

THE WELL

**Kemsing Village Magazine
with news from Woodlands**

QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE—

SEE CENTRE PAGES

Spring 2012 No 185

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Editorial Team:- Doreen Farrow, Janet Eaton & Rosemary Banister.

We reserve the right to edit [i.e. cut, précis, alter, correct grammar or spelling] any item published, and our decision is final.

Cover picture shows Cowslips in Church Hall Field

Cover Picture by John Farrow

COPY FOR NEXT ISSUE

Please submit any items or articles for the next issue of The Well before 1st May 2012 to welleditors@hotmail.co.uk

THE WELL - is published and distributed free, four times a year by the Parochial Church Councils of St Mary's Church, Kemsing and St Mary's Church, Woodlands, to encourage and stimulate the life of the community. The views expressed in the magazine do not necessarily represent official church opinion or policy.

If you use a computer to type your article, it would be extremely helpful if you could Email it to: welleditors@hotmail.co.uk or send to the Editors c/o Poppies Cottage, 3, St. Edith's Road, Kemsing TN15 6PT,

For postal subscriptions, contact Debbie Pierson—01732 762033

RICHARD'S MARATHON EFFORT—20 NOT OUT!



Richard Powell has delivered milk to most of Kemsing for 20 years. To celebrate, Richard intends running the Virgin London Marathon on Sunday 22nd April 2012. By running the Marathon he will be raising funds for 'PHAB Kids', a charity dedicated to the integration of physically disabled

children, to give them the same opportunities and challenges as able bodied children.

If anyone would like to support Richard, they can go to: www.virginmoneygiving.com/richardpowellmilkman. Richard would like to thank residents and customers for all their support over the years.

HUG THE LIBRARY - USE IT OR LOSE IT!



For the past year, the National W.I. have been running a campaign to save local Libraries which are vital to all our Communities. As part of this campaign, **Kemsing Evening WI** arranged a special 'Hug your Library' afternoon. Over 100 residents and children from Kemsing School, plus a photographer from the Sevenoaks Chronicle, came along to show how much we care for this valued local amenity.

Vicar's Letter

Dear Friends



Easter is, frankly, extraordinary.

Jesus did not stay in his tomb, but rose from the dead on Sunday morning. Extraordinary!

Some people find it too *difficult* to accept. Dead people don't return to life, other than in fiction books or films.

That is precisely the point. Jesus coming back to life would not be the best news in the world if it was the kind of thing that happened every day. The first Easter was, quite literally, extra-ordinary. People are resuscitated, and Jesus raised two people back to life, but they died again. Jesus was the first person to have beaten death, and so to rise never to die again.

So of course it is hard to believe; it was a one-off event that we did not witness and that is unlike anything we have experienced. But the evidence still needs explaining. The tomb was empty; neither Jesus' friends nor his enemies ever produced a body to scotch the rumours; over 500 people claimed to have seen him alive on different occasions when they were not expecting it; many of Jesus' followers were later to die for their belief that Jesus was alive.

Others, however, find it too *familiar* to believe. We accept that Jesus rose again, and say so gladly, and yet we say it so quickly we don't stop to think about what we've just said. He is alive, just as much as you or I. He's not "alive in my thoughts", or "living on in my memories". If we were in the right place, we could see him, touch him and eat a meal with him.

There have been many heroes. People look back fondly to Darwin or Dickens; we remember Queen Elizabeth I; we listen to Beethoven's music, or that of the Beatles; we admire the teaching of Gandhi, Confucius or Mother Teresa. With the exception of 2 of the Beatles, each and every one of them is dead. Their legacy lives on, but they do not. Jesus is not just a great teacher, who did some amazing and inspiring things; he is still alive, and has never been in better shape.

Hard to believe, and easy to skip over: Christianity is the only religion whose founder is still alive and always will be. Why not celebrate with us this Easter, perhaps at our new Easter Carol Service on the evening of Easter Day? With every blessing. Your friend and vicar,

St MARY the VIRGIN PARISH CHURCH, KEMSING

www.kemsingwithwoodlands.org

Vicar	Rev. James Oakley	01732 762556
Wardens	Ray Parton	01959 523045
	Jean Walker	01732 761646
Parish Office	Margaret Robarts	01732 761351
Readers	Mary Quenby	01959 522079
	Philip Walker	01732 761646
	Ruth Mason	01959 524486

The Parish Office (in the Church Hall) is open from 10am-noon on Mon. and 10.00 - 5pm on Thursdays. Answerphone at other times is 01732 761351.

Apart from 5th Sunday, the pattern of services is as follows:

- 08.00 Communion in traditional language
- 09.15 Sung Communion service (followed by coffee in the Church Hall)
- 10.30 Morning Service (with coffee in the Church Hall beforehand) Sunday Special on every Sunday apart from 1st Sunday of the month.
- 18.30 Evening Service (Evensong twice a month, a number of other formats twice a month)

The combined communion service on the fifth Sunday will usually be held in Kemsing Church because of seating and parking limitations in Woodlands.

The service pattern on this Sunday will be:

- 08.00 BCP Matins
- 09.00 Breakfast in the Church Hall
- 10.00 Combined service with Woodlands
- 18.30 Evensong

At the All-Age service on **Palm Sunday (10.30am on Sunday 1st April)** children will have the chance to dress up in costume for a 'Palm Sunday Procession'. If you have suitable clothes at home, please bring them on that day; we will also have costumes available for those for whom that is helpful.

SERVICES at St. Mary's Woodlands

1st Sunday	4.30	Evening Praise
2nd Sunday	11.30	Morning Praise
3rd Sunday	4.30	The Lord's Supper [Informal Communion]
4th Sunday	11.30	Holy Communion
5th Sunday	10.00	Combined Informal Communion Service for both Churches, usually to be held in Kemsing

Children are warmly welcomed at all of our services. Coffee is served from 11 a.m before morning services. Evening Services are followed by a light meal.

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Easter Services at Kemsing & Woodlands *Celebrate with us this Easter!*

Thur 5th April (Maundy Thursday)
7.45 pm Communion service

Friday 6th April (Good Friday)
9.30 am All-age worship in Kemsing Church
10.30 am Open-air service on Green Hill

followed by

Hot Cross Buns in Kemsing Church Hall

1.30-3.00 pm Service of Reflection

At the cross ↶

Sunday 8th April (Easter Day)

8.00 am Traditional Communion in Kemsing

10.00 am All-age Communion in Kemsing

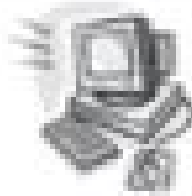
11.30 am Communion at Woodlands

7.00 pm Easter Carol Service ↶

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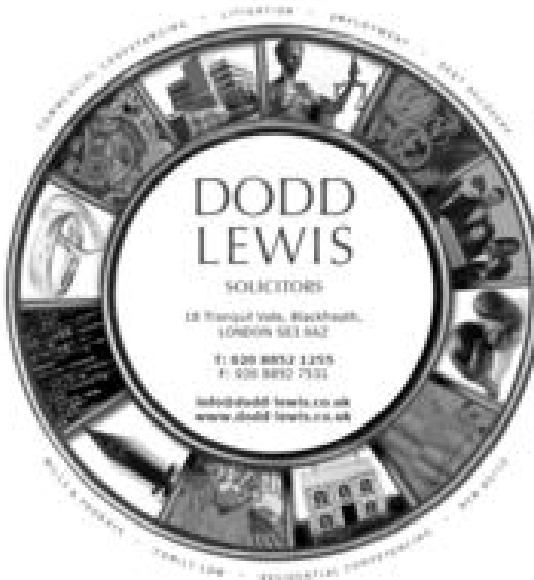
ST. MARY'S PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL NEWS

The Annual Vestry Meeting will be held at 7.45pm in the Church Hall on **Thursday, 26th April 2012**, at which the election of two Churchwardens will be held. The Annual Parochial Church Council Meeting will follow on immediately afterwards, when the Electoral Roll Officer's Report will be heard, and the Annual Report & Financial Statements 2011 will be considered. Other items on the agenda are: the election of 4 PCC Members for the next 3 years., the appointment of Sidesmen, and the Independent Financial Examiner for 2012. Any other business should be notified in writing to the PCC Secretary, Poppies Cottage, 3 St. Edith's Road, Kensing, TN15 6PT before the meeting.

Rosemary Banister, PCC Secretary

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REPORT FROM KEMSING PARISH COUNCIL

Queen's Diamond Jubilee. The Parish Council is researching the idea of a beacon which will be lit between 10 pm and 10.30 pm on 4th June 2012. A 'village picnic' is planned on the Common Field on Tuesday, 5th June, co-ordinated by the Kemsing Heritage Centre Association, who wrote to all the village organisations inviting them to run stalls with refreshments, provide entertainment or organise some games.

Car park. In an attempt to retain the car park for Kemsing, the Parish Council agreed at an extra-ordinary meeting held in early January 2012, to submit an offer to purchase the **car park**. Regrettably the offer was rejected but the Parish Council is still in negotiation with the seller.

PCSO Sue Harwood. Sue was transferred to Edenbridge on 6th February 2012 after a District-wide re-evaluation of PCSO posts. Sue started in Kemsing in 2007 and quickly built up relationships in the community and is highly respected throughout the village. Even though a petition signed by 189 residents, and an appeal made by the Parish Council urging West Kent Police to re-consider their decision, they had resolved not to withdraw the transfer. The Parish Council and residents will greatly miss Sue's hard work, enthusiasm and caring attitude and we sincerely thank her and wish her all the best for the future.

Play Place. A youth club session for 12-19 year olds is held every Monday evening during term time in the Church Hall at 7-9p.m.

Connexions Kent. Offers confidential information, advice and guidance to young people in Kent on learning, living, working and finding jobs after school education. The Parish Council financially supports a 'Job Club' in the St. Edith Hall every Wednesday afternoons between 2-5 p.m. These sessions are by appointment only. Please call 0800 432 0207 for further information.

PACT meeting : Wednesday, 25 April 2012 at 7.30 p.m.

Parish Council meetings : 21 March 2012, 18 April 2012 and 16 May 2012

Annual Parish meeting : 28 March 2012.

Contact Details

The Clerk's Office, St. Edith Hall, High Street, Kemsing, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN15 6NA. The office is usually open Monday to Friday mornings from 9.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m.

There is a 24 hour answer phone (telephone number 01732 762 841) if it is more convenient to leave a message or email to : kemsingpc@tiscali.co.uk or visit our website: www.kemsingpc.kentparishes.gov.uk

Yolanda Tredoux, Clerk to the Council

The Well is printed by **HIGHLAND PRINTERS**

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fax. 01732 763501 Email: highlandprinters@aol.com We are grateful to Highland
Printers who are printing *The Well* this year, and for all their help.**



Ightham Mote

Ightham Mote reopens at 10.30 a.m. Saturday 10th March 2012.

Easter time is here and there are lots of events taking place throughout April in celebration.

Thursday 5th April Easter Bunny Hunt - £2.50 per person to take part in the egg hunt plus normal admission fee.

There will be pastime historical dances taking place in our courtyard on Sunday 15th April at various times and special Attic Tours will be available for a behind the scenes glimpse of the house on Thursday 19th April.

Continuing our remembrance of the 100th anniversary of the sinking of the Titanic, the Mote Restaurant will be holding a Taste the Past Dinner with a 5 course meal based on the last dinner served on board. To book places for the RMS Titanic dinner: call the restaurant on 01732 811314.

Thurs April 5th - "All you can eat Pudding Evening" £19.75pp

Sat 14th April - Taste the Past: RMS Titanic £35.00pp

Thurs 12th April - Children's event "Pond Dipping" £3.00 pc

Sat 14th April - Children's event "Den Building" £5.00 pc

Fri 27th April - Dorset Button Workshop £35.00pp (includes all materials, refreshments and light lunch)

Thurs May 3rd - "All you can eat Pudding Evening" £19.75pp

Thurs 17th May - Spring walk with the Warden £1.00 pp

3rd - 11th June Art exhibition of artist Mariusz Kaldowski. will be on show in the courtyard.

20th May - Grove Singers welcomed back to provide excellent entertainment in the courtyard.

Sat 26th May - Murder at the Mote £35.00 pp

Sun 27th May - Kent Wood Turners will be returning to demonstrate their craft.

From the 6th June to 29 August we will be open 6 days a week - Wednesday - Monday.

1st June, 20th July and 31st August - Bat Walks . (£3.00 per adult and £1.50 per child).

Sat 2nd June - Murder at the Mote £35.00 pp

Thurs 7th June - "All you can eat Pudding Evening" £19.75pp

7th June - Children's Watercolour Workshop. 12 midday to 3pm.

Thurs 14th June - Great Outdoors Countryside Walk £1.00 pp

17th June Fathers day. Classic cars, model boats and fishing in the mote will all be available, along with games on the lawn and local beer and cider tasting in the national trust tent.

Fri 29th June - Watercolour Painting Day £40.00 pp

Sat 30th June - Henry V performed in the Garden £18.00 pp Bookings on 0844 249 1895

For more information see; www.nationaltrust.org.uk/ighthammote

Or ring 01732 810378 ext100 to book any of the above activities

Volunteers Needed! Do you have some time to spare? Do you want to be part of a friendly team in a beautiful location? Or maybe you would like to add to your CV? Then why not join the volunteering team at Ightham Mote! There are plenty of volunteering opportunities in a variety of areas including stewarding, housekeeping, gardening, maintenance, helping with school groups and helping in the shop and restaurant. You don't need any previous experience and full training is given. To find out more contact Ann Davis 01732 810378 ext 130 or ann.davis@nationaltrust.org.uk

NEWS and NOTES

St. Mary's Church Fundraising Team is aiming to organise a village **Garden Safari** on **Sunday 24th June**. For this Garden Safari, we are looking for all different types of gardens. If your garden is aimed towards children, teenagers or the elderly, or if your passion is growing vegetables, we would be very pleased to welcome you. If you would like to participate and offer your garden, please contact Debbie at: debkpierson@hotmail.co.uk.

Just a reminder: **Kemsing Library** runs a variety of different events for the whole family. Story time (for pre-school children) every Thursday 10.30am to 11am during term time, Music bugs on Wednesdays from 1.30 to 2.15pm, craft days every school holiday. For adults, Talk-time every Thursday 10am to 12 noon,

Kemsing **Scout Group** is nearly full in all sections, but they need adults who are willing to commit to help on a regular basis, whether in uniform or not. They also need adults who are willing to take on uniformed leader and assistant leader rolls. Membership fees and uniform costs will be paid by the group. There is training to be completed, but this can be completed on line at home. We would also like to encourage new personnel to the Group Executive. This is a small group of trustees who manage the Group and assist with fund raising. They normally meet 3 or 4 times a year. If you would like any further information please contact the Group Scout Leader, Chris Arnold on 01732 762774 or by email at scouts@camera98.co.uk

Not only is the Queen celebrating her Diamond Jubilee, but the **Kemsing Gardener's Society** also celebrates their special 60th birthday. Their Spring Show will be held in Kemsing School on **Saturday April 14th**, and there will be a special 'open class' which any non-members will be welcome to enter. For further details, contact Les Green at 2a Oxenhill Road or 01959 524376.

The **North Downs Challenge walks** take place again this year on **Saturday 12th May**. Further information and entry forms can be found at the back of the Church or from Pauline Mallinson on 01959 524725.

Kemsing **Players** next production will be 'Our Man in Havana' by Graham Greene and will be held in St. Edith Hall on **3rd, 4th and 5th May at 8pm**. This black comedy is set in Havana in the pre-Castro regime and the main character is James Wormold, a vacuum cleaner salesman. He is approached by MI6 who offer him work for the British Secret Service. He is divorced and lives with his 16 year old daughter and as he finds it difficult to keep up with her extravagances he accepts the offer. Because of lack of anything interesting to send to London, he invents characters, and situations which lead him into even more trouble. With 33 scenes and a revolving stage, this is a not to be missed production. Box Office opens 12th April, tel: 07554 766335, or email Kemsing.players@live.co.uk. Tickets are £8, with concession on Thursday.



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H.M. Queen Elizabeth 11 Diamond Jubilee—June 2012

The village is determined not to let the Queen's Diamond Jubilee pass by without a celebration in Kemsing. In previous years from Victoria's Diamond Jubilee via King George 5th and Queen Mary's jubilees to our Queen's Coronation in June 1953 and her Silver and Golden Jubilees—all have been celebrated in the village. The Heritage Centre Association is therefore arranging a **Village Picnic** on the Common Field by the Sir Mark Collet Pavilion on **Tuesday June 5th starting at 1pm.**

The WI will be selling tea, coffee and squash, the PTA will be running a cake stall, the Kemsing Players will be staging an exhibition of photographs of their past productions, and various village groups will be doing other things—yet to be announced! If any groups would like to participate please contact Erica Cole on 01732 761772.

After this, the **Kemsing Community Choir** is back! For one performance only, the choir will be meeting again to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee with a special performance in **St. Mary's Church, Kemsing on Tuesday 5th June 2012 at 4pm.** This will follow the village Jubilee picnic.

Everyone is welcome to join the Community Choir which was the great success of last year's Kemsing Festival. If you sang last time, or came along and heard us sing and would like to join us, or if you just feel like singing, the dates of the rehearsals are **Tuesdays April 24th, May 1st, May 22nd and May 29th in St. Mary's Church Hall starting at 8pm.** We just ask that you try and attend at least 2 of the scheduled rehearsals. The event is free - just come along and enjoy yourselves by taking part in a real Community Choir. No singing experience necessary, even if you think you can't sing come and join in. Once again led by Brenda Ross and accompanied by Dan Eaton, it will be a chance for us all to celebrate this special once in a lifetime event by singing a really unique concert together (with audience participation!)

For any more details, please email kemsingfestival@tiscali.co.uk or phone Janet Eaton on 01732 763383.

See overleaf for pictures of the Queen's Coronation in 1953 and the Silver and Golden Jubilee celebrations

FROM CORONATION TO DIAMOND JUBILEE



Coronation celebrations in Oxenhill Road, June 1953



Dancing in the High Street—the Queens' Silver Jubilee in June 1977.

The High Street was closed until midnight.

KEMSING CELEBRATED IN STYLE



A rather wet street party to celebrate the Queen's Silver Jubilee in June 1977 in Cleves Road and Castle Drive.



A Flower Festival took place in the Church to mark the Queen's Golden Jubilee in June 2002.



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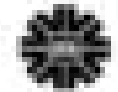
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LIFE ON THE HILL

East Hill - Knatts Valley - Tinkerpot Lane - Romney Street



For those interested in the recent history of this area, a book by Monty Parkin, called “On East Hill” makes entertaining reading. Monty bases the book on the story of two families, the Bookers and the Morgans, as told to him by the late Jack Hollands (fondly remembered by some of us old-timers on the Hill.) It is interesting to observe how life has changed from

subsistence farming to present-day ‘commuter-ville’. Perhaps we shouldn’t get too sentimental about the harsh living conditions that most inhabitants endured, but I sometimes wonder whether we are losing the sense of community that they shared.

“On East Hill” is on sale in the Woodlands Church Hall for £5.

At St Mary’s Woodlands we are still working on grant applications for the refurbishment of one of the few community facilities in the area - the Church Hall. It is in regular use for the Woodlands Tots, the Lunch Club and the Saturday Café but we would dearly like to upgrade this environment and make it available to others. Come along on any Saturday and see the plans. We are very grateful to Brian Doe who has kindly offered to lead a **Primrose Walk on April 18th, beginning at Cotmans Ash, Cotmans Ash Lane at 6.30pm and a Bluebell Walk on May 9th beginning at the Rising Sun at 7.00pm.** Both events are in aid of Church Hall Funds. Brian knows the best places to see these beautiful spring flowers and is an entertaining guide.

A special service coming up at St Mary’s Church is the **Mothering Sunday Service on March 18th at 4.30pm**, when all mums will be given a posy of spring flowers. The service is child friendly and will be followed by a light tea/supper to which all are welcome.

The Easter Day Family Communion Service will be on April 8th at 11.30am. A special surprise for the children will be included.

On **April 22nd** we have a **Service of Thanksgiving at 11.30am** followed by a free lunch and the **Annual Parochial Church Meeting.** Everyone is welcome to come along to what is usually a very pleasant social event. Those on the Church Electoral roll will be able to obtain their copy of the Annual Report from the back of the Church in the preceding week.

Many congratulations to the Tractor Club members who have raised £250 in aid of Kent Air Ambulance.

Anne Shelley

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Kemsing School P.T.A Report

It is the start of a new and rather challenging year for Kemsing School PTA. Our Village School now finds itself in the dreadful position of having its capital budget slashed by 80%, reducing vital funds available from £30,000 to just £6,000.

We will be running another popular Childrens' Fashion Show on **Friday, 23rd March in the School Hall at 6.30pm**. Entry of £5 will include a glass of wine and there will refreshments available and a raffle.

Our **Easter Egg Bingo takes place on Saturday 24th March**. Tickets are £2.50 on the door or £2 in advance from the School Office. There will be a raffle and refreshments. A great family afternoon! We have two Boot Fairs on 29th April and 27th May on the School Field, weather permitting. Gates open for sellers at 8am and for buyers from 9am to 1pm. Cars £8 and vans £10.

A Future Date for your Diary. Kemsing Village Summer Fete will be held on **Saturday 30th June** commencing at the earlier time of 1pm on the School Field. This is NOT just a school event but one to encompass the village as a whole. We encourage as many village organisations as possible to become involved. Please contact Sarah Forret at: sarahandlee@sarahandlee.us if you would like to have a stall. We are also looking for local businesses and friends to sponsor stalls at the Fete. For sponsorship enquiries, please contact Tara Anderson Tara.Anderson1@btinternet.com. If anyone in the village would be kind enough to volunteer to help on a stall or offer us either a Silent Auction or Raffle prize, then please contact Amanda Gillett Amanda@gillettthome.com.

The St. Mary's Church Fundraising Team is organising two special events which have a connection with the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. On **Saturday 14th April in the Church Hall between 9.30am and 1pm**, there will be a tutor-led workshop on watercolour painting. If you have ever wanted to have a go at watercolours and never had the necessary equipment, come along. Everything will be provided (including tea and coffee) and all the equipment you will need. The cost is £15. For further details please telephone the Church Office on 01732 761351.

On the same afternoon starting at 1.30pm, the internationally renown photographer, **Pat Jones**, will be giving a talk entitled '**Ethereal Night**'. After the talk, photographers will have the chance to bring along their own photographs for some helpful criticism. Pat's photos will also be on show from 4pm onwards for any members of the public to come along and have the chance to see some of her fantastic work. Tickets for the talk priced at £5 each will be available also from the Church Office on 01732 761351. The public opening from 4pm will have free admission with donations requested and with tea and coffee available.

If the enthusiasm for painting and photography becomes overwhelming, there will be the chance to display your work in St. Mary's on Diamond Jubilee day, June 5th. More details at the workshops.

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KEMSING PRIMARY SCHOOL REPORT

The balmy start to term 3 lulled us all into a false sense of weather security as we found ourselves with our first serious cold snap and ensuing snowfall. Luckily it was all very manageable, thanks to the successfully timetabled gritting of Kemsing's roads (thanks to KCC), and the school was largely unaffected. The playground, being too icy for safe play, led those appropriately suited and booted on to the school field for some snowy fun, whilst others enjoyed the variety of indoor activities provided.

The Governors of Kemsing School help to determine how the school will best move forward and, with the current financial constraints affecting all of us in some way or other, this is a testing time for the school's Budget. The PTA is a vital contributor to school funds and Governors are most grateful for all the hard work that goes into their fund-raising activities. Thanks also go to the community for supporting these much-loved events.

There has been much made in the Media of Michael Gove's (Government Minister in charge of Education) Academy programme, as well as what appears to be a myriad of constant new initiatives, all needing to be considered as to how best proposed and statutory changes can be implemented into school life. This keeps the Governors busy and the 3 separate Teams that meet to discuss Strategy, Resources and Learning & Development are also working towards a potential Ofsted Inspection later in the year, when it is hoped that we can improve on our previous 'good' judgement.

The school is very popular and regularly oversubscribed. It is keenly felt by Governors that the school is not able to accommodate all village children that request a place but the balance between that and the number of children learning together in any one room, is an important aspect of providing a good education to the pupils at Kemsing School.

The School Council (made up of schoolchildren) has been considering energy efficiency and environmental impacts, another important issue in today's world. Alongside this debate, they continue to support charitable organisations, agreed at their meetings.

Our very talented and enthusiastic Year 6 have presented their annual production which, this year, was *Abbarella* (you may guess what this name suggests) and Governors were pleased to attend such a superb event. Casts 1 and 2 delighted audiences over 2 nights with their rendition of the Abba classics telling the Cinderella story, with an array of bold and interesting costumes. A few stars in the making there, possibly (see page 26 for photograph).

Our Year 3 took their dance piece, *The Olympic Champions*, to *Boogie Nights at the Stag* in *Sevenoaks*, where several local schools participated in 'strutting their stuff'.

The whole school is looking forward to Chinese week, where the curriculum is directed to the studying and experiencing of all things Chinese.

Jacky Falcon-Uff, Clerk to the Governing Body

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HOW MANY MILES TO CALVARY

News from Cotmans Ash

I am writing my note in early February – so far a month of false dawns, lovely empty blue skies and brilliant sunshine by day only for Jack Frost to turn up at dusk to wrap his icy fingers around everything including the brave little snowdrops who defy his frozen overtures by lifting their shining ivory white faces to the winter sunshine.

I love the solitude of this place these winter evenings with a southern wind scattering and driving the clouds over my head toward Wrotham. Now a winter moon in her third quarter clears the treetops over St. Clere toward Kemsing, trailed by Jupiter, his brilliant yellow light, the brightest star in the mid-sky this winters' night.

With the darkness comes that silent time between day and night, only the chiming of bells of St. Peter and St. Paul, Seal break the silence, then the sparkling clatter from a train passing through the valley - the quiet constant murmur of grazing sheep and now the jabbering and chattering from flights of ducks and geese crossing the face of the moon.

Most nights I walk the wood with my dogs, and never am I without that feeling of being watched – eyes – eyes and no eyes in the darkness staring down from the treetops, owls calling one to another like some poor lost soul, a screaming vixen way out to 'Kesters' and badgers – such a range of sounds from grunting like a pig to a high pitched squeal as a baby in trouble. Bats I see in the moonlight, but no longer hear their radar bounce – the years have robbed my ears of many sounds that I know ought to be there.

Cotmans Ash Hill is a challenge at the best of times – I watch walkers, joggers, runners and ancient cyclists sweating and panting past my gate. Some will stop for a chat and a breather, others on their way to the 'Woodlands Café' for their Saturday lunch. One of the dramatic and dedicated groups to stop and have a drink with us came through last Easter. They were a party of about two dozen young people who walked up the hill lugging a great heavy cross which they lay down for a rest. "Yes a long journey from Canterbury through Pilgrims Way with hope to reach Newlands Corner in Surrey by nightfall, then on to Winchester. No, no special mission or campaign, only a reminder of what Easter is all about" they offered.

Apart from the drama, I was deeply touched by their sincerity, then, accompanied by two guitars they left me to continue singing 'How many miles to Calvary'.

To so many of you who come to visit us at 'Cotmans Ash' to see the snowdrops, the spring flowers or just to find a little bit of peace, Heather and I say 'Thank you, we value your friendship and your company, and look forward to seeing you during the year.

Brian Doe

OPEN DOOR—IS OPEN TO ALL



Open Door which meets on Monday mornings between 9.30 and 11.30am in the Church Hall is open to all residents of the village, whatever age. This can be seen from the picture on the left which shows them on an outing to the Kent and E. Sussex Railway.

See School Report, page23—Year 6 (below) presented their annual production which, this year, was Abbarella . Casts 1 and 2 delighted audiences over 2 nights with their rendition of the Abba classics telling the Cinderella story, with an array of bold and interesting costumes.



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FAMILY MILESTONES

Births:

Jasmine Maria Lily WARD on 19th January 2012

Baptisms:

Isaac OAKLEY (December 11th 2011)

Samuel CROUCH (December 11th 2011)

Deaths—Rest in Peace

Gloria Boakes (70) on 20th November 2011

Irene Cook (90) on 29th November 2011

Jenny Donegan (73) on 5th December 2011

Agnes Dalton (85) on 10th December 2011

Delia Jermain (73) on 4th February 2012

John (Jack) Dyke (91) 27th January 2012

From Kensing Church & Village News January—March 1962

The **Afternoon WI** held their AGM. Mrs Doris Dew was re-elected President.

The new **Clerk to the Parish Council** (replacing Mrs Cornford who retired) was Mr W (Wally) Fenton.

The **Scouts** were to carry out a “Bob – a Job” Week at Easter.

From “The Well” Spring 1987

The distribution of “The Well” had been in the hands of **Mr Reg Leedham** for a long time and on his retirement the task was taken on by **Mr Ray Side**.

The lighting inside the **Church** was improved. The open area at the foot of the steeple was still the subject of some debate and the incumbent (Rev Richard Bateman) stressed that no final decision had yet been made.

The **Singers** were very active and performed “The Reluctant Dragon” at the Stag Theatre and the St Edith Hall. At the Stag the piece was narrated by Mr Peter Skellern (a former member of the Singers).

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JENNY DONEGAN (1938-2011)



We not only lost a friend and a longstanding member of our village community when Jenny died on 5th December 2011, it has also meant we may lose Chart Stud Farm as well. Already, the flock of sheep have disappeared from the fields, and so we shall no longer have the great joy of seeing the baby lambs frolicking around in the spring.

Jenny was an enthusiastic Church member, attending Sunday services regularly, and joining in with coffee afterwards in the Church Hall. It seems strange not to see her sitting in the south aisle where she always liked to sit.

In the last year or two, Jenny was Erica's right hand help in the Heritage Centre. She loved talking about the old times, and was a fount of knowledge of village families and events during her lifetime, and especially when her father, Ian Patullo, was alive and running the farm. It will be a source of regret forever that there wasn't time, after all, to record her memories for posterity. It was something she meant to do, and thought she would have the time to do it, but it was not to be.

1ST KEMSING BROWNIES

Brownies met part time during 2011 as Jill and Heather concentrated on their new roles as Kemsing & Otford District Commissioners. The girls worked really hard with a number of them gaining their Craft, Science Investigator and World Traveller interest badges. They made binca bookmarks for Mother's Day gifts. The girls completed a number of scientific experiments in their meetings and completed a challenge at home. They researched water, electricity & gravity - great fun!

The Brownies attended the St Edith celebrations in September and thoroughly enjoyed playing rounders against the cubs, finishing off with a campfire. They joined in with all crafts at a meeting held with the Rainbows and 3rd Kemsing Brownies.

'Go Quackers' an activity afternoon at Cudham proved to be enjoyable as the girls completed all activities and craft laid on for them. They very much enjoyed the adventure play equipment and crafting balloon flowers and animals. Most of the girls attended the 'Disney' Pack Holiday at the start of February 2012, where they helped and joined in with a number of activities. They also enjoyed a walk and play at Manic Monsters too just before the snow descended! The Pack continues to grow & everyone looks forward to the year ahead

Diane Treloar

Village Diary

March

- 23rd Childrens' Fashion Show School Hall 6.30 entrance £5.includes a glass of wine, food available
- 24th Easter Egg Bingo, 2.30 School Hall in advance tickets £2.0, on the door £2.50 great family event
- 28th ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 8.00 St. Edith large hall.** All Kemsing residents welcome.
- 30th Heritage Centre talk by Barbara Darby 'Out and about with my camera' St. Edith Hall 7.30
Members free visitors £2.50
- 31st 'Archive Conservation' Workshop on the conservation of papers and paperwork, members
£10.0. non members £15. buy tickets in advance, run by Heritage Centre Assn.
more details from E.Cole 01732 761772
- 31st Kemsing Singers Spring Concert '*Look at The World*' St. Edith Large Hall 7.30 tickets from R. Edmunds
01959 523752 adults £8 concessions £6 children £4

April

- 5th-8th **EASTER SERVICE, see page 7**
- 7th Heritage Centre open 1st Saturday in the month 10.00-12.00
- 10th Gardeners Society. talk by Jackie Clews of Stonepitts 'Commercial soft-fruit Growing St. Edith
small hall 8.00
- 11th W.I. birthday meeting in St. Edith large hall 8.00 talk by Ray Spiller 'TV & Radio Themes'
- 12th Box office for 'Our Man in Havana' opens 07554 766335 or email Kemsing.players@live.co.uk
- 12th St. Mary's Fundraising Team Workshop on Watercolour Painting and Photography, see page 21 for details
- 14th Gardeners Spring Show School hall 2.30
- 14th Quiz in aid of The Heritage Centre St. Edith hall 7.30 adults £7.00
- 19th Trefoil Guild meeting Smile International 7.45 Church Hall
- 22nd Heritage Centre walk 'Spring Bluebell Time' 2.00 village car park adults £2.00 children free
- 26th **Annual Vestry Meeting 7.45 Church Hall, followed by the Annual Parochial Church
meeting**
- 27th Heritage Centre talk by Ian Walker 'Old Sevenoaks, The pavement plaque people'
7.30 St. Edith hall, members free visitors £2.50

May

- 3rd/4th/5th Our Man in Havana by Kemsing Players St. Edith hall 8.00 tickets £8.00 see 12th April for details.
- 5th Heritage Centre open 1st Saturday in the month 10.00-12.00
- 8th Gardeners Socty. Evening visit to be arranged.
- 9th W.I. AGM and Resolution meeting in St. Edith small hall 8.00
- 12th North Downs Challenge Walks entry forms must be completed prior to the event, forms from
Pauline Mallinson 01959 524725
- 17th Trefoil Guild outing to the Stag
- 25th Heritage Centre talk 'Rat Catching, a 19th Century Occupation' by David Cuffley St.
Edith Hall 7.30 visitors £2.50 members free

June

- 2nd Heritage Centre open 1st Saturday in the month 10.00-12.00
- 12th Gardeners Socty. Talk by Brian Everest 'Sweet Peas' 8.00 St. Edith small hall
- 13th W.I. Garden meeting to be arranged
- 17th Heritage Centre 'Reptile walk' 2.00 village car park adults £2.00 children free
- 24th Garden Safari various gardens in the village 2.30 –6.00 p.m last ticket sold at 5..00pm.
- 27th Trefoil Guild Strawberry Tea and bring and buy.