

# Kingswood Grapevine

Issue No. 239

DECEMBER/JANUARY 2020

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## Dates For Your Diary

Mon	23 <sup>rd</sup>	Dec	Carols on the Chipping	6.00pm-7.00pm
Tues	31 <sup>st</sup>	"	Seniors New Year's Eve Lunch	

**FEBRUARY ISSUE DEADLINE:**

**FRIDAY JANUARY 24<sup>th</sup>**

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This issue of Grapevine will be the last produced by Diane and Gill, after 24 years we think it is time for a change! We leave it in the very capable hands of Lesley Beswick. Thank you for being loyal readers.

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### KINGSWOOD VILLAGE ASSOCIATION

**KVA'S SENIORS' NEW YEAR'S EVE LUNCH.** By the time you read this KVA's Showday and Wine Festival, Waitrose's Green Tokens and local businesses will have raised funds for the coming Seniors' New Year's Eve Lunch. Invitations to the lunch, starting at noon on 31<sup>st</sup> December and free of charge, will be with you shortly. However, KVA's list is not fool proof! If we have missed you or your partner please do not hesitate to phone or e-mail Sally Harries on 07982 249009 or [sallyharries@hotmail.com](mailto:sallyharries@hotmail.com). Due the event's popularity, the Village Hall is running out of space so we will have to raise the age for new attendees from 60 to 65. N.B. there is no change for those who have previously attended. The closing date for your acceptances is 13<sup>th</sup> December 2019. KVA gets lots of help for this popular event but still needs more. If you could give a little of your time on 31<sup>st</sup> December, please ring Angela Stephens (01453 842145). Your help would be most welcome. Further KVA dates for your diary: **Comedy Night Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February**, "Dine and Wine" **Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March**, **AGM Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March**. Finally, KVA has funds available for Kingswood groups and organisations. If yours is in need please contact Rod Alexander ([rodplume@gmail.com](mailto:rodplume@gmail.com)) or Judi Werrett ([judirhule@hotmail.com](mailto:judirhule@hotmail.com)).

### Kingswood Village Ball 21<sup>st</sup> September 2019

Firstly, the organisers of this event would like to apologise for the disturbance this event caused to some residents of the village. We thought we had advertised the event widely in social media, by word of mouth and by leaflet drop in what we thought would be the most affected areas; obviously we did not do enough and for that we can only apologise. However, we also thought you might like to know that this event, so well supported by residents, raised a total of £5539.60 to be split equally between The Nicola Corry Support Foundation and Dementia Connections. Thank you for your support this year and we look forward already to the next one in mid-September 2021.

### Citizen's Advice Stroud and Cotswolds – Winter Heating Payments

With Winter just around the corner the thought of heating our homes becomes ever more a constant worry for many of those in our communities. In order to help with some of the energy costs, the government allow a **Winter Fuel Payment** to every household with someone born before 5<sup>th</sup> April 1954 living there. The payments are tax free, not means-tested and paid to anyone who satisfies the criteria, irrespective of whether they work or not. Winter Fuel Payments are paid automatically to those who qualify between November and December by The Department for Work and Pensions; all payments are usually by 13<sup>th</sup> January the following year. If you think you are entitled to a payment and you do not receive one, then contact the DWP before 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020. **Cold Weather Payments** are another form of government help with energy costs for those households living on low incomes. Payments are only paid to certain means-tested benefits claimants when the average temperature of zero degrees or below lasts for seven consecutive days in any period from 1<sup>st</sup> November to 31<sup>st</sup> March. The Payments of £25 for any qualifying period are triggered automatically by The Department for Work and Pensions. If you would like any further information about these issues or any other matter, please contact Citizens Advice on confidential freephone - 08088000510. Over this last year we have been celebrating 60 years in Stroud: Can you help us find 60 new donors for your local charity? An annual pledge of £5 per month can make a real difference. Please phone us on Freephone 0808 800 0510 for the necessary forms. Thank you.

### Gentlemen of Kingswood.

Are you interested in singing? Dursley Male Voice Choir is in recruiting mode, looking for men to join their tenor and bass sections. The Choir is now in its 41<sup>st</sup> year and performs about 8 concerts a year for various organisations. The ability to read music not necessary. Unsure? Come along to our Christmas Concert at The Chantry Centre, Dursley on **December 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>** to see and hear if what we do appeals to you. Further details contact Bryan Jones 842471

### This year Longfield Community Hospice will once again be running their Christmas Tree Recycling Campaign.

Leave the effort of getting rid of your Christmas tree in the New Year to Longfield Community Hospice! Longfield along with over 20 other hospices in the UK will collect real Christmas Trees from your home for a donation. This will be done over a five-day period from **Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> January until Monday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2020**. So, while you're going to Midnight Mass, toasting the Queen, or tucking into your Christmas turkey, our nurses will be in people's homes, supporting them when they need it most. Longfield provides this specialist support every day of the year, night and day, and it's provided completely free of charge - So please be generous in donating to Longfield Community Hospice this Christmas, because we're providing vital services in your community (as well as collecting your Christmas tree in the New Year!). Register your tree for collection <http://tinyurl.com/RecycleYourTree> or contact Claire Ellis for more information on 01453 886868

### Kingswood Primary School

Kingswood Primary School would love to hear from anyone in the village whose job has a STEAM element to it. The STEAM subjects we are interested in are Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and/or Maths. We would also love to hear from former pupils of our school, especially if you are studying one of these subjects at University! If you are interested in supporting us, please contact the school at [admin@kingswood.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:admin@kingswood.gloucs.sch.uk)

## Wild about Kingswood

We were delighted this month to be joined, for a couple of Mondays, by a local young man who is working towards his Duke of Edinburgh award. An extra pair of hands is always very welcome as it means we can get more done. We have been busy cutting the big hedge around the area with the Great Crested Newt pond. This is an old hedge and was very tall and thick so quite a challenge. If anyone has an opportunity or requirement to do some voluntary work, please bear us in mind even if it is just for a short period of time. We meet from 10.30am on Monday mornings, come and have a chat about how we manage the areas if you are passing. If you need a stroll to walk off your Christmas Lunch remember the wildlife area!

## Kingswood Defib Awareness Group: David Owen [owen@kingswoodgl2.plus.com](mailto:owen@kingswoodgl2.plus.com) 01453 844463

Charfield Road 'public access defib': Kingswood's 5th 'community Public Access Defibrillator' (cPAD) has been fully operational since the 8th November. This defib is located on F+G Services' building (The Old Mill), facing onto Charfield Road. I am still fund raising for this cPAD, but I'm sure I speak for the whole community when expressing my personal thanks to : KVA for a most generous donation - again; to the Parish Council – again, and Taste Connection Ltd; plus to some individuals (one in particular) for their support.

He'll hate me for mentioning it, but warmest thanks to the electrician/ builder for doing the installation – including the electrical parts – free of charge as his, significant, contribution...most of you will know who that is. I must also thank the Kingswood Sports and Recreation Fund, which has been incredibly supportive of the entire campaign to site defibs in Kingswood.

The 5 sites are listed on the kingswoodgrapevine website which includes a map marking the 5 sites.

## KINGSWOOD CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH - Contact Jennie on 842803, email [jennieamesbury@btinternet.com](mailto:jennieamesbury@btinternet.com).

For up to date information visit our website at [www.kingswoodcongregational.org.uk](http://www.kingswoodcongregational.org.uk) or visit our Facebook page Please contact us in any of the ways listed in the headline of this entry in the Grapevine. We look forward seeing you. On behalf of us all at Kingswood CC we wish all readers of the Grapevine joy and peace for a wonderful Christmas as we celebrate Jesus' birth. We would also at this time of year like to thank Gill and Diane for compiling the Grapevine every month so that we can keep up to date with what's going on in the Village.

Our Christmas services are as follows: **1<sup>st</sup> December**. 10.30 Mr Martin Taylor 6.00pm Christingle at St Mary's (Churches Together) **8<sup>th</sup>** Children's Gift Service all gifts given donated to the Food Bank 6.00pm Mr Alan Spencer. **15<sup>th</sup>** Mr Bart Gee 4.00pm Carol Service with readings and musical items. **22<sup>nd</sup>** Choir from Weston super Mare with Ken Thomas who once was a member of our church. 6.00pm Rev Philip Hopes. **CHRISTMAS DAY** 10.00am – A short Family Service **NEW YEARS EVE** 11.30pm to welcome in 2020. **23<sup>rd</sup> December** 6.00pm CAROLS ON THE CHIPPING (Churches Together) All information will be in the Churches Together leaflet which will be delivered to all homes in the village. **JANUARY** Week of prayer for Christian Unity 18-25<sup>th</sup> January which will start at St Mary's, then alternating with the Congregational Church Saturday & Sunday 6pm, Weekdays 7pm, all denominations welcome.

## KINGSWOOD NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH.

Yes, scams happen, even in Kingswood. A particularly sad one last week. If you would like to spot them coming, I would be glad to pass on our local police warnings. Just email me for inclusion on the Kingswood Neighbourhood Watch Fraud Warning List. Rod Alexander: [rodplume@gmail.com](mailto:rodplume@gmail.com) .

## ST MARY'S PARISH CHURCH

**Christingle 6pm Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December** (Hot Chocolate from 5:40) – Supporting the Children's Society. also please collect a Reverse Advent Calendar for the Foodbank after the service and look out for Mary and Joseph as they travel down the High Street during December.

**Carol Service Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec** followed by refreshments.

**Christmas Eve** 6pm Crib service, 11:30pm **Midnight Mass**

**Christmas Day** – 10:30 Family Service. **Epiphany Service** – Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> January 11:15 – Look out for the arrival of the Kings. **Candlemas** – Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 6pm – A service of light and joy for our final Christmas celebration.

**Holocaust Memorial Day** - Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> January 7:30pm (refreshments from 7pm) A few days after HMD we welcome Eric Murangwa Eugene MBE a survivor of the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda. An international footballer he and most of his immediate family survived in part thanks to the courage and humanity shown by his teammates. Come and hear his story.

**MINI-PRAISE at St Mary's** is for preschool children and their parents or carers. This month it is earlier so you can enjoy the school productions. **Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December**, 2pm to 3pm. Theme: St Nicholas – Santa Claus. Hear the story of St Nicholas visiting three girls, make an original St Nicholas Shoe and collect your gold coins for Christmas. Songs, big pictures, handi-crafts & refreshments. All preschool children welcome.

## ST MARY'S CAROL SERVICE – 6 PM SUNDAY 22<sup>nd</sup> DECEMBER

Please join us in the Parish Church for the real start to Christmas in Kingswood. A solo voice begins "Once in Royal David's City", then congregational carols with soaring descants and choir carols. The story of the birth of the Christ child revealed through traditional bible readings and music.

## CHURCHES TOGETHER IN KINGSWOOD

Messy Church **Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> December** 10am Lower School Room & **Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> February** 10am Lower School Room. Week of prayer for Christian Unity **18-25<sup>th</sup> January** Starting at St Mary's, then alternating with the Congregational Church. 6pm on Saturday Sunday, 7pm Weekdays, all denominations welcome.

