist)

at Hawkesley Academy on the corner of Shannon Road and Old Partway, Kings Norton, B38 9TR

Sunday	10.30am	Worship and Children's Activities (5-11's)
		1 st & 3 rd Sundays Morning Worship
		2 nd & 4 th Sundays Holy Communion
Tuesday	10am	Hawkesley Coffee Morning (every two weeks)

Immanuel Church

at Saint Nicolas' Place, 81 The Green, Kings Norton, B38 8RU

Sunday	10.30am	Worship (with "Oasis" for those at Primary School)
1 st & 3 rd Sundays		Holy Communion;
2 nd Sunday		Joint service with either St Nicolas or Hawkesley
4 th Sunday		All-Age Worship

During the Week

We open Saint Nicolas' Church as much as we can so that all may share God's peace and promise in a space where they have been found and trusted for centuries. There is a place for you within its story. Please pray that more will know it as a safe place for prayer and healing, where sorrow and joy are held in God's love. **All are welcome.**

Wednesday	10.00 am - 12.00 noon : Open Church 7.00 pm – 8.00 pm : Open The Bible in Saint Nicolas' <u>Place</u>
Thursday	6.30 pm – 8.00 pm : Marriage and Christening (Baptism) enquiries in Saint Nicolas' Church
Saturday	10.00 am - 12.00 noon : Coffee and “Knit & Natter” in St Nicolas' Church

Children's Activities

Bumps & Babies: for new and expectant parents, in St Nicolas' Church every Monday from 1.00 pm to 2.30 pm. **Tiny Tots:** for 0-5's and their parents or carers every Thursday at 9.00 am in St Nicolas' Church.

Children are welcome at all services in all our churches. We offer All-Age worship and special activities for children on certain Sundays.
Please see our weekly newsletter for details.

Growing in Faith

We are exploring fresh ways for all to grow in faith, those making their very first step, those who have made many and those who are rediscovering God's love after times of change. Please ask in each church or see our website for details.

Help us to keep our Parish Church open

It costs more than £900 each week to keep St Nicolas' Church open. We welcome all financial support through donations and especially through regular Planned Giving. Do ask for details and, if a taxpayer, ask how you can Gift Aid your offering.

Christening (Baptism) and Weddings

Saint Nicolas' Church is open on Thursday evenings between 6.30 pm and 8.00 pm for enquiries about Christenings & weddings. This is an opportunity to make a booking to talk about these services in more detail.

More details at www.kingsnorton.org.uk

Events Diary November 2018

Thursday 1 November

- Kings Norton Women's Fellowship, St Nicolas' Place, 2.00-3.00 pm
- Crochet Group, Kings Norton Library, 2-3pm
- Kings Norton Motorcycle Club, Woodbourne Social Club, Earlswood, 8.00 pm
- Crossroads Blues Club, Tower of Song, 8.30 pm

Friday 2 November

- Kings Norton Library, 2.15-2.45 pm: Crafty Tales for the Under 5's

Saturday 3 November

- Push Bikes, Rowheath Pavilion, 9.45 am for 10.00 am start
- Saturday Book Group, Kings Norton Library, 10.30 - 11.30 am
- NAF Crossing Bridges activities and refreshments & craft session with NAF, Kings Norton Library, 2.00 pm - 5.00 pm
- Fields Millennium Green Trust volunteer working party, Fields Millennium Green, 10.30 am

Tuesday 6 November

- South Birmingham Ramblers: two-mile gentle walk, Kings Norton Playing Fields car park, 10.00 am
- Kings Norton Patchwork & Quilting Group, Friends' Meeting House, Cotteridge, 10.00 am - 3.00 pm
- Friends of Kings Norton Nature Reserve conservation workout, 10.30 am -1.00 pm (for venue see website)
- Funday Tuesday for babies & under 5s, Kings Norton Library, 10.30 -11.30 am
- Creative Writing Group, Kings Norton Library, 10.30 am -12.30 pm
- U3A (University of the Third Age) Monthly General Meeting, St Joseph's & St Helen's Church Hall, Station Road, Cotteridge, 2.00pm
- Greenlands Chess Club, 7.00 pm
- Kings Norton Supper Club, Kings Norton Golf Club, 7.30 pm: Alan Benjamin 'Royal Visits'

Wednesday 7 November

- Coffee morning, Kings Norton Library, 10.30-11.30 am
- Kings Norton Local History Group, Kings Norton Library, 2.00-4.00 pm
- Kings Norton Seniors' Club, Saint Nicolas' Place, 1.00-3.00 pm: Armchair exercise & Planting for Christmas

- Rea River Roots, Tower of Song, 8.30 pm

Thursday 8 November

- Crochet Group, Kings Norton Library, 2.00 - 3.00 pm
- Kings Norton Motorcycle Club, Woodbourne Social Club, Earlswood, 8.00 pm
- Crossroads Blues Club, Tower of Song, 8.30 pm

Friday 9 November

- Health Exchange local walk, Kings Norton Park car park, 10.30 am (all walkers, especially new participants, please check with Sally on 0121 458 6019)
- Kings Norton Library, 2.15-2.45pm: Crafty Tales for the Under 5's

Saturday 10 November

- Farmers' Market, The Green, 9.00 am-2.00 pm
- Friends of Historic Kings Norton charity book sale, St Nicolas' Place, 10.00 am-1.00 pm
- Push Bikes, Rowheath Pavilion, 9.45 am for 10.00 am start
- Craft Session with NAF, Kings Norton Library, 10 am-1 pm

Monday 12 November

- Kings Norton Fundraising Group for St Mary's Hospice, Stirchley United Social Club, 41 Hazelwell Road B30 2PR, 7.00 pm - 7.45 pm

Tuesday 13 November

- Kings Norton Patchwork & Quilting Group, Friends' Meeting House, Cotteridge, 10.00 am - 3.00 pm
- Friends of Kings Norton Nature Reserve conservation workout, 10.30 am -1.00 pm (for venue see website)
- Funday Tuesday for babies & under 5s, Kings Norton Library, 10.30 -11.30 am
- Creative Writing Group, Kings Norton Library, 10.30 am -12.30 pm
- U3A (University of the Third Age) Monthly General Meeting, St Joseph's & St Helen's Church Hall, Station Road, Cotteridge, 2.00 pm
- Greenlands Chess Club, 7.00 pm

Wednesday 14 November

- Coffee morning, Kings Norton Library, 10.30-11.30 am
- Kings Norton Seniors' Club, Saint Nicolas' Place, 1.00-3.00 pm: Age UK on 'Managing your Money'
- Kings Norton 41 Club, Kings Norton Tennis Club, 7.00 pm for 7.30 pm:
- Rea River Roots, Tower of Song, 8.30 pm

Thursday 15 November

- Crochet Group, Kings Norton Library 2.00 - 3.00 pm
- Kings Norton Motorcycle Club, Woodbourne Social Club, Earlswood, 8.00 pm
- Crossroads Blues Club, Tower of Song, 8.30 pm

Friday 16 November

- Health Exchange local walk, Kings Norton Park car park, 10.30 am (all walkers, especially new participants, please check with Sally on 0121 458 6019)
- Kings Norton Library, 2.15-2.45pm: Crafty Tales for the Under 5's
- Quiz at Kings Norton Tennis Club, Grange Hill Road, 7.00 pm. All welcome: bring a team of six or join others on the night. £12 per person including hot food. Space is limited, so please book early with Lorraine Langdon on 0121 459 0944

Saturday 17 November

- Push Bikes, Rowheath Pavilion, 9.45 am for 10.00 am start
- Craft Session with NAF, Kings Norton Library, 10.00 am-1.00 pm
- Fields Millennium Green Trust volunteer working party, Fields Millennium Green, 10.30 am

Monday 19 November

- Kings Norton Women's Institute (evening group), Friends' Meeting House, Cotteridge 7.00 pm: Christmas Crafts

Tuesday 20 November

- South Birmingham Ramblers: two-mile gentle walk, Kings Norton Playing Fields car park, 10.00 am
- Kings Norton Patchwork & Quilting Group, Friends' Meeting House, Cotteridge, 10.00 am - 3.00 pm
- Friends of Kings Norton Nature Reserve conservation workout, 10.30 am -1.00 pm (for venue see website)
- Funday Tuesday for babies & under 5s, Kings Norton Library, 10.30 -11.30 am
- Creative Writing Group, Kings Norton Library, 10.30 am -12.30 pm
- Kings Norton Women's Institute (afternoon group), Friends' Meeting House, Cotteridge, 2.00 - 4.00 pm: AGM & Activity
- Greenlands Chess Club, 7.00 pm

Wednesday 21 November

- Coffee morning, Kings Norton Library, 10.30-11.30 am
- Kings Norton Seniors' Club, Saint Nicolas' Place, 1.00-3.00 pm: Music with Kevin Miles
- Rea River Roots, Tower of Song, 8.30 pm

Thursday 22 November

- Crochet Group, Kings Norton Library, 2.00 - 3.00 pm
- Councillors' Surgery, Kings Norton Library, 4.30 pm
- Kings Norton Motorcycle Club, Woodbourne Social Club, Earlswood, 8.00 pm
- Crossroads Blues Club, Tower of Song, 8.30 pm

Friday 23 November

- Kings Norton Library 2.15-2.45pm: Crafty Tales for the Under 5's

Saturday 24 November

- Push Bikes, Rowheath Pavilion, 9.45 am for 10.00 am start
- Craft Session with NAF, Kings Norton Library, 10.00 am-1.00 pm

Monday 26 November

- Bournville Townswomen's Guild, Friends' Meeting House, Bournville, 2.00-4.00 pm
- Kings Norton History Society, St Nicolas' Place, 7 pm: Mike Burns 'The Liffords'

Tuesday 27 November

- Kings Norton Patchwork & Quilting Group, Friends' Meeting House, Cotteridge, 10.00 am - 3.00 pm
- Friends of Kings Norton Nature Reserve conservation workout, 10.30 am -1.00 pm (for venue see website)
- Funday Tuesday for babies & under 5s, Kings Norton Library, 10.30 -11.30 am
- Creative Writing Group, Kings Norton Library, 10.30 am -12.30 pm
- Greenlands Chess Club, 7.00 pm

Wednesday 28 November

- Coffee morning, Kings Norton Library, 10.30-11.30 am
- Kings Norton Seniors' Club: Outing to Chester
- Spoken Trend 'open mic' spoken word and poetry event, The Bull's Head, The Green: performers report 7.00 pm, event begins at 7.30 pm
- Rea River Roots, Tower of Song, 8.30 pm

Thursday 29 November

- Crochet Group, Kings Norton Library, 2.00 - 3.00 pm
- Kings Norton Motorcycle Club, Woodbourne Social Club, Earlswood, 8.00 pm
- Crossroads Blues Club, Tower of Song, 8.30 pm

Friday 30 November

- Kings Norton Library 2.15-2.45pm: Crafty Tales for the Under 5's

Saint Nicolas' Place Weekly Diary

Monday

Rainbows 5.30 pm

Guides 7.00 pm

Zumba 7.00 pm (Verity 07 966 690 476)

Cantare Community Choir 7.30-9.00 pm (Rebecca 07 803 900 154)

Kings Norton History Society 7.30 pm (last Monday of the month)

Tuesday

Slimming World 9.30 am-11.00 am & 5.00 pm – 7.00 pm (Nicola 07 875 555 958)

Rhythm Time 9.30 am – 12.30 pm (Vicky 0121 447 7632)

Circle Dancing 2.00 pm – 4.00 pm (Jan Davies 0121 476 1301)

Brownies 6.00 pm- 7.30 pm

Wednesday

Extend Exercise Class 9.30 – 11.00 am

Shapes & Adders Toddler Maths 9.45 - 10.45 am

Kings Norton Seniors' Club 1.00 pm-3.00 pm (contact Saint Nicolas' Place Office)

FSK Karate 4.30 pm – 6.00 pm (07 703 754 900)

Deeley's Dragon Martial Arts 6.30-7.30 pm

(enquiries@beeches-martialarts.co.uk)

Pilates 7.15 - 8.15 pm

Thursday

Kings Norton Women's Fellowship (first Thursday of month) 2.00 -3.00 pm

Brownies 6.30 pm-8.30 pm

Total Pilates 6.30 pm-7.30 pm (Pauline Austin 07 773 782 463)

Yoga Really Works Pregnancy Class 6.30 - 7.30 pm

Friday

Illumination Youth Theatre 4.00 – 5.30 pm (ages 5-10); 5.30 - 7.00 pm (ages 11-18)

(Melanie 07 766 724 834)

Yoga Really Works Stretch & Relax with Baby 11.00-12.00 noon

Saturday

Feel the Rhythm Dance School for children and young people 10.00 am-1.00 pm (Donna 07 788 528 504)

Kings Norton Farmers' Market

The Green, Kings Norton,
Birmingham B38

2nd Saturday Each Month

Get
FRESH

Next market
Sat 10th November
2018
9.00 - 2.00



Founded 1616, re-established
2005. The first Community
Interest Farmers' Market
in Britain





PLACES OF WELCOME

Connect, belong, contribute

Open Wednesdays

9:00am – 12:00pm

Hawkesley Church

On the corner of Shannon Road

And Old Portway

Hawkesley,

Birmingham.

B38 9TR

Open to everyone

So please drop in

Dear Job

A poem by Khembi Maynard

I can not tell you how much I need you.

You are the one thing I need to help me keep alive,

The one thing that will help me survive
Dear Job,

I saw you in the adverts on the telly, in the paper, even on the bus.

The more I'm apart from you makes me wanna cuss cause I need you.

I want to

Make myself independent, happy, fulfilled.

I'd like to think I'm free but, in the end, how can I be, without you?

I cannot live off mummy and daddy forever.

So, Dear Job

Come, come soon, come real soon!



Forever Living Products

elizabethchan@flp.com

07900 401622



We offer a huge range of naturally inspired, aloe vera-based products. We have had great success helping with people with their skin, joints, digestion, immune system and more! Our products are suitable for people of all ages from birth onwards and animals can also benefit from our products. Our product range covers the following areas:

health and wellness ; beauty ; skin care and daily care ; animals ; sports and mobility; nutrition and weight management

If you would be interested in using an experience pack for a few days, please do call Elizabeth/Lizzie so she can arrange a time that suits to deliver.

There are also part-time and full-time work opportunities available. Please do ask Elizabeth/Lizzie for more information in her role as a business coach and mentor.

FIRST WORLD WAR FILMS



As we approach the final weeks before the centenary of the end of World War One, it seems appropriate to consider films that best convey the realities of that first, truly global war. The three films chosen are based upon books, or a play, and are from different decades, yet they each portray the horror, futility and savage glory of that conflagration. Each film chosen also focuses on the lives of soldiers and officers from three of the main protagonist nations: Germany, France and Britain. The films are reviewed according to their decade of release.

All Quiet on the Western Front (1930)

Based upon Erich Remarque's bestselling novel of the same name, it is the film that set the standard for realism against which other films would be judged. The film opens with a class of German students listening to an impassioned speech from their lecturer about the glory of serving the Fatherland in war. A group of them enlist and the film follows their fortunes on the Western Front. From the moment they arrive near the front lines it is clear that all is chaos and confusion;

no quarters, no food no meaningful instructions. As the young friends slowly come to terms with their new surroundings, with the mud, rats and lice as well as with the constant shelling and fear of battle, the glory they expected to find is noticeably missing.

Inevitably, injury and deaths occur among the friends, they come face to face with the grim realities of war and they are changed. Hardened to the battlefield, they sense their essential humanity being eroded in the desperate need to survive. A telling scene is when one of the friends dies in a makeshift hospital and another's first thought is to take his boots.

The film caused controversy when first released and was banned in Germany and France for many years. However, its

realism remains its strength and makes it one of the most powerful anti-war films of all time.

Paths of Glory (1957)

Humphrey Cobb wrote the original book and play based upon the true story of French soldiers being executed for cowardice during the First World War. Kirk Douglas stars as a brave and honest Colonel (Dax) whose regiment is ordered to attack a heavily-fortified German position. It is a suicide mission and has been approved by Generals with dubious motives. The attack fails and the General in field command orders one hundred men to be court marshalled for cowardice. After heated arguments among the officers, it is agreed that three men will be chosen to take the blame for the failure of the attack.

SEPTEMBER 2018
FUNERALS

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him may not perish but may have eternal life.” (John ch.3 v.16)

4th September	Patricia Rose Jevons	76	SN.Bu.CY
5th September	Rosa Elsie Taylor	91	Cr.RH
6th September	Karen Maryann Firth	47	SN.Bu.KN
7th September	Kathleen Marion Roberts	87	In.CY
7th September	Isabella Grace Stansell	7 mths	SN.Bu.KN
11th September	Margaret Ann Simmons	83	SN.Cr.RD
20th September	Allan Gerard Hall	90	SN.Bu.CY

SN : Service at St Nicolas’ Church, **Cr** : Cremation, **Bu** : Burial,
In : Ashes interred, **CY** : Churchyard, **KN** : Kings Norton, **LH** : Lodge Hill,
QN : Quinton, **RH** : Robin Hood, **RD** : Redditch,

Colonel Dax acts as their defence and a tense court martial ensues where all arguments in the men's defence are persuasive and clearly true. Yet, they are found guilty and no appeal for clemency is heard.

The closing scenes of the three men awaiting their execution by firing squad is heart rending. Their end, when it comes, is a travesty. '*Les chemins de gloire mènent à la tombe.*' (The paths of glory lead to the grave)

Journey's End (2017)

This recent British release has much to commend it. Based upon R.C. Sheriff's play, it is the only one of these three films based upon the experience of an officer who served in the First World War. Sheriff was an officer in the East Sussex Regiment and was seriously wounded at the battle Passchendaele. He wrote the play in 1928 and it has been a staple of theatres ever since, but this is the first time it has been made into a film.

The film concentrates on a different aspect of trench warfare, the

personalities and interaction between a small group of officers and men in one small part of the front. Taking their turn at the front, this company are led by the charismatic Captain Stanhope. Loved by his men but wracked with inner guilt and doubt, his only solace is in alcohol. When a young friend of his suddenly turns up as a replacement Second Lieutenant, Stanhope's worst fears of the exposure of his weaknesses to those back home are intensified. The young officer is full of admiration for Stanhope and writes glowingly to his sister back in England of Stanhope's bravery; a sister who is, we learn, in love with Stanhope.

A shadow hangs over these men as a rumour of a major German offensive is imminent. The men realise they have two days to prepare and the signs are not good. There is little artillery support and no additional men are available. When the attack comes, it is decisive. All the worries and concerns of this band of brothers are terminated in the overwhelming carnage that is war.

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FOODBANK NEWS

Last month, we published some of the graphs from our annual report, giving a snapshot of the huge growth which there has been over the B30 Foodbank's 5 years of operation.

The recent Annual Dedication Service at Cotteridge Church featured a video clip from the Trussell Trust Annual Conference. The speaker used a wonderful phrase which we took as our service title: 'Destitution by Design'. The very system of which we should still be so proud, our welfare system, is simply not working for large swathes of our population.

If you need benefits to cope with your regular outgoings and are suddenly switched to a new benefit, all would be well if the transition were seamless, but it isn't. This gap can plunge a family or a single person into serious arrears and debt, which mount up as the period extends.

It is easy to see that this can very easily become a one-way slide into destitution. Arrears can mean the cutting off of vital services; the loss of communication,

which makes job or benefit applications almost impossible; no money for transport, affecting current or potential employment, education, access to healthcare, and so forth; loss of accommodation, especially if it is privately rented.

It is very easy to see how a relatively stable family or individual can make the transition from 'just about managing' (JAM) to destitution.

Just after the service, I watched a documentary called 'Debt Saviours' which showcased the work of CAP (Christians Against Poverty). What was very clear in the case studies presented there, and also from our own statistics (46% of our clients are single), was that those who do not have a support network are far more likely to fall into serious poverty.

Work moves, bereavements, relationship breakdowns and the like mean that there is no close group of family, friends or colleagues to call upon for support.

Sylvia Fox

SEPTEMBER 2018

MARRIAGES & WEDDING BLESSINGS

1st September Danny James Adkins & Faye Esther Goodyer

4th September Terry & Lorraine Whitehead

Hello everyone! Dexter here!

I've been wandering further around The Green and having more adventures. This month you can find out what my favourite food is.

I wonder what your favourite food would be? Did you know that, in the wild, a giraffe eats nearly all the time. We eat over 34 kilos of leaves and plants each day! But we only need to drink every few days as we get most of our water from the plants we eat.

We also have very long tongues, so long that we can reach our ears. Have you tried to reach your ear with your tongue?

Dexter G

Dexter & The Delicious Bacon

Dexter liked to wander. It was one of his most favourite things to do, except when he was hungry. Dexter wanted something, but he didn't know what. He walked along the pavement slowly and grumpily.

He had recently been having his Wanders in the direction of The Green and very much enjoyed what he discovered there. He was there now, but his empty stomach wouldn't let him enjoy looking around. He passed a window that had a sign above it reading 'Jordan's Café'. Dexter didn't know what a café was or what a Jordan was, but he knew one thing. It smelled DELICIOUS.



Dexter stood for a while and watched as people came in and out of the door. They went in empty handed and came out with containers of lovely-smelling things. Dexter decided to be brave and went in. He took a deep breath and smelled, BACON! He saw tables and kitchen chairs and some comfy, squooshy chairs and a lady looked at him and smiled.

'Can I help you?' she asked Dexter. She was standing behind a counter and a man behind her was cooking. Dexter was very nervous and his voice didn't always seem to work correctly when he felt like that. He edged closer to the counter lady and said, "CanIhavesomebaconplease?" very quickly.

The lady didn't get angry; she just smiled and said 'I'm sorry, could you say that again? I didn't hear you and I want to make

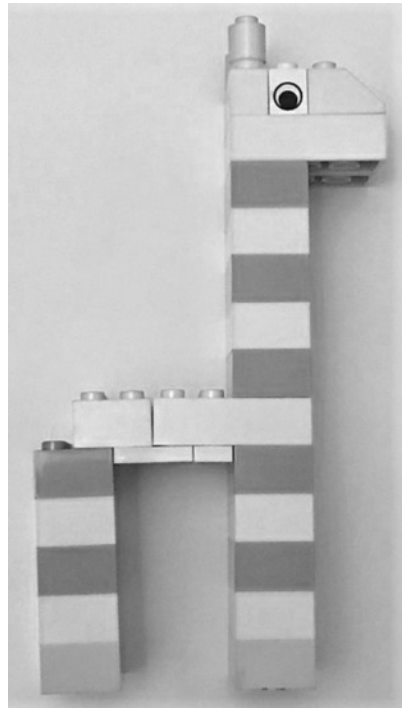


sure I give you what you want.' Dexter took a deep breath and said, 'Can I please have some bacon?' She said, 'Yes. Would you like anything to drink with that?' Dexter looked and saw orange juice in a jug, his favourite! 'Orange juice?' he asked 'I will bring it over in just a minute. Will you have a seat?' the kind lady said. So Dexter sat in one of the squooshy chairs and watched as people went past the window.

Soon, the lady was putting a plate in front of him piled high with crispy bacon. 'I will go and get your juice now,' she said and, quick as a wink, she brought him a glass of orange juice. 'Orange juice is my favourite,' she remarked to Dexter. Dexter said 'Me too! I like it because it tastes good and because it's the same colour as me!' And the lady laughed and said, 'Yes, you are both a lovely colour.'

Dexter munched happily on his bacon and drank his juice. He looked out onto The Green and felt much better now that his stomach wasn't complaining any longer. He stood up to leave and waved shyly at the lady. 'My name is Amy,' she said. 'I hope to see you again soon!' Dexter thanked her and cheerfully went out, thinking to himself that this had been a most delicious Wander!

Have you tried making a giraffe out of bricks? This one is with Lego but you could use Duplo or Mega Blocks. How tall will your giraffe be? How long will his neck be? Will he have ears and a tail? Have a go and see what you can make! Don't forget to send us your pictures!



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Word List

SANDWICH	ORANGE	AUTUMN	BACON	CAFE
YELLOW	LEAVES	JUICE	PLATE	DISH
CRUNCH	COLOUR	CRISP	FOOD	RED



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The Answer's Yes!

Black Dog

The Thoughts of a Lay Minister

I recently saw an advert for a pin badge. It was yellow and featured a black dog. Being a dog owner, I associate these colours with the Dogs' Trust, so I thought it was something about fundraising for them. Wrong! When I looked closer I found that it was actually a badge about the 'black dog' of depression.

The idea behind the badge is that 'It's OK to say if you don't feel OK' and that, if someone wears the badge, they are silently showing that they care, inviting people who see it to say to them that they don't feel OK.

I have mixed feelings about this. I think it's a great idea; but I also worry that we are hiding behind euphemisms. We should be calling depression just that. Depression. Not hiding it away behind the 'black dog' description, no matter how apt it might be. And we should be open and honest enough to be able to say to people 'No, I don't feel OK'. We shouldn't need a badge to enable us to do that.

In the week when I am writing this, we have marked World Mental Health Day.

Many people have been sharing their stories and showing their

support. But it's just one day. We need to be talking about this all the time and we need to be reducing the stigma attached to mental health. To do that, we need to be open and honest and to be able to say 'No, I'm not OK'. We need

to be able to say that we are suffering from depression without fear of comment or judgement.

I have lived with anxiety and depression for many years. I take medication. I have learnt coping skills and I can recognise my triggers. Sometimes, all of that works; sometimes it

doesn't. But I am still having to learn to say to people 'No, I don't feel OK' and to accept that is alright for me to feel that way. I don't (or shouldn't) need to explain myself.

My friend, Oli Lewington, is having a tough time at the moment, struggling with his depression. He has used his creativity to make a film to explain how



'We need to be able to say that we are suffering from depression without fear of comment or judgement'

depression feels, and what you can do to help. These are his words:

'Depression is the cell with windows too high to see out of no matter how hard you reach and stretch. If you are lucky, there is someone on the outside trying to see in, someone who can talk at you, shout to you, let you know that they'll help you; but you still can't see them or

sometimes even hear them . Depression is different because it's mine and not yours. You can't shoulder my burden, you can't lighten my load. That's not how it works. But perhaps sit with me here in the darkness, letting me know that I'm not by myself and never stop shouting.'

Pauline Weaver



'I'm an anxious dyslexic agnostic. I worry that there might not be a dog. How on earth can I be of any use to my local church?'

'Where there's a will, there's a way, old chap. Where there's a will...'

It's never too late to be generous. Talk to one of the clergy about remembering Kings Norton Team Parish in your will, or enquire at the Parish Office.

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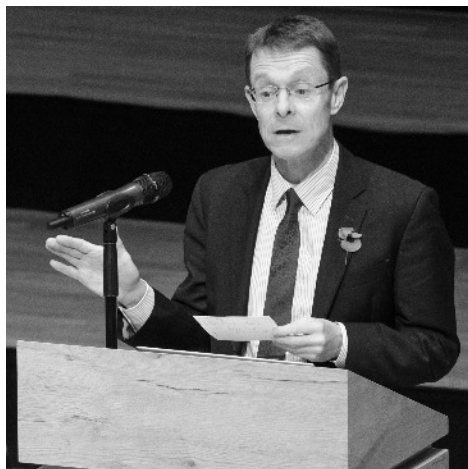
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THE TRAIN NOW APPROACHING PLATFORM 2 ..?



The long-awaited plan to re-open the Camp Hill railway line to passengers has taken a significant step forward. The local transport authorities recently confirmed their intention to create brand new stations at Hazelwell (Stirchley), Kings Heath and Moseley with the intention of completing the project in time for the 2022 Commonwealth Games in Birmingham. The line will run through to the city's Moor Street Station.

The project will mean an enhanced role for Kings Norton station, which will become a particularly significant element in the Birmingham rail network. It will effectively be the junction of two passenger lines going into the city, the Camp Hill line and the existing one through Bournville, Selly Oak, University and Five Ways to New Street. In effect, it could be required to handle a near doubling of the number of train journeys into and out of the city.



West Midlands Mayor Andy Street (photo, right) is fully committed to the new line to help relieve traffic congestion along the A435 route into the city. In fact, he is reportedly looking to find a way of opening the stations to passengers by as early as 2020, by

allowing trains to travel through to New Street Station, rather than Moor Street, as an interim measure. The completion of the Moor Street link requires a brand new railway viaduct to be built in Bordesley, which will take



up most the period before 2022.

Believe it or not, the line was closed to passengers as a 'temporary' measure during the Second World War. Though it has been maintained and used daily by freight traffic ever since, passengers have never been invited back, and all

its stations were allowed to fall into disrepair and ultimate demolition.

Whether its enhanced role will mean a refurbishment of Kings Norton station, and/or the re-opening of its derelict central platforms 2 & 3, remains to be seen.

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Merger Boosts Cadbury College

OUR CONTRIBUTOR MICHAEL KENNEDY became a Governor of Cadbury Sixth Form College a year ago, following an approach to the Reverend Larry Wright by its Deputy Chair of Governors, who was looking to establish a presence on the Board from the local community. If he was expecting it to be a straightforward role, he was mistaken, because over the past year the College has undergone a fundamental change which provides it with the platform for a strong and successful future.

Like most Kings Norton people, for many years I was aware of Cadbury College, located at the end of Downland Close just off the Redditch Road about half a mile from The Green. But that was about it. I had no real idea what was there, or how successful it was. For an organisation of its significance, it didn't seem to be playing a particularly significant role within the Kings Norton community.

I was pleasantly surprised when I made my first visit, to an Open Day event. A splendid complex of dedicated buildings with excellent facilities playing fields, car parks and perhaps most important of all an impressive group of students: polite, articulate, enthusiastic and helpful.

I learned that Cadbury provides a remarkable range of more than 50 A Level and BTEC Level 3 courses, and that more than 80% of its learners go on to university. Its students come from some 130 schools in Birmingham and beyond, benefiting not only from the teaching but from its friendly atmosphere and a range of 'enrichment' opportunities, including sporting, creative and social activities.

I soon learned that major change was in prospect. For various reasons student numbers had been declining for some years, and something needed to happen to remedy that decline and its consequences for the college's prospects. A merger was identified as the best option, and the Governors



organised a series of meetings with other colleges in the West Midlands to assess interest and find the best fit. The outcome is a merger with the remarkable successful Sandwell College in West Bromwich, which has become a fact from the beginning of this month.

The best way of describing what has happened is through the words of a joint press release issued by the colleges in October as the process of merging reached its final stages.

oooooooooooooooo

‘Exciting future ahead as Sandwell and Cadbury Colleges set to merge.

‘Sandwell College and Cadbury Sixth Form College are set to merge following a highly successful public consultation.

‘The merger plans have been embraced by all stakeholders for all the benefits

they will bring for both colleges. Governors at Cadbury College agreed their positive response to the merger plans at their last meeting.

‘Following a rigorous selection process, Sandwell College was chosen as the best fit to partner Cadbury College due to its shared ethos. The merger proposal had already received strong backing from a host of key stakeholders including the Education & Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) and the Further Education (FE) Commissioner, prior to public consultation which began in June.

‘Interim Cadbury College Principal Andrew Cropley said: "Cadbury is delighted to have received such widespread endorsement for its plans to merge with Sandwell College.

“The proposed merger is already bringing benefit to students in the shape of improved IT and expanded

curriculum offer and this will only accelerate once the merger is complete."

'Sandwell College Principal and Chief Executive, Graham Pennington, said: "The merger offers immense benefits by bringing together two colleges that are both primarily focused on young people's futures."

"It offers an exciting opportunity for staff at both colleges to work together to enhance the student experience and the courses both colleges offer. Our colleges share a common ethos of putting students at the heart of our activities and giving students the best possible outcomes to help them progress, whether that's to Higher Education, further study, employment or apprenticeships."

'The colleges are focused on improving quality and Ofsted recently commented on Sandwell's "relentless focus on quality improvement". Ofsted also recognised recent dramatic improvements brought about by the new interim team at Cadbury, following a challenging period, and this provides a sound foundation to build upon.

'We are both community-based colleges and our intention is to build on existing local links to ensure we serve our students and stakeholders effectively.'

oooooooooooooooo

Mergers don't always have the best of outcomes for the partners involved, and of course there was a risk that, in merging, Cadbury might find its

identity blurred, or even overwhelmed, and that its facilities might be 'streamlined'. But the reverse is true in this case: both colleges see their prospects significantly enhanced by the merger.

Why this is so can be seen by the report issued by the colleges following the process of public consultation that was a necessary part of the merger process.

Though some adverse reaction may have been expected, there was an almost universally positive response to the consultation. Some excerpts from the report explain the principal positive outcomes that are envisaged.

oooooooooooooooo

'The Partnership will include a specific site called Cadbury Sixth Form College. [It] has real warmth and friendliness, which visitors, partners, new employees and prospective students can't help but feel when they first enter the building, and which enables our students to feel safe and supported. The Partnership will retain this feel and its primary focus on providing a high quality education for 16-19 year olds.

'Its "small college feel" is an invaluable asset [...]. This is reinforced by the ethos of togetherness and mutual support amongst the staff, which enables the strongly academic atmosphere to be enhanced by supportive and nurturing staff-student relationships. It is further strengthened by the safe environment that is experienced across the campus [...].

‘The Partnership will retain and develop a high-quality [education, including] A Levels across an extensive range of subjects. It will be complemented at Level 3 by a range of vocational options in areas where the college has a proven track record and relevant expertise. This will be supported by a Level 2 pathway for those not ready at 16 to take on the challenge of [...] Level 3 [...]. It will build on the college's strong track record in supporting students [as they] progress into Higher Education.

‘[We] will seek to develop partnerships with schools, universities and elsewhere to improve the participation in Level 3 education within the local community and progression to Higher Education.

‘The Partnership will have strong, stable and sustainable finances, which will permit investment in the fabric,

facilities, equipment and staff at Cadbury Sixth Form College. [...]

‘[It] will take forward a clear plan to develop and enhance the reputation of Cadbury Sixth Form College and, in so doing, will increase student numbers in order to improve [its] financial health.’

oooooooooooooooo

There seems no doubt that Cadbury College will now be driving forward to much higher levels of achievement. As this article is being written, a new local management organisation is under development to support this process, but one thing is clear: one of its priorities will be to strengthen the college's involvement with the local community.

www.cadcol.ac.uk

Michael Kennedy



On The Rocks!

This month, Kings Norton's favourite maritime adventurer highlights the dangers of sleeping on the job while at sea.



In the winter of 1988, I was serving on board the *M.V. Kowloon Bay*, as ship of some 60,000 tons. Our vessel was in dry dock for the usual refit, situated in the Mitsubishi complex in Kobe, Japan.

One day, we received the disturbing news that one of our sister ships had run aground in the Straits of Malacca en route to Singapore. In due course, more details came through and we were pleased to learn that no-one had been hurt.

It turned out that the ship in question, the *Liverpool Bay*, had steamed head-on into a small, rocky island in the early hours. The impact had been tremendous and the fore part of the ship was badly damaged. As you can imagine, 60,000 tons of ship hitting the rocks at almost 30 m.p.h. was very traumatic for all the ship's company.

The Captain was taken off by helicopter the next day. According to the rules, he should have been called to the bridge when the ship entered closed waters (the normal procedure). The Second Mate had been the officer on watch and he had been accompanied by one seaman who had been doing a small cleaning job on the bridge floor. Evidently, this officer had been at the rear of the wheelhouse and had fallen asleep on the chart room table!

Both the officer on watch and the Captain lost their tickets and their careers at sea were over. The damaged ship was eventually towed for fourteen days before reaching Japan, where it



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was placed in dry dock close to where we were berthed.

Of course, we socialised with the crew and were told all the details of the fateful night. Luckily, the collision had been head-on and, as the *Liverpool Bay* was a cellular vessel with watertight compartments, it was not in danger of

sinking. To see the damage was quite spectacular. The whole of the front of the ship had been completely destroyed below the waterline.

What a to do!

Eddie Matthews



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Catherine Taylor c.r.taylor@bham.ac.uk

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Brownies: Thursdays 6.30 - 8.00 pm

Guides (247th Birmingham):Mondays 7.15-9.00 pm

Guides and Brownies

at Hawkesley Church Centre

Rainbows (1st Kings Norton): Mondays 5.30 pm

Brownies (259th Birmingham): Wednesdays 6.30 pm

Guides (141st Birmingham): Thursdays 7.00 pm

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