

KINGSLEY NEWS

THE NEWS AND VOICE OF YOUR COMMUNITY

DECEMBER 2024



Newsletter Highlights

Allo Allo
Goodbye
Goodbye

Shuffling the
Camino to
Santiago de
Compostela

Youth Theatre
wins National
Award



KINGSLEY
COMMUNITY
ASSOCIATION

Online edition at www.kingsleyvillage.co.uk

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Charity number: 503072

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 December 24 edition of Kingsley News,

A warm welcome again from the team at Kingsley News and wishing you all a very Merry Christmas! Check out all the church services and events offered for our villagers to celebrate this special time.

I do hope you like the front cover showing a flowering horse chestnut, courtesy of Simon Batey.

In this month's edition we say a fond farewell to 'Allo 'Allo, performed by Kingsley Players over the past 21 years. To celebrate this I have kindly been given permission to publish much of the souvenir programme produced for the final performances at the community centre last month.

A big thank you to our guest writer, Bryan Bulloch, who shares his exploits shuffling the Camino to Santiago de Compostela. An amazing achievement, his 'just giving' page is still open if you want to donate to his nominated charities; Parkinson UK and Chester Neurotherapy Centre.

Congratulations go to Kingsley Players Youth Theatre who have been nominated for a national award. Read all about it in this edition.

And finally, an SOS from a Kingsley resident. Can Kingsley Surgery's closure be averted?

Keep warm, keep safe and see you all in the New Year.

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
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SHUFFLING THE CAMINO TO SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA



My ambition to walk the Camino to Santiago dates back to when I saw the film “The Way” starring Martin Sheen. But approaching 10 years ago I was diagnosed with Parkinson’s which slowly and steadily tightens its grip on me.

Earlier in the year when chatting to Nick our eldest son I said I regretted never having got round to organising a walk on the Camino to Santiago when I was fit enough to do it. Nick assured me it was never too late and said he would investigate to see what he could do.

Looking back at emails we exchanged at the time, Nick was looking into organising seven days of walking covering the last seven stages of the French Way to Santiago – a total of 81km. Stages average about 12km in length and based on my walking at home we were thinking in terms of me walking around 3-4km each day – possibly even stretching sometimes to 5km, and I would complete each stage in a taxi. On a wave of optimism Karen and I agreed we’d join Nick and his family on a trip to the Camino in mid-October. Before we left, friends suggested I should look for sponsors but the idea of asking people to sponsor me mainly to sit in a taxi seemed ridiculous and I declined.

On arrival in Spain we had allowed ourselves a day to recover from the journey and Karen and I did a short walk on the Camino coming across dozens of walkers of all ages and nations, nearly all with a smile, a cheery wave, an “Ola” or a “Buen Camino”; there was such a positive atmosphere!



To cut a long story short, on the following day I somehow managed to walk the full 12km of the first Stage – albeit in 8 hours – with Nick in close attendance. In the evening, we decided we could reasonably invite sponsors and my daughter-in-law (who is good at these things) set up a JustGiving page *.

<https://www.justgiving.com/page/sabrina-bulloch-1729424656059>

Day 2 was less successful. Early on, I lost my balance on a rough downhill path and sat down fortunately with no ill effect. A couple of times after that a leg gave way – perhaps due to the unexpected exercise on the previous day – and Nick caught me as I began to fall, which led to a “Dad, do you think you could give me a bit more warning when you’re about to collapse?” After that, I did learn to stop when I was close to collapse and rested in the folding chair Nick carried until I was ready to get going again.



The last 3 Stages were each 10km long and I managed them in full so that on arrival in Santiago I was amazed to find that over the seven days I had walked 64km of the 81km total distance. However, as a measure of the patience needed by my minders – just as an example – my statistics for the last Stage were: 10km, 9 hours, 6 rest stops and 22,749 steps (shuffles).

A very sincere “Thank You” to everyone who has donated to our nominated Parkinson UK and Chester Neurotherapy Centre charities. The total donated including Gift Aid is currently approaching an amazing £5,800!

Bryan Bulloch

<https://www.justgiving.com/page/sabrina-bulloch-1729424656059>



KINGSLEY WALKERS

The October long walk saw the Kingsley Walkers inviting themselves to the edge of the Duke of Westminster's estate. We started by going through the delightful villages of Aldford and Churton, where we had a slightly unruly coffee stop, before turning West towards the River Dee.

Though it was a very pleasant autumn morning, it soon became apparent that heavy rain between the walk reconnaissance and the actual walk had added some muddy hazards. The track down to the river had been churned into two parallel gorges through which we slithered, maintaining good natured banter, if not necessarily dry socks. It was with some satisfaction perhaps that we saw the Land Rover that had produced the grooves was now parked up and resembled a mud igloo. I hope they get it cleaned before the mud dries or it might disappear forever into the landscape and puzzle future archaeologists. Tide marks on the side of some riverside buildings from previous floods highlighted that it could have been worse and reminded me that I needed to clean the bath at home.

Afterwards, to cross a soggy meadow we divided, military style, into three columns. Each one trying to find a way forward and hoping to keep our ankles, or at least our knees dry. What may seem a secure footmark made by a walker can actually have been compressed into a spongy trap for the one following.

We safely made a slightly raised island for our lunch stop and in the bright sunshine enjoyed a grand view over the flooded fields, the Dee, and towards the Welsh mountains. In the afternoon we saw the blue Eaton Hall Bridge, designed by Thomas Telford and built in cast iron by William Hazledine in 1824.

The early November short walk was 5 miles and we again enjoyed good weather, the beautiful autumn colours and had better conditions underfoot. It concluded with a delightful lunch at the Bluebell Cafe at Great Barrow.

The planned long walk for November will exchange the River Severn for the Dee and tour the sights of the lovely city of Shrewsbury. On December 10th we will have a choice of two walks before our annual Christmas Lunch.

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





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A MESSAGE FROM KINGSLEY RESIDENT, MR JOHN HUTCHISON.....

Save Our Surgery!

It is my understanding that the closure of Kingsley Surgery has been averted
-at least for the moment.

The NHS Cheshire and Merseyside Integrated Care Board (ICB, the body responsible for planning NHS services in our region), has indicated that it will:-

Ascertain the cost of updating Kingsley's Surgery

Investigate the possibility of a temporary movable vehicle to cater for older people who have difficulty travelling to the Knoll Surgery in Frodsham

Look to "refresh" the LIFTs scheme

However, the ICB need to know that the people of Kingsley need Kingsley Surgery, not least for the older people in the Village.

We need your help!

Please sign below if you want to retain Kingsley Surgery

Name

Signature

Please then return this page to the SOS postbox at the Kingsley Co-op, to the Red Bull or to the Friday Coffee morning at the Community Centre.

John can be contacted on email: johnhutchison69@yahoo.co.uk

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- 9th October - 9.30-11.30am & 5.30 - 7pm
- 12th November - 9.30-11.30am & 5.00 - 7pm
- 5th December - 9.30-11.30pm & 5.30 - 7pm
- 9th January - 9.30-11.30pm & 5.30 - 7pm

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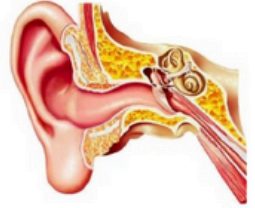


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CHURCH NEWS



St John the Evangelist, Kingsley

We are part of the United Benefice of
Norley, Crowton and Kingsley
with Alvanley and Manley

Services in December 2024

Sunday 1st December

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

Sunday 8th December

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

Sunday 15th December

10.00am Holy Communion at Kingsley

Sunday 22nd December

8.30am Holy Communion at Crowton
4.00pm Lessons and Carols at Norley

Tuesday 24th December - Christmas Eve

10.00am Holy Communion at Alvanley
4.00pm Crib Service at Kingsley
4.00pm Christingle at Alvanley

11.30pm Holy Communion at Crowton

Wednesday 25th December – Christmas Day

10.00am Holy Communion at Norley
10.00am Family Service at Crowton
10.00am Holy Communion at Kingsley

Sunday 29th December

10.00am Family Service at Alvanley

Mid-week Holy Communion all at 10.00 am

5th December at Kingsley
12th December at Norley

Associate Minister Revd. Hilary Merrington
Tel: 01928 788087

Email: hilary.merrington@btinternet.com
Church website www.nck.org.uk

Worship at The Hurst Methodist Church

December 2024

Sunday 1st December

8.30am Holy Communion
led by Rev G Gresswell
10am Gift Service led by Mrs E Holmes

Sunday 8th December

Morning Worship led by Mr P Davidson

Sunday 15th December

10am Holy Communion led by Rev S Levitt

Sunday 22nd December

No Morning service at the Hurst
6.30pm Carols by candlelight
led by Rev G Gresswell

Christmas Eve 24th December

11.15pm Midnight Communion
led by Rev G Gresswell

Christmas Day 25th December

Morning Worship led by Rev G Gresswell

Sunday 29th December

11am United service at Tarvin
No service at the Hurst today

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

**Christmas is coming, the goose is getting fat
Please put a penny in the old man's hat
If you haven't got a penny, a ha'penny will do
If you haven't got a ha'penny, then God bless you!**



As the season of Advent begins, and no matter how hard we try to resist, Christmas encroaches on us with all the associated cost that can bring. There's always a moment for me, when I count that financial cost and, in that moment, wonder how families, how people, on very limited incomes cope. The rhyme encourages us to support others. The expense of Christmas. The expense we have built round the love of God, in sending his only begotten Son, into our lives, that whoever believes in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

How, I wonder, does Jesus, in God, see our preparations to welcome the Christ Child into our lives. Divinity sharing our humanity. What are we preparing for? What does Christmas mean? I guess our first thoughts may go to people, gifts, memories, cards, fun, but where in all that, is Jesus. The Christ Child. The foundation of faith.

As I write this, the Gospel reading for the day is Luke 17:20-25. Do take a moment to read the words if you haven't read them for a while. 'The Kingdom of God is among you.' Where in your Christmas is the Kingdom of God that is among us? Where is Jesus? In the reading from Luke we are reminded not to look here or there for things outside of ourselves, but to remind ourselves that His Kingdom is here and now.

So this Advent, this season of Christmas, let us be alert to the ways in which God reveals himself to us. In the kindness of strangers giving and supporting others. In the joy on a child's face unwrapping a gift specially chosen for them. In those who spend time serving others at Foodbanks and homeless shelters. In our giving and our receiving. I don't think I'm alone in seeing much darkness in our world at the moment. Now, more than ever, as we turn to Jesus, the light of the world, may our prayer be that in the darkness of life, people will turn to him.

May we be the lights, the lanterns, that reveal the Kingdom of God to all we share this season with. And may we be reminded that in the tough times, Jesus holds us in the palm of his hand.

Gail Fullbrook – Lay Reader

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 December we think of, and pray for people living in: -

W/c Dec 1st Mansefield Road

W/c Dec 8th Town Well, The Brow

**W/c Dec 15th Waterloo Lane and
Finney Lane**

W/c Dec 22nd Dark Lane

**W/c Dec 29th Delamere Road and
Crofton**

**We invite you to add your own
prayers**

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

St John's Church
will be open on the following days:

Christmas Eve, Christmas Day,
Boxing Day and New Years Day
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As we say a fond farewell we thought it only fitting to share, “The 'Allo 'Allo Journey” as recalled by Malcolm Barker; the Producer & Co-Writer

The setting was a business meeting at The Horseshoe Inn in Kingsley, Cheshire which is now a Co-op Store, in the Spring of 2003. My business colleague and best mate, the late Barrie Speed, and I were having lunch with a business associate (and a one-time professional actor) David Tooth and knowing that we were both involved in a drama, he asked if we would like a script to raise some money for Kingsley Players. He said his professional group used to tour a presentation of their version of 'Allo 'Allo mainly in restaurants in Shropshire and gave us a 5-page document adding it was a brief outline and they ad libbed the rest. Whereas the script used characters from the original television series, the dialogue was original, if brief.

I was pleased to receive the script because at that time Kingsley Players (previously called Kingsley Drama Group and still referred to by the older village members as “the drama group”) were looking for a one-night event to be staged in the November. In the past it had been the practice to present a show, often in the form of a cabaret, and they were looking for something different. I gave copies of the script to KP committee members suggesting that we might try this coupled with a meal in "Rene's Cafe". Everyone was enthusiastic to give this a try and I offered to extend the document into a workable script. I enlisted the help of Barrie and colleague John Toppliss, another KP member. It was agreed that the players we might cast would need a fuller script to carry the show so we spent many a lunchtime and early evening after the office closed, hunched together writing what is now the basis only of what we present. The script was then sent to the KP Committee, received the seal of approval and a date was set for a Saturday evening in November 2003, First; we needed a director and fortunately that was found in the person of the then Chair, Lesley Speed. The play was cast and Joan Barker given the job of wardrobe to find costumes to suit.

The night was a great success with Jane Wodhams and Joan Barker sorting French fare for the meal, Chicken "coq au vin" of course supplied by "Forresters".

In March 2004 Kingsley Community Centre suffered severe fire damage and was closed until April of the following year. KP were short of a venue but were asked to perform 'Allo 'Allo at The Heathercliffe Hotel in Frodsham and later that same year at the Village Institute.

A tour had almost begun. But the task was considered completed until two years after the Centre was reopened and KP were asked to bring the show back by "popular demand" so they said!

That might have been that but although most of the repairs to the Community Centre following the fire were completed satisfactorily, the main hall floor installed by sub-contractors failed and was replaced by them; the second floor failed, and a long period of denial by the contractors and threats of litigation by KCA followed. KCA was in need of money so, in 2009, the show was resurrected to be performed again in Kingsley.

The cast was largely retained although sadly my mate Barrie had passed on and I took over as Corelli. We were not sure if Kingsley was ready for the same show again but that turned out to be a resounding "Yes" and again was sold out, with all the proceeds going to KCA. By this time John Toppliss (the original Rene) had moved to Scotland and Neil Silcock had taken on the role of director, Neil and I carried out some script revisions and he appeared as Crabtree the policeman. I wrote in a new part for myself as Alphonse the undertaker, and the late Roy Hayes was cast as Rene.

In view of the success of the show, members of Kingsley Players committee asked the writing duo if we would write another 'Allo 'Allo script or consider another similar production. KP felt that we could not carry on with the same show to a Kingsley audience yet again. The duo explained how much work went into the task and said

it was not feasible but suggested the alternative of taking the existing show to new venues with new audiences.

The committee agreed it was opportune to resurrect the show again and the idea of touring was developed. It was offered to a number of local venues. The first to respond was Alan Wilkinson at Tarvin Community Centre and we agreed to do it as a trial run in November 2010. They sold out and during the following years Alan became a good friend and we returned to Tarvin on a further seven occasions, often performing for two nights.

There was a need for some recasting as some people had moved on and others were not keen on touring. Several new members were cast and many stayed. In fact, those still in place today comprise Sue Elliott (Michelle and later Coquette), Joan Barker (Fanny “the mother of my wife”) Lynn Pegler (Edith), Roy Youds (Colonel), Joe Youds (Alphonse) and I was recast as Rene.

In 2011 the floor problem at Kingsley Community Centre came to a head when the second floor had failed. The Community Association had retained £6,000 as a moiety of the replacement price from the contractor which was just as well as the main contractor subsequently went into liquidation and there was an urgent need for a new floor. £6,000 had to be found and KP stepped up to the plate to raise the sum by continuing to tour ‘Allo ‘Allo. In the early years we performed up to 8 shows per year in a variety of venues in Cheshire and surrounding counties, split between February and November but, after sufficient funds were raised for a new floor, tours were restricted to two shows in March (moved to March to avoid venues being booked for Valentine dinners and dances), and two in November. All performances continued solely for charity and the proceeds after costs are divided between the hosts’ charity and Kingsley Community Association, no profits are retained by Kingsley Players. Crew and actors give their time freely and meet their own travelling costs to maximise the sums payable to the charities.

And what of our scripts? They are mainly original although we do admit to some plagiarizing of the originals, using similar scenes to show with different characters to keep the format recognizable. It is, however, very rewarding when we are told certain scenes are remembered from a television show when in fact, they were completely original.

We also did not forget the original writer and the need to respect copyright. Not an easy task because there was no publisher to contact but one of our members was diligent and after a number of dead-ends, did manage through the assistance of a sympathetic ear at the BBC to contact David Croft, one of the two writers of the TV show. He was advised the script was largely original but included the characters from the TV show and all the performances would be to raise money for charity. He said he thought “it was great fun” and gave permission to perform.

In total I estimate we have performed this show in excess of 75 times and have raised many thousands of pounds for a wide range of charities; all of tonight’s income after food costs will go towards the running of this Community Centre.

We had no idea at the start of this journey just how long it would endure and are so grateful for all of the people who have contributed as either cast or crew over the years, the total amounting to in excess of 60 members (all of their photographs are included in our gallery).

Many, many thanks to you all. As we have said many times, what better way was there to raise money for charities than to have the best of fun ourselves and it does seem the audiences have shared the pleasure. I ‘op yo leaf my café tonite with much ‘appines

Rene



"And many thanks to the over 60 people who have appeared in, or been crew over the last 21 years....."



Arnold Ashbrook
Le Clerk



Ian Baines
Carstairs



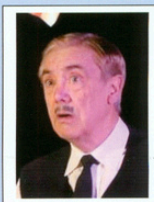
Valarie Ball
Helga



Joan Barker
Fanny



Kenton Barker
Lighting &
Sound



Malcolm Barker
Co-writer,
Producer, Corelli,
Alphonse, Rene



Kevin Barnet
Gruber



Carrie Bennett
Helga



Iain Bennett
Corelli



Martin
Bernardo



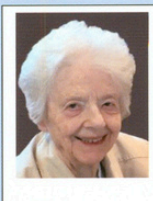
Mike Butler
Gruber



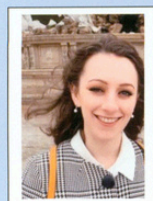
Audrey Boyle
Edith



John Brown
Von Klinkerhofen



June Brown
Fanny



Emma Crosby
Ana



John Dodd
Capt Geering,
Lt Gruber



Sue Elliott
Michelle,
Coquette



Caroline Guard
Maria



Roy Green
Fairfax



Fran Hamer
Maria & Yvette



Roy Hayes
Rene



Simon
Hetherington
Flick & Carstairs



Nicola Holland
Ana



Andria Jones
Edith & Fanny



Isobel Richards
Yvette



Mike Kelsall
Gruber



John Kerry
Capt. Geering &
Corelli



Kath Kerry
Michelle & Fanny



Ian Lancaster
Flick & Carstairs



David Lee
Flick &



Mary Lightfoot
Prompt



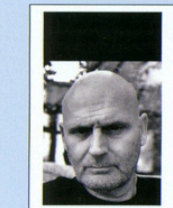
Rebecca Lowe
Sound



Stuart 'Mac'
McNeil
Capt. Geering



Ron Munro
Capt Corelli &
Col. Von Strom



Phil Murray
Flick & Crabtree



Ana Neves
Ana & Helga



Yvette Owen
Maria



Jo Oultram
Director &
Michelle



James Partington
Crabtree



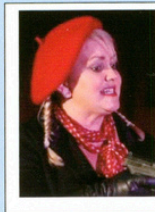
Lynn Pegler
Edith



Jake Powell
Gruber



Steve Powell
Flick & Le Clerk



Rachel Roberts
Ana



Lesley Silcock
Helga & Maria



Neil Silcock
Co-Writer,
Crabtree, Flick,
Carstairs, Corelli
& Alphonse



David Snow
Gruber



Barrie Speed
Corelli



Lesley Speed
Director



Fran Sutton
Mimi



Simon Sutton
Gruber



John Topliss Co
Writer & Rene



Mike Vickers
Lighting &
Sound



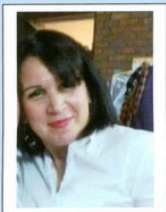
Ali Wheeler
Helga



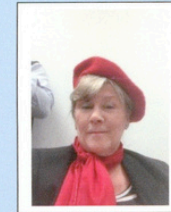
Dylan White
Corelli



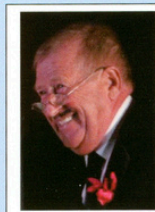
James Williams
Gruber



Laura Williams
Yvette & Maria



Tina Wyatt
Ana



Joe Youds
Alphonse



Roy Youds
Col. Von Strom



Sean Duvall
Gruber

Our Special Thanks go to Vic and Jane Wodhams, "the Management", who preferred to avoid centre stage with a photograph but have always been important contributors. They were always on hand with scenery, manufacturing properties and delivering staging.

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Kingsley area: contact Peter Storey on 07814 920413
Kelsall area: contact Howard Cruse on 07767 494995

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KINGSLEY BOOK CLUB



Here is our review of *Weyward* by Emilia Hart which we discussed at our November meeting.

This combination of magical realism and historical fiction follows three timelines and the stories of each of the women intertwine and are layered with the natural magic that runs through the female line of the Weyward family—magic that will help and heal. We had Altha in the 1600's accused of being a witch & using her powers to kill a friend's abusive husband. Moving to the 1940's we found Violet brought up in the local Manor & destined to marry a brutish cousin then in the present day Kate fleeing an abusive boyfriend.

An easy read good for the beach or cosying up in front of the fire, we found it quite a page turner after a slow start, with good descriptions of the village at different times. The feminist witchcraft genre is very popular at the moment, some of us struggled with the 'magical realism' finding it silly and spoiling the story. Blasted by some critics as misandry it was very difficult to spot the nice male characters (there are a couple).

We found out that there were 13,858 witches in the UK in 2021, The modern witch has emboldened herself with a fierce feminism that defies definition. It's entrenched in personal empowerment and impacted by the culture and nature that each witch is surrounded by. Unfortunately, this book does not help the modern witches cause.

A very mix range of scores ranging from a lowly 2.5 up to 4 over all we gave is a score of 3.

Our next meeting on 12th December at KNVI we will be discussing *The Shipping News* by Annie Proulx.

If you fancy joining us or want to hear more about our club, please email Janet.Owen10@outlook.com

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“Stories are wild creatures”, the monster said. “When you let them loose, who knows what havoc they might wreak?”

Kingsley Players Youth Theatre wins national award for ‘A Monster Calls’

Kingsley Players’ award-winning Youth Theatre has received national recognition from the president of the National Operatic and Dramatic Association (NODA) for its production of ‘A Monster Calls’ in March.

The group beat off strong competition from 182 theatre productions across the country, witnessed by the 2023/24 NODA president Christine Hunter Hughes during her year in office, to be awarded one of only ten commendation certificates.

Their adaptation of Patrick Ness’s bestselling novel ‘A Monster Calls’ told the moving story of a struggling 13-year-old boy, Conor, using live music, puppets, projection and the re-telling of haunting folk tales.

In her commendation, the president praised the “difficult subject matter, presented well and confidently by this group of young people”.

She added: “Thanks for inviting me to witness such a wonderful production, which made me tingle.”

Youth Theatre leader Jake Powell was delighted to see the group’s hard work and creativity rewarded. He said: “I was beyond thrilled to see our production of ‘A Monster Calls’ receive this national recognition. It was a hard-hitting production that our members performed with dignity to such a high standard. I am incredibly proud of what KPYT have achieved since we were formed in 2016.”

The cast included: Joseph Tomlinson, Iona Anstice, Izzy Porter, Kate Burge, Joel Haslam, Finley Savage, Teigan Withey, Edith Banks, Ellie Usher, Evie James, Ivy Hall and James Stratton.

Recent Cheshire Theatre Guild awards for the production include Best Youth Production, Adjudicator’s Award for Overall Excellence, Best Lighting and Sound, Best Young Male Actor (Joseph Tomlinson) and Best Young Female Actor (Iona Anstice).

Kingsley Youth Theatre is kindly sponsored by Forresters, Kingsley Parish Council, Frodsham and Helsby Rotary.

DID YOU
KNOW ?

.... that every year at Christmas time, we at the Hurst have what is known as a gift service. This year it is on Sunday, December 1st.

It is simply an opportunity for people to give presents to children and families in need in our area. For years, we have supported a group called "Team Oasis", a young people's charity in Liverpool. Their website says it was "established in 2003 with a total footfall through our door of 600,000 beneficiaries. Out of the ashes of the Toxteth Riots and years of Social, Health and Economic Trauma, Team Oasis Children's Charity is positively transforming the lives of thousands of all generations in Liverpool 8, Dingle and Toxteth."

Last year, we changed our support to nearer to home. Trinity Methodist Church Widnes closed its doors recently, but "Trinity Kings Cross" continues as the outreach arm of Methodist Churches in Widnes. As such they are once again looking forward to supplying Christmas hampers to families and young people who are in need in the Widnes area.

Their recent letter said that ... "Last year the demand for Christmas hampers exceeded our expectations. The referrals came from Halton Borough Council Health, Social Care and Education. We were able to provide hampers to 224 households. 164 families received 2 bags of food, 1 bag of essential toiletries and household cleaning products and gifts for all the family; 41 large families were given extra bags of food. 30 young people leaving care, were given a bag of food and gifts. A further 30 young care leavers were given gifts. All the families and young people were so grateful to receive them."

Because of everyone's tremendous generosity they were also able to support the care leaver's team in providing a social event during the summer of 2024. "We took 20 of our care leavers over the summer to Llandudno. They had the best time. It was such a lovely day and a day where they could leave their troubles behind for a while. Some of our young people had not been to the seaside since they were small children, and some had never been. They went to the Great Orme, the pier and had a lovely lunch on the beach, dodging the seagulls.

Great memories and some friendships were made that day. It was also good for the staff to have a positive experience with their young people. Normally, days are spent supporting them with serious issues. This was so refreshing for everyone." It's very humbling when so many of us just get into our cars and drive to a beauty landmark whenever we want to. It's so easy to forget the poverty that exists close to home.

If you wish to donate presents or practical items for any age for this cause this Christmas, please contact someone from the Hurst who will pass them on, preferably as soon as possible, as the service is so early in the month, because everything has to be sorted before distributing, or phone Alison on 07932 166742. Or join us at church on December 1st at 10am, or afterwards for coffee in the back room.



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KINGSLEY PARISH COUNCIL



The Parish Council met for its November Parish Council Meeting on Tuesday 19th November 2024, at Kingsley Community Centre. There were two members of the public present, plus a representative from United Utilities. This article includes some items from the October meeting, which was held too late for an article to be included in this magazine.

The representative from United Utilities, advised that the cleaning of one of the three Vyrnwy Aqueduct supplies had been completed. The lining of the remaining two older cast iron supply pipes, was due to take place in 2025. It is anticipated that there will be no works in the Kingsley area until late 2025, and that UU would continue to update the community nearer the time works were due to commence.

A grant application was received by the Council from Kingsley St John's Primary School. The application was for money towards the supply of sensory equipment to help the children at the school. The matter was discussed, and a grant was approved. The Clerk undertook to advise the school of the decision.

In October, a resident made representations concerning the poor state of the grassed access to the Kingsley Brook off Chapel Lane / Mill Lane. During recent heavy rains, this had been rendered inaccessible due the muddy conditions. The Council undertook to speak to the CWaC Public Rights of Way Officer to see if anything could be done to provide a more durable surface in place of the grassed access.

The Council is proposing to issue in the New Year, a survey to all households in the village. This is aimed at seeking residents' opinions and views on future improvement projects within the village. It is clear that CWaC are scaling back works such as grass cutting, clearing pavements, cutting back hedgerows. The Council is seeking residents' views on what they would like to see done, and their views on a possible future increase in precept to fund these works. More details and the survey to follow in the New Year.

By the time this article reaches you, the Council will have organised another village tidy-up day (23rd November), following requests from some residents to make these events a more regular occurrence. There is definitely an appetite amongst some residents, to improve the appearance and feel of the village, and in line with the previous paragraph, to undertake works that would have been previously undertaken by CWaC. It is proposed to make these events at least seasonally (Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter) as long as there is a continued interest amongst residents. The Council will in future, provide some limited tools, collection bags and will arrange for these to be removed by CWaC after the event.

The Council is looking at improving the display of wild flowers on the Playing Field. The display this year lacked the sparkle of previous years, and we have been taking advice on how we could improve the display. One piece of advice, involves the provision of a raised mound, to overcome the heavy damp soil that we are advised may have rotted the seeds this year. The Council would welcome advice and support from anyone in the village, with experience in successfully cultivating and growing wild flower areas,

It is that time of year when the Council provides a Christmas tree on the raised planting area outside Kingsley St John's school. The tree is due for delivery on Friday 29th November, and will be installed by a number of Councillors on the day. We are hoping to have the lights switched on, both on the Christmas tree and the trees on The Brow, during the first week in December.

Finally, one of our Kingsley residents is heading up a campaign to save the Kingsley doctors surgery on Brookside. The Knoll Surgery in Frodsham, is proposing to officially close the surgery (which has not operated since 2020) and to sell on the building. This has in the past, been a valuable asset to the village for all the residents, and particularly the older members of the community, who find it difficult to get to The Knoll in Frodsham. Please look out on the village Facebook page and on other social media sites, and signs around the village, for further information. Please give this your full support. This is another asset in the village, that we will lose unless we receive your support.

As this is the last article for 2024, may all the Councillors on Kingsley Parish Council, extend our Seasons Greetings to each and every resident, and wish you all a very Happy and Peaceful Christmas, and a Happy New Year for 2025.

Contact Details for Kingsley Parish Council;

Kingsley Parish Council Website: www.kingsleyparishcouncil.org.uk
Parish Clerk email address: parish.clerk@kingsleyparishcouncil.org.uk
Mobile Number : 07483 157679

Kingsley Parish Council, The Boardroom, Kingsley Cemetery,
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