



THE WELL

**Kemsing Village Magazine
with news from Woodlands**

NEWS FROM THE HERITAGE CENTRE

(See pages 15-18) Autumn 2013

No 191

VEB
1976

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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 by the late Vic Bowden from Autumn 1976
edition of The Well**

COPY FOR NEXT ISSUE by 1st November 2013 please.

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

1st KEMSING BROWNIES TAKE TO THE HILLS!



During the Summer term, **1st Kemsing Brownies (Thursday Group)** took advantage of the good weather and spent many of their meetings outside. As well as playing 'wide games' on the Common Field, one evening was spent walking on the North Downs and enjoying the lovely countryside. The girls also enjoyed a campfire at Cotmans Ash which included cooking and eating 'smores, a very popular activity!

Vicar's Letter



Dear Friends

In the summer edition of *The Well*, I shared how our recent planning application for a church hall and vicarage had got me thinking about buildings. Church buildings are not what matter – churches are about people.. The planning process also made me think about the homes we live in.

Perhaps I should explain a few things at this point. The current vicarage is a lovely Grade 2 house in the oldest part of Kensing; it is part of the village's heritage. However, old buildings cost a lot to repair. Over the years, a number of maintenance issues have built up. Even if all these were rectified, the vicarage would continue to need costly maintenance year on year.

Many people still think that the Church of England sits on large pots of money. This is not the case. The vicarage is maintained by the Diocese of Rochester, who are on a very tight budget. As attractive as “maintain the current house” is as a solution, it doesn't fly unless someone offers to fund it. So a different, more easily maintained, vicarage is needed. The current house can then be lovingly restored by whoever buys it.

Anyway, the planning refusal extended the period when we, as a family, do not know which house will be our home in years to come. Our homes matter a great deal to us. They are not simply financial assets (for those who own theirs). They are a place of safety and relaxation; it's hard to pin down what we mean, but they are the place we feel most “at home” in. This is why uncertainty about our homes is hard.

Psalm 90, written by Moses many years ago, starts: “Lord, you have been our dwelling place throughout all generations. Before the mountains were born... from everlasting to everlasting you are God.” The Psalm goes on to reflect on how fragile life is. Things we thought were so certain can pass in an instant. Things happen that remind us that our homes are not as solid and secure as we thought. When we have to leave the house we grew up in, we realise they are not permanent.

In that context, the Psalm invites us to see God as our home. He is older and more solid even than the hills of the North Downs. He offers us security, dependability, and a place of safety that the buildings we live in never can. To put our confidence in brick, tiles and glazing is to miss how fragile life is, and to miss out on the one who invites us to trust him and enjoy the everlasting security that brings. With every blessing. Your friend and vicar,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial 'J'.

James Oakley

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 Mondays and 10.00 - 5pm on Thursdays. Answer phone 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 which is the 'All-Age' service..
- 18.30 Evening Service (Evensong twice a month, a number of other formats twice a month)

The service pattern on the 5th Sunday will be:

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

*The combined communion service on the fifth Sunday will usually be held in Kemsing Church because of seating and parking limitations in Woodlands. However, the service on **Sunday September 29th** will be held at Woodlands Church, starting at 10am. Parking will be available at Woodlands Golf Club, but why not try a morning stroll up there?*

*Both morning services on **Sunday October 6th** will celebrate the Harvest.*

The **Remembrance Sunday** service will be held this year in St.Mary's Kemsing at 9.45 am on Sunday 10th November, followed by a procession to The Well for the act of Commendation which will start after the 2 minutes silence at 11am..

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 10.45 to 11.15. before morning services. Evening services are followed by a light meal

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OUR 'NEW' SHOPS—BEST ONE AND KEMSING PHARMACY



Kumar has been the Manager of 'Best One' the convenience store in West End for three years. It is a family business which also has a shop in Shoreham where Kumar's brother is the manager. The brothers formerly worked in Croydon but the idea of running village shops appealed to both of them and they are very happy that they made the move to Kent. Kumar works long hours, seven days a week, but is happy to do so. Kumar would be interested to hear any suggestions as to how he can improve the shop. Did you know

that the shop offers a photocopying service for only 9p a copy? And you can get a hot drink for £1.20. A free delivery service is available, just phone your requirements to 01732 761690 or ask someone to drop a list of items into the shop and they will be delivered either the same, or the next day. The shop also sells the well known 'Cook' frozen ready meals. Kumar enjoys being in the village and is keen to take part in village life. He is a member of the St. Edith Club, enjoys a drink in The Bell and he is also a keen cricket fan. Kumar hopes to marry some time soon.

Ben has been the manager of the Kemsing Pharmacy for 1 year and 9 months. This is his first managerial post in the UK. Ben employs four part time staff, most of whom live in Kemsing, and his wife Reme also works part time in the shop. Ben and his family live in Kemsing and their daughter goes to Kemsing School. He tries very hard to meet the varying needs of patients, and is very grateful for the feedback they



Ben and one of his part-time staff, Theresa.

have received. Ben is aware that trust between him and his customers is very important. He takes seriously peoples concerns about their health or medication and is more than willing to give help and advice where appropriate. If he feels you should consult your doctor he will say so. A prescription collection service is available from local Doctor's surgeries. They will collect your prescriptions, have them dispensed by Ben and delivered to your house free of charge. Flu vaccination is available at a small charge. Ben and Reme are keen to keep fit and Ben plays basket ball two evenings a week. The whole family enjoy walking the downs and feel very lucky to live in such a

beautiful area. They say they have been overwhelmed with the help and support given to them by village residents.

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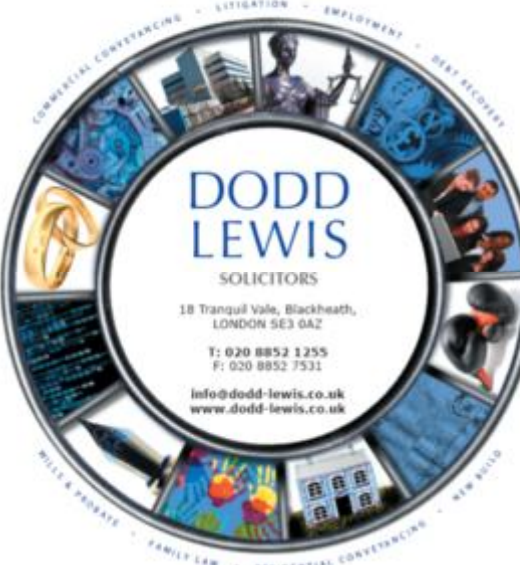
There have been huge changes in the way that the NHS is managed and funded. The voice of patients at GP Surgeries across the County is now even more vital in ensuring that the service provided really do meet the needs of local communities.

At the Otford Surgery, there are now 2 active patient groups:

1. An on line group, now called the Patient Reference Group (PRG). If you would like to join this group, please see the Practice website www.otfordmedicalpractice.nhs.uk
2. A small group of patients (the Patient Participation Group or PPG) meets face to face with staff to promote co-operation between patients and the practice.

This PPG group is keen to represent patient views as fully as possible. It will also have a roll in providing input to the West Kent Commissioning Group (CCG), which now holds the funding for NHS services, and to the Care Quality Commission (CQC). The CQC is the independent regulator of all health and social care in England (GP practices, hospitals, care homes, home-care, agencies and dental practices). The main ways in which patients can make suggestions or comments to the PPG are via the PPG box in the Reception area or via the Practice website or via the PRG. All feed back will remain confidential to the PPG..

During peak times, such as 08.30 in the morning, you can ring to make an appointment on either of the Surgery numbers—01959 523929 (Appointments) or 01959 524633 (General Enquiries). We do offer some appointments in advance so it is not necessary to ring on the day for a routine appointment.



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REPORT FROM KEMSING PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Councillor Resignation

I am sad to advise that Mrs. Wanda Ross has resigned from the Parish Council. We would all like to take this opportunity to wish Mrs. Ross and her family well and thank her for her valued contribution to the village during her time as a Parish Councillor, particularly her involvement with the refurbishment of the play areas.

Bottle banks in the village car park

Sevenoaks District Council (SDC) had been asked by the current owner of the village car park to remove the recycling units on its land. SDC asked the Parish Council to identify an alternative site and the Parish Council offered the tennis court car park at Heaverham Road. SDC placed a notice inviting residents' comments on the bottle banks. In all, only 13 responses were received, with only 1 resident supporting the proposal. The remaining residents expressed concern and/or objected strongly to the proposal. The objections included concern about the additional car journeys that would be necessary to visit the site and the potential vandalism and anti-social behaviour which could result in broken glass on the tennis courts. Other objections were that there were already difficulties with lack of parking spaces at peak times, and siting the bottle banks using 2 or 3 car park spaces would exacerbate the existing problems. The Parish Council's suggestion for a possible site at Old Childsbridge Lane was rejected by SDC due to the road being unsuitable for the collection vehicle. Responding to the Parish Council's suggestion to improve kerbside collections to include glass, SDC said that the costs would be significantly higher than the current system. One of the reasons for this was that the glass would be mixed and glass recycling companies pay less for mixed glass. Councillors recognised that, unfortunately, there were no alternative options, and therefore concluded that there had been sufficient opposition from residents and reluctantly agreed, in the absence of any other suitable locations, not to proceed with the proposed relocation of the bottle banks to the tennis court car park at Heaverham Road and to recommend to the District Council that the bottle banks are removed from the car park.

For information regarding forthcoming **Parish Council meetings**, please check village notice boards and Parish Council's website.

You can contact the Parish Council at The Clerk's Office, St. Edith Hall, High Street, Kemsing, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN15 6NA. 01732 762841. Normal office hours are Monday to Friday between 9.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. Email to: kemsingpc@tiscali.co.uk and website: www.kemsingpc.kentparishes.gov.uk

Yolanda Tredoux (Parish Clerk)



Autumn Events at Ightham Mote

Ightham Mote house and gardens will be hosting several exciting events during autumn. Throughout September we will be holding a sculpture exhibition by the Surrey Sculpture Society pieces can be viewed throughout the house and garden with an opportunity to buy.

We have listed the full autumn programme below; which includes our ever popular Apple & Orchard Day & attic tours - where you can discover parts of the house not normally seen. For the children at half term we have the Gunpowder plot mystery trail, a craft activity & a story time event organised by the cast of "Robin Hood" who will be performing the pantomime at the Stag Theatre this year

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, in the shop and restaurant and driving our mobility vehicle. You don't need any previous experience and full training is given. To find out more contact Jill Nash 01732 810378 ext 130 or jill.nash@nationaltrust.org.uk

Dates for your Autumn diary:

Sept 4 –Sept 30 Surrey Sculpture Exhibition - a cornucopia of sculptures throughout the house & garden

Fri Sept 27th workshop –“Design a quilted border” £30pp OB

Sat 28th Sept Apple & Orchard Day – apple themed day with produce to taste & buy

Thurs 17th Oct Attic tours (limited places no under 12s)

Sat 26 Oct- 3 Nov - Gunpowder Plot mystery trail – can you solve the mystery of Ightham Mote?

Thurs 31 Oct 12-3.30pm craft activity £1.00

Sat 26 Oct & Sat 2 Nov “Ghost & Gourmet event” candlelit tour of the house & 2 course buffet supper £35.00 pp RB

OB bookings 01732 810378 RB bookings 01732 811314

For more information see; www.nationaltrust.org.uk/ighthammote or call 01732 81037 ext 100

NEWS and NOTES

As mentioned in the last edition of The Well, this year we are fortunate enough to once again have our St. Edith Well dressed by members and friends of Kemsing Evening W.I. This year's design is still a secret, but will be unveiled after the St. Edith Day service on Sunday 15th September at The Well, and can be viewed there for the following week. An Afternoon Tea will be held, with a chance to see the finished design, on Friday 13th September in the Church Hall, where you can also learn more about the tradition of Well Dressing. Tickets for the tea are available from Heather Porter on 01959 523543, or the Parish Office on 01732 761351 after the beginning of September.

Kemsing Community Choir would like to thank everyone who came to their concert on Saturday June 22nd. A final amount of almost £350 was raised for St. Mary's Church funds, and a good time was had by all! The Cream Tea with Music by the Jean Bentley Dance Band took place on a Summer Saturday, and made £420 for Church funds.

The PTA of Kemsing School, would like to thank the village for all their support of the Village Fete, hosted on the School Field on 30th June. £9,400 was raised for the School which was an incredible amount and they very much appreciate the support they received from the whole Community. They are currently working hard to upgrade the School ITC suite and to also refurbish the swimming pool roof, so your support was greatly appreciated. For your diary, Kemsing School's fireworks spectacular will take place on **Friday 2nd November**—gates open at 6.30 for refreshments. Blast off at 7.30. Tickets and details from Kemsing School. Also, the Christmas Fayre will take place on **Saturday 30th November**. Please put the date in your Diary now for a fun afternoon where there will be a large range of stalls and other attractions—a great place to do some Christmas shopping.

Would you like to help keep the Church graveyard looking neat and tidy? There is always need for more pairs of hands to spend perhaps an hour a week looking after the graves of people whose families have long since left the village. If this is something you could help with, please contact Alan Waters on 01732 761431.

There will be two concerts this Autumn in Kemsing Church: the first on Saturday **9th November** will be a Kemsing Miscellany in the usual popular format and the second on Saturday **21st December** will be by a visiting choir. See notice boards for more details. Both free but with a retiring collection in aid of Church funds.

How nice to see two former Kemsing School boys appearing on our TV's recently. Nic Masters, Chief Vet at London Zoo and Joe Wilkinson on every TV Comedy Show

		
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KEMSING HERITAGE CENTRE

Brief history of the building

In 2009 fundraising started for the building, and £36,000 was raised in six months from generous donations. The Parish Council had agreed to contribute £30,000 if the Trustees could raise a similar amount, and the Heritage Centre was officially opened on 23rd October 2010.

Opening hours

It is open to the public on the first Saturday of every month from 10am to 12 noon, and from 2.00 to 4.30pm every Monday afternoon. Visits at other times can be arranged by appointment. The website with details of a programme of events, such as a number of talks and walks, and other details can be viewed at: www.kemsingheritagecentre.org.uk.

Team of volunteers (see photo overleaf)

Every Monday afternoon, volunteers gather to process and update new information and material. Jean Allen looks after family histories, Sue Willimott is the fount of knowledge of past history of roads and buildings, having worked at Sevenoaks District Council for many years, and Jane Bowden looks after the digital photos and the website..

Examples of archived materials

The family histories are a huge archive. For instance, there are files for village families beginning with the letter 'B', e.g. Baker, Baldwin, Bangay, Boakes, Bowyer, Bridge, Bowden, Burt, Bryant, Bunce and Burrows, to name just some of them. These are gradually being cross-referenced, as many families were related.

The Kemsing Afternoon WI Scrap Books are lovingly preserved (see overleaf for photo of 1985 quilt).

Vic Miles donated an almost complete set of the *Illustrated War News* series (see photo overleaf) which tell the story of WW2, as well as WW1 pictorial histories.

During the excavation for the foundation of the new houses on The Wheatsheaf site, some interesting old bottles were found, one of which has been dated to the late 19th century, and a stone which commemorated the 1880 rebuild, and these can be seen on display.

During the ploughing of the former Chart Stud Farm land, where the sheep had grazed for many years, some old coins have been found, dating to Roman times, and Charles I. Buttons which were identified as Fermins which used to be in Crowdleham (now in Manchester) were also discovered.

The log books of Kemsing School from 1874 to 1990 have been given to the Heritage Centre, including a Punishment Book (which a party of schoolchildren who visited recently were fascinated by). A photo of the class of 1887 (see overleaf) with teachers Mrs. Jordan, Miss Smith and Miss Riches, was taken where the new Kemsing Surgery is now located.

Stories of people researching their family histories

Erica has a fund of interesting stories of people researching their family history. One example recently concerned a family who had been contacted by the producers of 'Heir Hunters' (BBC TV programme), and wanted to find out about a relative they never knew who had died in The Dynes in 1998. Emma Elizabeth Ransby, known as Cissie, had lived in the Tonbridge area with her parents and had worked as a cleaner at Sevenoaks Hospital. She had never married, and had had a sister called Alice who had married in the 1950s. Cissie's main carer at The Dynes, Pat Franklin, had arranged for her funeral in the absence of any family at the time, and had kept family photographs.

Without local knowledge, Cissie's history may never have been traced by the family who were searching for her.

SOME OF THE 6,000 PHOTOGRAPHS HELD

KEMSING SCHOOL 1887



PART OF THE NEWSPAPER ARCHIVE HELD IN THE CENTRE



IN THE KEMSING HERITAGE CENTRE ARCHIVE

PHOTO FROM 1985 SHOWING A QUILT MADE BY MEMBERS OF
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NEWS FROM WOODLANDS

Were you there? I hope you did not miss the Woodlands Fete. It was such a great day – an opportunity to meet new neighbours and for old friends to get



reacquainted. Our prayers for good weather were answered with a beautiful sunny day. We have had such positive feed-back. One person said that it was the best country fete they had ever been to and others remarked on the value for money and wonderful community spirit.

It is difficult to know where to start when it comes to thanking the lovely ‘Fete Team’, who all worked so hard

to make it such a memorable day. First and foremost our thanks must go to David

and Sally Hodges who hosted the event and did so much to make it a success. We had a wonderful advertising team and many people gave their services for free and all the profits from their stalls to St Mary’s Woodlands Church Hall Refurbishment Fund. After expenses, the net contribution to the Fund was £4,864. Contributions and offers of help are still coming in. If all goes to plan we should be able to start on the project very soon.



Thank you Woodlanders and friends who came to support us. We pray that in the future our Church Hall will be a real asset to the community.

Two September dates for your diary:-

- | | | |
|-------------------------|---------|--|
| Sunday 22 nd | 11.30am | Harvest Festival <i>(followed by lunch in the Church Hall)</i> |
| Sunday 29 th | 9.00am | Breakfast <i>followed by</i> |
| | 10.00am | Combined All-Age Worship at Woodlands Church |

You are warmly invited to both events. Woodlands Manor golf Club have kindly said that we can park in their Visitors’ Car Park if necessary. This is signed to the left as you drive into the main Car Park.

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KEMSING SCHOOL REPORT

September is a happy month at Kemsing Primary School, because it means we welcome the children back to school after the summer holidays. We hope everyone had an enjoyable summer break.

The children are returning to a school which had a fantastic year end, both busy and rewarding. OFSTED visited the school the first week of July, and rated the school as 'Good.' The new OFSTED regime is the toughest yet, and we were very pleased OFSTED, reporting on its inspection of KPS, identified so many strengths in our school.

The summer term also proved a chance for KPS athletes to shine. For the first time in the school's history, KPS won the District Sports match held in June at Knole Academy. The nail-biting event was worthy of the Olympics, with Year 6 runner Ernie Lake coming from far behind to seal a Kemsing victory. Congratulations to all who took part!

The advent of summer weather allowed us to take learning outside the classroom. Year 3 visited the British Museum to view the Egyptian and Roman galleries, whilst Year 6 headed off to Leeds Castle to glimpse life as it might have been lived in Tudor times. Garden club went strawberry picking at Stonepitts Farm and all of Key Stage 1 went on an afternoon outing exploring British wildlife. Children visited local attractions too. Year 3 visited the Heritage Centre to explore local history, and Mrs Walker led Year 3 on an investigation of St Mary's Church and all the surprises hidden within its walls and grounds.

This summer term the children also enjoyed a dedicated 'creative week' celebrating the talents and abilities across the school. Children experienced interactive story-telling, created sculptures and tiles, stitched up Victorian samplers and even tie dyed T-shirts. The school turned into an arts and crafts studio for a week, where children could paint, sculpt and create in an atmosphere filled with music and laughter.

KPS is supported by a vibrant and active PTA who made sure there was plenty to do in the summer sunshine. The Summer Fete was a tremendous success and an engaging family event. Moreover, the circus came to town! Despite a bit of rain, the Happy Circus dazzled children and parents alike with high wire acts and mischievous clowns.

The end of the school term can be a bit bittersweet, as we said good-bye to our Year 6 leavers. We also said good-bye to Mrs Goulding, who has worked as a Teaching Assistant at KPS for 12 years, and Mrs Brookbanks is now off on maternity leave. As autumn comes along, it is a time of new beginnings in the school year, and we welcome aboard new staff members--a new Reception teacher and two new Teaching Assistants. All in all, we anticipate another busy, action-packed year!

Elaine Bracken, Teacher, Year 5

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REPORT FROM THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Chancel Repair Liability - Update

In the Autumn 2012 edition of *The Well* James explained what Chancel Repair Liability meant. He also reported that the Parochial Church Council of St Mary's, Kemsing (the PCC) was trying to find out which properties in Kemsing carried Chancel Repair Liability (CRL), as the law states that PCCs must register their CRL with each owner's entry by 13th October 2013 *unless* they obtain the Charity Commission's advice that they have a reasonable case for non-registration.

After a great deal of research, when nearly all the properties affected were identified, and all the known facts had been given to the firm of solicitors recommended by the Diocese of Rochester, a submission was made on behalf of St Mary's, Kemsing, to the Charity Commission on 13th June 2013.

A letter was received dated 21st June 2013 from the Charity Commission saying that, after considering the information setting out the factors that the PCC took into account when reaching its decision not to proceed to register chancel repair liability, *"the Commission considers that the PCC's decision is reasonable in the circumstances, being within the range of possible decisions that a reasonable body of trustees could have made, and this can be taken as formal advice under section 110 of the Charities Act 2011."*

Planning application for new Church Hall & Vicarage

The plans for the proposed new Church Hall and Vicarage are being amended to comply with planning requirements, and will be re-submitted in due course.

Painting of interior walls of the Church

Three quotations have been obtained for painting the south and west walls of the Church. As the prices quoted were too high for the PCC to fund at the present time, it has been agreed to defer this project for a couple of years. In the meantime, the Friends of St Mary's have kindly offered to fundraise for the painting.

North Downs Challenge Walks 2013

Over £2,300 was raised by this event, which was a tremendous effort. Many thanks to all those who helped, especially Pauline Mallinson, the organiser. Next year's Walks will be on 10th May 2014. Application forms available from January 2013.

Safeguarding Children & Vulnerable Adults—Policies

The PCC has approved these Policy Statements, and copies are displayed on the notice board in the Church Porch.

Rosemary Banister, PCC Secretary.

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News from Cotmans Ash COUNTRY ROAD

This is the story of a country road – a tiny lane on the eastern flank of Kemsing village, a hill road in the heart of England joining the village to the ‘north scarp’, the backbone of Kent.

Cotmans Ash Lane leaves the main road at the Heaverham junction bounded on one side by a clump of tall trees which includes the finest elms in the village – opposite is a truly lovely ancient ragstone wall which is also host to saxifrage and spur valerian holding on in nooks and crannies.

Then twin oasts clad in black shuttering with windows that once gazed over Kent hop fields - now ‘Hunters Lodge’ in black barge board and memories of Phil Burrows and Tom Moran with the baying and barking of their Bolbroke beagle hounds. All long gone! Further on a multi aced barley field “Kemsing Prairie” – a footpath, well used from Cotmans Ash to Nearly Corner and The Chequers crosses the field.

The lane steadily rising passes one of the finest and largest Holm Oak trees in the County at Crowdleham Lodge, then on to the crossroads where a mighty “Mount Atlas Cedar” rises head and shoulders over all else – a champion of his kind – to the right a Tulip Tree, the largest in the Parish. The lane rising sharply now to Cotmans Ash and about the 450 ft. mark - a humble bench seat at the roadside guides you on to Cotmans Ash, a whitewashed cottage on a shelf of downland chalk. An old forester lives there, his view southward is the finest in the village – across the Vale of Kemsing to the Chart and Seal Church and Sevenoaks town rising to the tower of St. Nicks. To the west the wooded slope of Witley Forest arching round to Ide Hill and the giant Redwood at Emmetts.

Swinging eastwards the ragstone walls and red chimney pots of Knole House come into view – further round the ancient fort of Oldbury.

Back in the lane, ever rising under a canopy of great trees, with high banks of over 50ft. over which jut and curl the roots of massive beech trees which cling to the chalk and flint capped soil – opposite a sheer drop of 50ft. to the floor of Cotmans Ash Wood a forest of Ash trees and Maples – a refuge for many of nature’s children.

At times I stand and wonder ‘Who were they that cut into the flank at such a depth and what tools did they use?’

To reach the Rising Sun on foot is a great feat – well placed for a pint and a rest with the finest and cheapest beer in town!

Further on you are into serious horse country with tidy paddocks and orderly stables. Down the steep hill to Tinkerpot crossroads leading on to the tiny church, small in size but strong in spirit, and if you travel on a Saturday, a time to rest and take a first class lunch!

Brian Doe

KEMSING VILLAGE FETE—JUNE 2013



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Baptisms

William Draper on 9th June 2013 at Woodlands.

Benjamin King on 25th August 2013

Weddings

Benjamin Johnston and Lindsay Madeley on 13th July 2013

Stuart Jones and Bryanie Parsons on 27th July 2013 at Coleman's Hatch

Nicholas Martin and Nicola Hodges on 24th August 2013

Deaths—Rest in Peace

William Dadswell (91) on 30th March 2013

Florence Forder (96) on 24th April 2013

John Causer (75) on 25th May 2013

Terence Latimer (72) on 11th June 2013

Michael Hermitage (75) on 4th July 2013

Dennis Holmes (80) on 7th July 2013

From Kemsing Parish Magazine Sept-Nov 1963

C.E.M.S. members entertained a party of patients from Oakwood Hospital. **Cars parking** on the Common Field were becoming a problem. **The Working Men's Club** at the St Edith Hall needed an extension for more space. The Parochial Church Council purchased a **Miller Electronic Organ**, hoping that there would be more room in the Church. Mr and Mrs **Reynolds**, and Mr and Mrs **Quinton** left the village but Mr and Mrs **Dalrymple** arrived. Jim **Swaisland** sadly died.

From "The Well" Autumn 1988

Vic Bowden wrote further about the Australian Connection involving **Thomas Carleton Skarratt** (Vicar of Kemsing from 1889-1908 who caused many improvements to be made to the Church and former Vicarage). **Michael Turnbull** was to be the next Bishop of Rochester. He had previously served the Diocese as an Archdeacon.

The District Commissioner reported that there were 2 packs of **Brownies** and 2 companies of **Guides** and that they were all flourishing. The **Gardeners Society** had recently arranged two outings as well as holding their Summer Show. The principal award winners at the latter were Messrs Sims and Johnson, Mesdames Lott, Revell and Wood and Miss Gemma Puplett. Slugs and snails were a particular pest in gardens this year.

The magazine featured an article on the activities of **Dave Wellman**, and tributes to **Richard Bray** and **Millie Croughton**.

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1st KEMSING RAINBOWS

Our theme during the earlier part of the year was based on countries throughout the world. The Rainbows enjoyed many crafts, activities and tasting different foods.



Some of the places we learnt about were Egypt, France, New Zealand and Ireland.

We celebrated Thinking Day in February talking about love and the importance of families.

During the Summer we have been out and about and enjoying the sunshine whilst it is here! The girls thoroughly enjoyed our walk from the top of Cotmans Ash Lane over

the fields and down Green Hill. We have also been strawberry picking at Stonepitts Farm and finished off the term with a picnic.

Diane, Kate and Vicky.



KEMSING HERITAGE CENTRE



If you look at the Heritage Centre website on www.kemsingheritagecentre.org.uk it is possible to now link through to the Gallery which shows pictures of the VAD Hospital 1914-1918 including photographs of patients and staff, some details of the lives of those whose names appear on our War Memorial, Kemsing Residents 1939 (a new listing), the Kemsing Archive Project, Past events and Displays and Publications. There are also listings of the 'strays' from the 1881 Census.



The Well is printed by Highland Printers, Unit 1, Church Farm, Church Street, Seal, Kent TN15 0AT, tel.01732 762131, fax 01732 763501
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Village Diary

September

- 6th Kemsing Heritage Centre talk by S. Robinson '*Curiosities of the City of London*' St. Edith Small Hall 7.30pm. Members free, non members £2.50.
7th Kemsing Heritage Centre open 1st Saturday in the month 10.00-12.00
11th W.I. talk by Bob Ogley '*Life as a Local Newspaper Reporter*' St. Edith small hall. 7.45pm.
13th 'Well Dressing' Cream Tea at St. Mary's Church Hall (see Page 13)
14th Kemsing Gardeners Autumn Show the school hall 2.30pm
14th Trefoil Guild produce on sale at Kemsing Gardeners Show
15th St. Edith's Well Dressing dedication.
19th Trefoil Guild Harvest Supper St. Mary's Church Hall 7.45

October

- 4th Kemsing Heritage Centre talk '*Past Times*' by I. Walker St. Edith small Hall 7.30 members free, visitors £2.50.
8th Kemsing Gardeners Socty. 'Growing Vines in Kent' St. Edith Sml.Hall 8.00pm
9th W.I.talk '*Canine Partners*' by Malcolm Wells St. Edith small hall 7.45
10th Trefoil Guild pub lunch
11th Wildlife Group. 'The Best of Southern England' by Kev Reynolds. 8pm, St Edith Small Hall £2.
17th Trefoild Guild Shoe Box appeal meeting Church hall 7.45
20th Kemsing Heritage Centre Autumn Walk village car park 2pm. Adults £2
26th Cancer Research Xmas Bazaar 10.0-1pm St. Edith Hall 50p entrance + tea

November

- 1st Fireworks Night at Kemsing School gates open 6.30, blast off 7.30 contact school 01732 761236 for prices and tickets.
8th Wildlife Group 'Exotic Reptiles' by Lucas. St. Edith Hall 8om. £2.
9th Scouts jumble sale donated items to St. Edith hall from 9.30am. Sale starts at 1.30pm entrance £1 per adult children free.
9th Concert in Church. Entrance free with a retiring collection. See notice boards for more details.
13th W.I. talk *The Country Seat-Great English Stately Homes*' by M. Heart St. Edith small hall 7.45
15th Kemsing Heritage Centre talk '*St. Johns Area of Sevenoaks*' by Ed Thompson. St. Edith small hall 7.30. Members free, visitors £2.50.
16th Quiz Night, in the Church Hall. Teams of 6-8 £5.0 per person money to Church Hall development fund. Tickets and details from Church office 761351
21st Trefoil Guild Table sports—games evening and bring & buy Church Hall 7.45
30th School Christmas Fayre for further details go to www.kemsing.kent.sch.uk

December

- 6th Wildlife Group. Christmas Scottish Shindig. 8pm. St Edith Large Hall £2
7th Kemsing Singers Concert for Cancer Reasearch 7.30 St. Nicholas Church Sevenoaks, tickets adults £10.under 16s £5. from J.Course 01732 761606
10th Kemsing Gardeners Socty. *Gardeners Questions* St. Edith small hall 7.45
11th W.I. Party '*Christmas Day Records*' by R. Spiller St. Edith small hall 7.45
13th Kemsing Singers Christmas Concert St. Edith hall 7.30 tickets adults £8. oaps £6. children £4. From 9 Cleves Rd., 01959 523752



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