

KINGSLEY NEWS

THE NEWS AND VOICE OF YOUR COMMUNITY

APRIL 2025



Online edition at
www.kingsleyvillage.co.uk

Newsletter Highlights

The Brookers
A tribute

Kingsley Walkers

Did You Know

Kingsley Book Club

A Time for Joy

WI date for you diary



KINGSLEY
COMMUNITY
ASSOCIATION

A registered charity
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Kingsley Community Association - Committee Members

<i>Chairman</i>	Elizabeth Batey - Tel: 788788
<i>Vice Chairman/Kingsley News Editor</i>	Steve Easton - kingsleynewseditor@gmail.com
<i>Treasurer</i>	Heather Jones - Tel: 788104
<i>Bookings/Secretary</i>	Heather Hayes - Tel: 07955 648670
<i>Council Members elected</i>	Vic Wodhams, Carol Rowlands, Anne Kavanagh (In addition, one representative from each affiliated group supports the committee)
<i>Printing: Simon Batey; Printing Support: Jane Wodhams; Distribution Co-ordinator: Carol Rowlands</i>	

Kingsley Community Centre: Regular Weekly Classes

Tai Chi	Monday	10.30am to 11.30am	liverpooltaichi@gmail.com
Gentle Yoga	Monday	6.15pm to 7.30pm	helenjanetwoodcock@gmail.com
Pilates	Tuesday	12pm to 1pm	dickienad@yahoo.co.uk
Karate	Tuesday	6pm to 7pm	dan@kenshinryu.co.uk
Yoga	Tuesday	7.30pm to 8.30pm	bjerk@hotmai.co.uk
Gentle Exercise	Wednesday	11am to 12noon	helenjanetwoodcock@gmail.com
Yoga	Wednesday	7.30pm to 8.30pm	will@yogaandhealingcheshire.co.uk
HiiT	Thursday	6.30pm to 7.30pm	info@alutotraining.com

Community Centre Standard Hire Charges	Whole Centre	The Hall	Club Room	Green Room
Friday or Saturday Evening 6pm to 11pm	£90	£50	£45	£45
Sunday to Thursday Evening 6pm to 11pm	£60	£40	£30	£30
Sunday to Friday 8am to 12 pm or 1pm to 5pm	£45	£30	£20	£20
Saturday 8am to 12pm or 1pm to 5pm	£50	£35	£25	£25
8:00am to 11pm (All Day)	£150	£90	£75	£75

Rooms can be hired for an hourly rate of £15 per hour.

There is a standard charge of £35 per session for the provision of the bar.

FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to the April 25 edition of Kingsley News,

A warm welcome again from the team at Kingsley News.

Did you know that the Kingsley Community Association (KCA) which runs the Community Centre and publishes the Kingsley News is totally formed from volunteers from within the village? For my self, I have been involved now for over 20 years! But as with all voluntary organisations we are always looking for more people to get involved. Would you be able to offer a little of your time and become our next KCA treasurer? Check out the advert on the next page.

With regards to Kingsley News, we are always looking for new articles to share. We always publish each article with the minimum of editing (spelling and grammar only) and as such each article reflects the thoughts and views of the author and not those of the KCA.

Finally, many thanks to go to Val Boote for her 'Spring Helebores' adorning our front cover. In past editions we have included photos of your pet dogs. If any of you would like to share a photo of your pet; dog, cat or whatever, then please do send them in, and maybe your beloved pet will appear on the front cover next month.

Best Wishes
Steve

I hope you continue to enjoy reading this edition and please do give feedback too. Please, don't forget that Kingsley News is also available in digital format on the Kingsley village website, www.kingsleyvillage.co.uk.

*Photos/Articles/Adverts for the newsletter to be sent to the Editor at
kingsleynewseditor@gmail.com
Copy deadline the 21st of the month.*



Advertising Costs

Advert size (A5)	Colour	Black & White
Full page	£40	£24
1/2 page	£20	£12
1/4 page	n/a	£6

KINGSLEY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

ROLE OF TREASURER

A vacancy has arisen for the role of Treasurer of the Kingsley Community Association.

The Treasurer is responsible for handling all receipts and payments, using online banking, reporting on the Association's financial position to fellow Trustees and preparing accounts for independent examination and submission to KCA's annual general meeting and to the Charity Commission. The Treasurer works within the team of volunteers who run the Community Centre and KCA's other activities within the village.

The role is fulfilling and gives a real sense of contributing to the community. The current financial position of KCA is sound and offers the Treasurer a great opportunity to work with the team in the further development of KCA's activities.

Simon Batey, KCA's previous long-standing Treasurer, is willing to provide guidance and will fully support whomever comes forward to join the KCA team as Treasurer, so taking on this role will not be difficult.

Kingsley Community Centre is a wonderful village asset that relies on volunteers for its day to day running. Please do come and join us, as Treasurer or as a member of the management team.

For further information, contact Elizabeth Batey, Chair, email: embatey@msn.com tel: 01928 788788, or Steve Easton, Vice Chair, email: eastonfamily4@me.com.

Thank you.

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THE BROOKERS

A TRIBUTE, IN MEMORY OF THEIR LIVES IN KINGSLEY

It is appropriate to record the passing of two individuals who contributed so much over nearly 50 years to the life of the Kingsley community. Dr Bert and Berra Brooker moved to Cornwall to be close to their family some six years ago from 54 Top Road. Sadly, Berra passed away in September last year, aged 87 and Bert in December aged 92. Their friends in Kingsley feel that their lives and contributions to the community should be put on record as so many of us have the fondest memories of a remarkable couple.

Bert Brooker was a true polymath with an amazing knowledge based on his many life experiences combined with an encyclopaedic memory. Bert was born in January 1932 in Birkenhead but was separated from his family during the war, spending time with a farming family in North Wales: his mother considered it a wise move where he learnt some Welsh and how to milk cows. He returned to Birkenhead to complete his secondary education; he was an accomplished sportsman, being selected at 17 to play hooker for England against Wales in the Boys Club Association! This love of sport and the outdoor life would stay with him throughout his life.

On leaving school, Bert entered Medical School in Liverpool. Following Medical School, he undertook his National Service with the RAF, ending up in St. Kilda as the Medic (as well as dentist) and then took the opportunity to spend a year as the only doctor (and dentist) with the British Antarctic Survey. These formative experiences of life in remote settings were always worth listening to and contributed to his ability to be able to cope with the many challenges that life always provides. When back in the UK he worked in psychiatry in Liverpool and practised his psychiatry at Winwick Hospital, a Victorian "asylum edifice" before moving to Halton which was his final career post.

Bert became a much-respected Consultant Psychiatrist. He always challenged the administrative and bureaucratic hierarchy of the National Health system and ploughed his own furrow. He was responsible for planning the psychiatric facility at Halton and his lifelong commitment was recognised by the naming of the Brooker Centre for his contribution to the mental health of the area when he retired.

Berra was brought up near Dundee, then moved to Glasgow and Edinburgh. The daughter of a clergyman, with an Australian mother, she spent a year with her mother and sister in rural Australia, but then returned to complete her secondary and university education in Scotland. She graduated from Edinburgh University with a degree in French and Art history the latter for which she was awarded a Medal. Bert met Berra at judo classes and they married in 1962. As a couple they were a true team and enjoyed the trust and respect of the whole community. They raised four children – two sons and two daughters – in Kingsley and then Berra became a committed social worker in Runcorn.

Bert and Berra's respective professions gave them insights into the challenges which those less fortunate were experiencing and placed them firmly left of centre politically, indeed, Bert's middle name was Keir reflecting the family tradition of support for the less advantaged. Berra was a stalwart and committed member of many of the Kingsley Village Clubs including the Women's Institute, Gardening Club, Kingsley Parish Council, Pony Club and Book Clubs. She helped to establish, organise and distribute the Kingsley News, Bert helping for many years with the printing of it. Berra was also active in the Save the Children Committee which organised four or five events a year, such as barbecues and concerts, along with street collections. The group were formally recognised by the SCF as the most successful fundraising group in the Northwest.

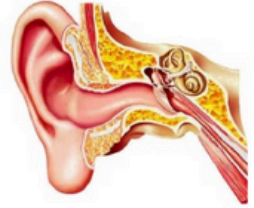
At Berra's funeral her family read the Maya Angelou poem "Phenomenal Woman": a fitting tribute.

The epic Brooker event was always the New Year's Day gathering at Top Road where the Brookers entertained as many friends as could fit into their home. Those of us who were lucky to be there were exposed to Bert's special mulled wine recipe which was generously dispensed throughout the afternoon accompanied by Berra's canapes. It must be said too that the Brooker team's generosity with their time extended throughout the year. Always sympathetic as listeners, always to be relied upon to help and always flavoured with a sense of humour from a fund of jokes and stories. Bert could engage you for hours (far past Red Bull closing time where he was a frequent client) with the many stories which derived from his remarkable memory and his innate ability for recollection from a rich and varied life.

The funerals of the Brookers took place in Cornwall and were attended by as many of the family who could make it. Their children – Charles, Amy, Max and Georgia - arranged poignant celebrations of their respective lives. Unfortunately, no one from Kingsley could be present but their friends were able to join a webcast of the funeral online to hear the family eulogies and recollections of two of Kingsley's great characters. Bert and Berra contributed so much over the decades to the Kingsley community.



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KINGSLEY

GARDEN CLUB



Our next meeting is on Monday, 14th April 2025 at 8pm when our speaker will be Pip Probert, a garden designer and presenter. She will talk to us about what happens behind the scenes on gardening TV programmes which should be very interesting.

Pip is an award winning designer and a RHS multi award winner and is donating a raffle prize which is a planting plan for a border of up to 15m. Sounds vey exciting.

Visitors are always welcome at our meetings and it costs £5 per meeting – why not come along and find out more?

**We look forward to seeing you at The Community Centre
on 14th April at 8pm.**



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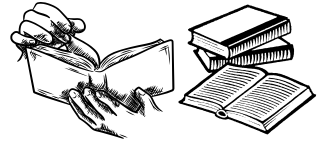


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BOOK CLUB



**This month we met to discuss *Young Mungo* by Douglas Stuart
The number one Sunday Times bestseller by the Booker prize-winning author.**

Set in the immediate aftermath of Thatcherism. With echoes of Shuggie Bain, the main character here is Mungo, a 15-year-old gay teenager, coming of age in an environment where any deviation from a narrowly defined masculinity is perilous. Stuart's prose is pitch perfect and his exploration of masculinity through the various male characters is nuanced. The violence is searing and raw. This is not a typical novel showing how tragic it is to be a gay man. Were it not for Mungo being a queer teenage boy, he likely would have followed in the footsteps of his brother and remained tethered to the toxic world of his upbringing. As difficult as Mungo's situation is, the understanding that he doesn't belong is ultimately what gives him the vantage to see his situation for what it is. We see this play out on the closing pages. For Mungo, being a young gay man isn't a tragedy. It is his salvation.

This beautifully written book transported us to the harsh realities of working-class Glasgow, marked by sectarian violence. It follows the poignant story of Mungo, an autistic young man raised by his alcoholic mother. We felt that this book was essential to convey the challenges of growing up in the 1980s and the struggle of being unable to conform to societal expectations.

In a predominantly female group, we gained insight into the thrill and sense of freedom experienced by young lads engaging in joyriding and vandalism, whose primary aim in life seemed to be fighting Catholics. Not realising that this is what it was like to be male growing up in the 80's not just in the big cities.

For our next book we are reading Mary Shelley's classic novel *Frankenstein*. We will be meeting on 10th April at KNVI. If you would like to join us or any information on our future book list please email Janet.Owen10@outlook.com

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The Knoll Surgery Patients Participation Group (KSPPG)

Chairman's Report - March 2025

Paul Stockbridge is Chair of the KSPPG and this is a precis of this report given at the AGM of the group on Wednesday 12th March 2025:

"I start by thanking all members of the group for being so lively, proactive and supportive throughout the year. I thank the members of the surgery who value our open discussions which are beneficial to patients and the surgery alike, which, of course, is the underlying objective of our group.

Since our last AGM the group has been very busy at our regular monthly meetings. We have had considerable discussions regarding the closure of the Kingsley surgery which is still in progress. We have finally managed to open a bank account with Lloyds! The newsletters have been successful and we look forward to further newsletters and to developing other methods of communication. We have an exciting project to develop a 'Comfortable Area' within the surgery. We have agreement in principle from the landlords. We now seek proposals from contractors and we shall be applying for grant funding.

Presentations to the group during the year included one about the training of surgery receptionists and another about autism and Autism Cheshire. Members of our group will shortly be joining with the Helsby PPG for discussions and training relating to dementia.

Looking ahead, we held a very successful Health and Wellbeing day in 2023 and we now plan for a similar event on 5th June 2025, which is due to be similarly successful"

AN UPDATE FROM KINGSLEY RESIDENT, MR JOHN HUTCHISON.....

Save Our Surgery!

On the morning of the 13th March 2025 the Prime Minister announced the end of NHS England and the rise of local Integrated Care Boards (ICBs).

That afternoon the Cheshire and Merseyside ICB announced the **closure of Kingsley Branch Surgery.**

There is a good tale to tell of the efforts to re-open Kingsley Branch Surgery - perhaps not at his time. Our main approach via our local MP led to our basic proposal to update the branch surgery being conveyed to the relevant government minister ... that is before someone blotted their copybook.

"The Elderly' and I would like to thank all 118 Kingsley residents who participated in our petition.

DID YOU
KNOW ?

..... that in the last five years there was an **87% increase in the sale of Bibles**, particularly among the younger adult age range, and I believe that 2024's figures are exceeding normal expectations?

It always amazes me that, in the time when church attendance generally in the UK seems to be on the decline, Bibles are still a 'best-selling' book. There are 80 million copies printed every year worldwide.

I was surprised when, in conversation with someone working at our house the other day, he announced that he had bought and was reading the Bible, having had no religious upbringing. When he had time to think during the pandemic, he began to wonder what life was all about and was finding that this was helping! In thinking about it, later, I realised that I should have advised him to read it in conjunction with a study book.

I think people start at the beginning, like a normal book, but this isn't necessarily the right approach, as you soon get bogged down by difficult readings and it takes a long time to read through the Old Testament before you even get to the life of Jesus in the New Testament.

There are 7 sections to the Bible:

- 1). The first 5 books are the books of Moses setting out the Jewish Law.
- 2). From Joshua to Esther you have 12 books of history.
- 3). You then have 5 books of poetry, which includes the Psalms.
- 4). Followed by 5 books written by major, and 12 by minor, prophets.
- 5). In the New Testament we have 5 books giving the history of Jesus' life. Matthew, Mark, Luke, John and Acts.
- 6). 21 books, or letters of encouragement, from Jesus' disciples to the churches they had set up in their travels around the world.
- 7). The book of Revelation – a difficult to read prophesy of life to come, written in very florid language.

HAPPY READING!!!!!!

theWI **Kingsley**
INSPIRING WOMEN

All meetings are the first Wednesday
of the month
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Wednesday April 2nd
A talk by Ashley Hirst from
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CHURCH NEWS



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Services in April 2025

Sunday 6th April – Passiontide begins

10.00 am Family Holy Communion at Norley
6.30 pm Sacred Space at Crowton

Sunday 13th April – Palm Sunday

10.00am Holy Communion at Crowton
6.00pm 2nd Sunday @ 6 – at NCK Centre, Norley

Thursday 17th April – Maundy Thursday

7.00 pm Holy Communion at Alvanley

Friday 18th April – Good Friday

2.00 pm Meditations at the Cross

Sunday 20th April – Easter Day

10.00am Holy Communion at all churches in
Norley, Crowton, Kingsley and Alvanley

Sunday 27th April

8.30 am Holy Communion at Crowton
10.00 am Holy Communion at Alvanley
4.00 pm 4th Sunday at 4 Family Service

Mid-week Holy Communion all at 10.00 am

3rd April at Kingsley ,10th April at Norley
24th April at Crowton

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Worship at The Hurst Methodist Church

April 2025

Sunday 6th April

8.30am Holy Communion
led by Revd G Gresswell
10am Morning Worship
led by Mrs N Hughes

Sunday 13th April Palm Sunday

Morning Worship
led by Prof N Ford
with update from Family link Myanmar

Sunday 20th April Easter Day

10am Holy Communion
led by Revd G Gresswell

Sunday 27th April

No service at the Hurst
10.45 Joint service at Norley
Chapel Anniversary
led by Revd G Gresswell

We are anxious the most vulnerable of our
community feel safe, so ask that you please do
not attend if you have cold or flu symptoms.

Feel free to wear a mask if you wish.

Church Open St John's is open on Tuesday Mornings from 10am to 12noon
for those who wish to take some quiet time out or for private prayer

A time of Joy from Gail Fullbrook, Reader

I love the month of April more than any other. Spring is established now. Easter and the promise of resurrection is almost upon us. Summer is just around the corner. The days lengthen. There's a warmth in the sun. Hedgerows, gardens, fields are filled with colour and beauty. And added to all that, I celebrate my birthday this month.

Gail means father's joy and I know that, most of the time, I was my father's joy. But I also know that we are all called to be people of joy, particularly so, in a world and at a time, when joy, pure joy, feels to be in short supply. We are called by God, our Father, to be his joy.

It's easy to get caught up in the horrors and challenges of this life. To be fearful for our future, the future of our families and friends. To consider world peace unattainable. And yet, as people of faith, we are called trust in the words of Revelation 21:4, "He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the former things have passed away". The promise of God. The promise of a time when suffering will cease.

I am reminded of this poem written by Hafiz, a 14th Century Persian poet who is considered by many from different cultures, to be one of the seven literary wonders of the world. A poet for poets. And it reminds us of our responsibility, particularly as this season of Easter draws near, to be people of joy.

The Sacred Dance for Life by Hafiz

I sometimes forget that
I was created for joy
My mind is too busy
My heart is too heavy
Heavy for me to remember
that I have been
called to dance
the sacred dance for life
I was created to smile
to love
to be lifted up
and lift others up
O sacred one
Untangle my feet
from all that ensnares
Free my soul
That we might
Dance
and that our dancing
might be contagious.



**KINGSLEY
PRAYER DIARY**



Each week of the year Christians in Kingsley pray specially for people in a different area of the village and its surroundings. During April we think of, and pray for people living in: -

W/c Apr 6th Cooks Hill

**W/c Apr 13th Pike Lane,
Wood Lane,
The Clough**

**W/c Apr 20th Roddy Lane and
Beech Lane**

W/c Apr 27th Chapel Avenue

Coffee and Chat

Please come and join us each **Tuesday morn 10am** at the Hurst Methodist Church

For 'Coffee and Chat', meet old friends and new.

You will be most welcome

Men's Brunch

*Friday, 25th April at 10.30am in
The Hurst meeting room for
bacon/sausage bap.*

Please come and join us.

KINGSLEY WALKERS



We have carried on our walk programme for 2025 looking forward to smoothly executed plans and improving weather. On 25th February 6 ladies and 3 gentlemen set off in lovely sunshine on a very local route and felt able, with no great ascents, to aspire to 11 miles in distance. After a section through Delamere Forest we joined the Oakmere Way. This path was opened in April 2014 by the Rt Hon Stephen O'Brien MP, as a multi-user bridleway and footpath linking Delamere Forest with the Whitegate Way, running between the quarry and Delamere Forest Golf Club. It was instigated by the determined and extended efforts of the Mid Cheshire Bridleway Association, with funding and assistance from Natural England and Lafarge Tarmac.

Our coffee stop was taken overlooking the quarry. There were huge excavations in progress and immense pyramids of sand as a result. We continued to the Whitegate Way and after our lunch (all 9 on a picnic bench) we followed the bridle path under the bridge, up the hill and onto the minor road next to Delamere Park Housing Estate. Then along the road and footpaths to bypass the busy road back to Norley. Although the walk was in a familiar local area, it is still possible to create a route which baffles and surprises, introducing hidden footpaths which turn up in unexpected locations.

On 11th March the short walk started from the Rams Head Pub near the old Grappenhall School (now derelict) for boys with behavioural problems. When asked, all of the male members of the group claimed to have attended different institutions. Again we enjoyed bright weather though it was cold as we passed through fields, woodland, country parks, along a section of the Bridgewater Canal and close to Grappenhall Heys Walled Garden.

We returned after 5 miles to the pub for a very enjoyable lunch, with a mixture of lively discussions and navel gazing.

Kingsley Walkers have two walks per month, new members are very welcome, please email on kingsleywalkerswa6@gmail.com

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