

Dates For Your Diary

Wed 17th Feb

Deadline for March Grapevine

6.00pm

Editors Note:

Well readers, here we are in another lockdown. Sadly we certainly don't have the weather this time to give us opportunity for time in our gardens and spend more time outdoors like we could in lockdown one!

We hope that we will be able to continue to bring the Grapevine through your doors, thank you so much to our distributors again and to those who have sent us some news to share with you this month.

Remember: Wash hands, Wear a mask, Make space

Please stay safe

KINGSWOOD COMMUNITY ACTION GROUP

LOCAL HELP FOR LOCAL PEOPLE

We have supported people in Kingswood since March 2020 and are continuing to do so.

First of all, we have a small army of volunteers who are there to help. If you would like us to collect a newspaper, milk, provisions or prescriptions, we can do that for you. If you are feeling a bit lonely and would like a chat, or know someone else in that position, let us know and one of our volunteers will get in touch by phone or even arrange a zoom chat.

As a result of lockdowns, we know that many people are experiencing difficulties associated with lower incomes or with loss of income. We would like to help those of you in this situation.

So, if you are struggling financially as a result of Covid lockdowns or know someone else similarly affected, please let us know. We have a Covid relief fund and are able to offer £50 grocery vouchers on a regular basis. All you have to do is let us know, no strings attached.

Please contact Kingswood Community Action Group - 07527 813404 or jameskinson16@gmail.com

Finally, you may be able to help. We (Kingswood Village Association) are able to receive donations (especially good if you are a UK tax payer) to help continue financial support in the village. If you would like to donate please email Rod Alexander on rodplume@gmail.com

KINGSWOOD PARISH COUNCIL Clerk: Mary Leonard Tel: 01453844659 clerk@kingswoodparishcouncil.gov.uk

Parish Council operations during the Coronavirus - The parish council is operating normally and meeting via publicly accessible conference meetings on the second Monday of the month. Full details of meetings will be advertised on the KPC website and social media pages with details of how the public can join the meeting.

Playing field and Play Equipment - The playing field and the play equipment remain open subject to Covid 19 legislation. Please keep your distance from others and use the hand sanitiser provided. Please report any concerns to the clerk on clerk@kingswoodparishcouncil.gov.uk

Parish Council Elections - These were postponed from last year and are due to be scheduled in May 2021. Please consider standing as a parish councillor. Please check the council website for details or contact the clerk to the council. Why not listen in to a meeting on Zoom. Joining details can be found on the agenda on the council website.

Litter and Dog fouling - Please report anyone littering or not picking up after their dog to the following; **Litter/Fly Tipping** <https://www.stroud.gov.uk/report/report-fly-tipping-dumped-litter> **Dog Fouling** <https://www.stroud.gov.uk/report/report-dog-mess-or-fouling-problems>

Over flowing bins <https://www.stroud.gov.uk/report/report-an-overflowing-litter-bin> Please report any problems at the playing field and the community areas to the Clerk of the Council.

Communication - Please visit the KPC web site on www.kingswoodparishcouncil.gov.uk - and follow us on the **Kingswood Parish Council Facebook Page**

Charfield and Wickwar Roads ANPR Cameras - Since the beginning of this year (3 weeks) a total of 41323 (23342 in the same period in 2020) vehicles travelled past these 2 cameras within the speed limit. Unfortunately, during that same period 9458 (6884 in 2020) were travelling in excess of 30mph. The only slightly redeeming fact is that the top speed recorded this year is 20mph less at 59mph. Please be conscious of your speed.

The Clerk Mary Leonard, PO Box 113 Wotton under Edge GL11 9BP

KINGSWOOD WILDLIFE AREA

Research is showing that time spent in a natural environment is very beneficial to our health and wellbeing, particularly in these stressful times, so don't forget to take a stroll around the Kingswood Wildlife areas between Tyndale View and Boundary Close when taking your daily exercise. It is a lovely spot to just pause for a moment and listen to the birdsong. In the coming weeks there should be signs of spring with leaves appearing on the newly laid hedges and fruit trees. Volunteers had a very productive, socially distanced, December. The hedge we had been laying was completed and we managed to continue as far as the gate into the field with the newt pond. The whole length needs finishing with hetherings along the top, ideally before there is too much new growth. Sadly the new lockdown has meant no more work in January. We hope to be able to return to remove some of the invasive New Zealand Pond Weed from the Newt pond before the newts are back in the pond for the breeding season.

KINGSWOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL

During this latest lockdown, Kingswood Primary School has been very fortunate to receive incredibly generous support from individuals, groups and businesses in our local community. This has been particularly targeted towards providing devices so that we can ensure that all families have access to our digital platform, Google Classroom, in order that they can continue to make progress in their learning and have contact with their class staff and their peers. We have had support from:

- A donation of 10 Samsung tablets from Renishaw. We will be using half of these to ensure that all of the key worker children in school can access their work, as we currently do not have sufficient devices in school to meet demand. The other five devices will be lent out to families.
- A donation of 5 Chromebooks from Vigo Software (a company managed by one of our parents, John Vickers). These have already been received and distributed to families and have been put to great use
- A monetary donation from the Kingswood Village Association which will provide another 5 Chromebooks.
- A monetary donation from Soils which will provide 4 Chromebooks. Wayne Fifield was a past pupil here and his late father, David, a supporter of Kingswood Primary School.

(The devices from these last two donations have now arrived in school and are being distributed where needed.)

- Donations from Abbey Plumbing and one of our parents, which have enabled us to buy protective covers for the tablets supplied by Renishaw to make them longer lasting!

The generosity towards the school has been amazing and we give heartfelt thanks to our donors. These devices will help us meet the immediate need we have, but also mean that, after COVID and lockdown finally ends, we can use these in curriculum learning and for Code Club, our after-school programming club.

We have also ordered our school allocation of 4 Chromebooks from the Department of Education and we await the delivery of these devices.

Thanks to these donations, the school is now in a position to lend out more of these computers to a wide range of our school community. We are aware that many families are sharing one device between siblings, or children are trying to use laptops that parents need for working from home.

DEMENTIA CONNECTIONS

Contact: Amanda dementiaconnections@outlook.com

Happy New Year to all our readers. As we reflect on the events of the past 12 months and look forward to the hope that 2021 brings, we want you to know that we are still here for you.

It has been incredibly difficult for us to maintain a visible presence for Dementia Connections. Whilst we were fortunate enough to utilise our outdoor spaces during the summer months, many of our winter sessions were cancelled when we moved over in to the tiered restrictions. Meeting in the local pubs as we had planned became impossible, and our Christmas Meal was subsequently cancelled. However, Father Christmas refused to be beaten, and he worked his way around the towns and villages to our friends and members, delivering his gifts from a socially acceptable non-contact distance. It wasn't the way we had hoped it would be, but we hope you liked them :) Towards the end of 2020, we did put some dates together that would see us up to March. The plan was to continue with these dates if the tiers allowed. Sadly now another lockdown is upon us it looks doubtful that even the February dates will go ahead, but I include them below just in case. So, if the pub is allowed to host us – we will be there. If the pub is closed – it will be cancelled. All we please ask, is that you abide by rules of the tier that you are in, and do not travel from a higher tier to a lower one, to attend. Look out for updates on our Facebook page @Dementiaconnections or email Amanda to be added to our mailing list. Dates are as follows:

Tuesday 9 th February	11am	DINNEYWICKS
Tuesday 23 rd February	11am	THE RAILWAY TAVERN
Tuesday 9 th March	11am	THE SWAN HOTEL
Tuesday 23 rd March	11am	DINNEYWICKS

A huge thank you to everyone who has continued to support us throughout the past year. I really do hope that we will be able to see more of each other in 2021.

KINGSWOOD SCHOOL ASSOCIATION (KSA)

Are you looking for new supper dishes to create during these cold wet evenings? Fancy experimenting with some new baking ideas during lockdown? The KSA Cookbook is just what you need!

Created by the friends and families of Kingswood Primary School, this charming little recipe book is jam packed with tasty treats for you to try. All proceeds go towards funding resources for our school pupils. A limited number of copies have been printed - so get yours whilst you still can! Available to purchase at £5.99 from Kingswood Spar, or by emailing ksa@kingswood.gloucs.sch.uk - Happy cooking!

MARCH GRAPEVINE ISSUE DEADLINE:

WEDNESDAY 17th FEBRUARY

