

THE WELL

**Kemsing Village Magazine
with news from Woodlands**

Kemsing Downs Nature Reserve—see Centre Pages

Summer 2013

No 190

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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 blossom in the centre of Kemsing

Cover Picture by John Farrow

COPY FOR NEXT ISSUE

Please submit any items or articles for the next issue of The Well before
1st August 2013 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

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Vicar's Letter



Dear Friends

Recently, we submitted a planning application (with Rochester Diocese) to build a new vicarage and church hall; many of you will have heard that it was refused by the District Council. Those of you who did not support the application will be glad; others are disappointed or confused.

The process has made me think again about buildings and what they're for – the homes we live in and our church buildings.

Let me reflect aloud about church buildings for a moment. For many people, the word “church” is about a building. To “go to the church” is to go to a particular building in the east end of the village.

The word “church” in the Bible at root meant a gathering or an assembly. It was used politically (for some kinds of parliament), and it's even used of a rioting mob who had “assembled” on the streets. (The curious will find both those meanings in Acts 19; look at verses 32 and 39). However, most frequently “the church” is Christian men, women and children – either all Christians down the ages, or as they assemble together in one physical place. It never means a building.

It's true that we need a building to meet in (although many churches hire buildings, or even meet outdoors). It's also true that we have responsibility to care for two of the oldest buildings in the area, with all their architectural heritage. Our buildings are important – but they are not what make us a church.

Jesus promised to build his church. That's something he wants us to work on with him. He's not talking about adding an extension, or improving the kitchen facilities in our hall. He's talking about men, women and children starting to follow him through life, and about his existing followers growing in depth and maturity.

We need to work out what to do next with our building plans. We believe a more modern hall would help us to serve the community, and that a vicarage requiring less maintenance would put resources to better use. Finding the right way forward needs careful thought.

But in the meantime, we can continue to build the church in this area. We'd love to grow and mature as followers of Jesus Christ, and we'd love you to join us too. Happily, that is not something that needs the District Council's approval.

With every blessing. Your friend and vicar,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

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 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

On *Sunday June 30th* there will be a special morning service at 10am which will be a joint service for St. Mary's Kemsing and St. Mary's Woodlands. During this service we shall say a heart-felt 'thank you' to Rev. John Goulding, well know to so many of us, as he has now given up his licence to officiate, After the service there will be a family barbeque on the Church Hall field to which everyone is invited. Please join us.

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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ST. CLERE OPEN GARDEN—16th June from 2.00 to 5.00pm



Simon and Eliza Ecclestone are once again delighted to open the St Clere grounds for the National Gardens Scheme initiative 'Gardens Open for Charity'.

The 4-acre garden is full of interest with formal terraces surrounding the mansion (not open) with beautiful views of the Kent countryside. There are herbaceous and shrub borders, a productive kitchen and herb garden, and rare trees. Entry £5 for adults and £1 for children. Tours with the Head Gardener £1 extra, at 2.30, 3.30 and 4.30pm.

On *Saturday July 6th*, as part of the Sevenoaks Festival, there will be a special performance of 'Much Ado about Nothing' at St. Clere in aid of Breast Cancer Care. For further details see the Sevenoaks Summer Festival programme.



**Dogs + Bacon
Toys + Toys**

Join us for a special event at St. Clere on Saturday July 6th. We will be raising funds for Breast Cancer Care with a performance of 'Much Ado about Nothing'. The event will include a special lunch and a tour of the garden. Tickets are £5 for adults and £1 for children. Tours with the Head Gardener are £1 extra. The event will be held from 2.00pm to 5.00pm. For further details see the Sevenoaks Summer Festival programme.

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KEMSING VILLAGE FETE

The fete will take place this year on Saturday June 29th on the School Field from 1pm to 4.30pm.

Special events this year include a display of classic cars, and a dog show (sponsored by Elands Veterinary Surgery) in the arena. There will be lots of stalls run by Village organisations and other groups. The PTA stalls will include such favourites as books, games, toys, cakes, bottle tombola, netball shoot and the five-a-side football challenge to name but a few.

The Sevenoaks and Tonbridge Concert Band will be there to entertain us all and refreshments will be available.

A fun afternoon for the whole family!

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REPORT FROM THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

The Annual Vestry Meeting was held on Thursday, 25th April 2013, followed by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting. Jean Walker and Ray Parton were re-elected as Churchwardens for the forthcoming year, and Ray thanked everyone for helping to support them both during the past year.

At the Annual Parochial Church meeting, the report from the Electoral Roll Officer was that a completely new Electoral Roll was drawn up this year, and now contains 139 names, of whom 14 were non-resident. Mike Cursons, Captain of Sidesmen, was asked by James to explain what were the duties of a Sidesman. Mike said primarily it was to welcome people as they came into Church, put up the hymn numbers on both boards, take the collection, and try to be unintrusive when inviting the congregation to go up to take Communion. If anyone is interested in becoming one of the Sidesmen, speak to Mike or James (or indeed any of the Sidesmen at any of the services) to find out more. There is a rota system which means no-one is expected to be on duty more than they would prefer.

The Church Hall Planning Group Report stimulated a long discussion about the planning application for the new Church Hall and Vicarage, and James read the statement on the Church's website which can be viewed at: <http://kemsingwithwoodlands.org/news/2013/04/planning-application-refused>. The statement reported that the PCC would like to thank all those who wrote in support of the application. Clearly the PCC is disappointed at the outcome, but the main thing to focus on is that the need for a new Church Hall and Vicarage remain. The feedback which we have received during the planning application process will enable the PCC to talk to the Diocese, who were the joint applicants, to make sure that we have learnt any lessons. There may be options before us, and we need to take our time to consider those before we decide on the next step. In the meantime, if anyone has any ideas as to how these needs for a new Church Hall and Vicarage can be met, please pass them on to me, James, or any member of the PCC.

The Groups including the Fundraising Team, the Friends of St Mary's, the Pastoral Team, Helping Hand (which needs more drivers), and the Church Flower Group, were all appreciated for their contribution. The children's groups, Mothers & Others and the new Dads Group, were all thriving, as was Open Door on Monday mornings. If any children would be interested in joining the Church Choir, we would be glad to hear from them. After consideration of the Financial Statements, which were received, Peter Chadwick was elected as a PCC Member for a further 3 years, and the Sidesmen were appointed for the year. We are grateful to David Penwarden who has continued to examine the annual accounts, and it was agreed to appoint him as Independent Financial 'Examiner for 2013.

The next Annual Vestry Meeting and Annual Parochial Church Meeting will be held on Thursday, 10th April 2014 at 7.45pm (please note this is earlier than usual).

Rosemary Banister, PCC Secretary.



Get ready for the Summer Time with events at Ightham Mote.

Ightham Mote house and gardens will be hosting several exciting events during the summer some especially for children.

We have listed the full programme below; from the Teddy Bear's picnic 22 Aug to Den building in the woods 24 Aug and the Smugglers and Pirates Fun day 29 Aug we have a great deal to keep children occupied. Finally on 17th August "Babe-the sheep pig" is at Ightham Mote – an entertainment for all ages.

Not forgetting our "mature" visitors we have an exciting programme of open air music and theatre throughout the summer – from classic rock to the music of 60s & 70s and The Mikado and Pride & Prejudice all performed on the north lawn of Ightham Mote. So bring along a picnic relax and enjoy.

The Ightham Summer Garden Show will be held on Saturday 13th and Sunday 14th where local floral displays, vegetables and crafts will be on show.

The house will be hosting the ever popular Attic tours event on the 20th of June, giving visitors a unique opportunity to discover parts of Ightham Mote not generally seen.

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 Summer diary:

Sat 29th June "The Mikado" open air theatre £13.50 -bookings 0844 249 1895.

Sat 13th & Sun 14th July Ightham Garden Show

Sat 20th July "60s/70s Music Evening" £10pp bookings 01732 810378

Sat 27th July "Pride & Prejudice" £13.50pp- open air theatre- bookings 0844 249 1895.

Sat 10th Aug "Evenrode" plays classic rock £10pp booking 01732 810378

Sat 17th Aug "Babe- the sheep pig" A £13.50 C £9 open air theatre- bookings 0844 249 1895.

Thurs 22 Aug Teddy Bear's picnic free after normal entry prices

Sat 24 Aug Den Building £5 per child, 7 and over (must be accompanied by an adult) bookings 01732 810378

4th -30th Sept a "cornucopia" of sculptures throughout the house and garden

For more information see; www.nationaltrust.org.uk/ighthammote or call 01732 810378 ext 100

NEWS and NOTES

Recent fund raising for **St. Mary's Church** has produced some splendid results. The Moroccan Lunch organised by Joyce Corse and her team of helpers raised a magnificent £505, a Plant and Cake sale in early May raised £244, and the marvellous North Downs Challenge walks, so wonderfully organised by Pauline and Trevor Mallinson and their magnificent team raised over £2,000 to be shared between Kemsing and Woodlands Churches. Thanks to everyone who supported all these efforts either by helping or attending the events.

Saddle up for **Air Ambulance Bike Ride**. Life-saving charity Kent, Surrey and Sussex Air Ambulance is appealing for cyclists to join its new-look Double 100 Bike Ride this summer. The 100-mile or 100km ride on 23rd June will, this year, start and finish at the Surrey and Sussex Helicopter Base at Redhill Aerodrome. The Double 100 is open to regular and occasional cyclists with feeding stations along the scenic route. To register, go to: www.kssairambulance.org.uk/FundRaising/Double100CycleChallenge, or call Julie Clare on 01622 833833.

Support Group for Women to break the cycle of Domestic Abuse. The Sevenoaks District Freedom Programme is a free 12-week programme for any woman who has experience of living with domestic abuse now and in the past. Groups run at venues across Sevenoaks District with free crèche facilities (crèche places must be booked). You can join at any time. Phone 01732 749400 or 07855 749694.

Do you know of vulnerable people or families who are in housing difficulty? Kent County Council's floating support services in Kent support vulnerable people with their housing problems. The service is **free** and covers the whole of Kent. Support can be given for up to a year. Anyone can apply on behalf of themselves, or a family member, or friend to: www.kent.gov.uk/supportingpeople, and go to 'how to apply'. Or phone Floating Support on 0300 3335433.

Kemsing Evening WI have a new committee. At their meeting on May 8th, Janet Eaton became President, Margaret Robarts, Treasurer, and Jean Dillon retained her pivotal role as WI Secretary (without whom nothing would get done!). Also elected onto the committee were Doreen Farrow and Debby Pierson who will join Caroline Copleston, Mary Cursons, Heather Hall and Audrey Trattell. Grateful thanks were extended to Heather Porter the outgoing President, and Sharon Wilmore who both retired from the committee.

			
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Hello friends of Kemsing Downs!

All local residents and many visitors will be aware of the beautiful expanse of the North Downs above Kemsing village, providing wonderful opportunities to experience the best of UK wildlife on chalk and gives stunning views of the Greensand Ridge and the High Weald.

What they may not realise, however, is that this superb resource requires continuing management to remain accessible and capable of displaying its best natural aspects, such as the insect and wild flower populations. Left to their own devices, the footpaths would close in and the open, herb-rich grassland areas would become covered by scrub, and eventually, woodland.

In order to preserve and improve the quality of this declining and rare habitat Kent Wildlife Trust, the leading conservation charity in the county, undertakes year-round management on the 16 hectare area to the east of Childsbridge Lane as a nature reserve, mainly by utilising volunteers. More recently, they have also taken on the restoration of the land adjacent to the reserve on Goss Bank, under an agreement with Oak Hall, and this has added considerably to the weight of management burden.

At present, the bulk of the work, which consists principally of scrub clearance to maintain open grassland, is undertaken by a small group of volunteers on a once-monthly basis during the autumn and winter months. We would love to see more than the one or two local faces currently involved in tasks – this would give them real “ownership” of the site and is a genuinely enjoyable opportunity for moderately fit individuals to get out and stretch the muscles in the fresh air. We often have a bonfire to dispose of cuttings, which makes a very pleasant focus for the tea and sandwiches, and all tools are provided. Families are welcome (youngsters under supervision of parents).

Work parties commence in September and carry on until March of the following year, when activities stop for bird-nesting to take place undisturbed. We tend to meet most often at the field gate at the top of The Landway, but have an efficient information service in the event of change, in the form of Anne, our local Assistant Warden. Work times are from 10am until mid afternoon, but individuals can come and go at their convenience. The Kemsing group has traditionally operated on the last Sunday of each month throughout the season, which helps for diary purposes, but occasionally there is a need to change this. Provisional dates for 2013/2014 therefore will be:

2013: September 29 October 27 November 24 & December 29

2014: January 26, February 23 & March 3

Please make a note in your diary now to join us on one or more occasions, for a chance to make a difference on your local “patch”! Contact Kent Wildlife Trust on 01622662012 or go to www.kentwildlifetrust.org.uk for further information

Bryan Bullen,

Honorary Warden, Kemsing Downs Nature Reserve

THE KENT WILDLIFE TRUST

Magpie Bottom, just north of Kemsing, is a stunningly beautiful landscape



The current owner has spent the last few years building and nurturing this hidden gem of chalk grassland and woods in the heart of the North Kent Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. It is his careful and considerate custodianship and sympathy for the area that have combined to create the perfect conditions to sustain this fragile landscape.

Chalk grassland is rare. So rare, in fact, that only a few world's chalk grassland is found in the UK. This site holds a precious part of these remnant chalk grasslands. The soils of chalk are easily damaged and the current terms of land management mean that the diversity of plants, insects, butterflies and other wildlife supported by the warm chalk slopes are among the most threatened communities. For all these reasons, Kent Wildlife Trust regards the protection of this land as amongst its highest priorities and

This unique landscape is there for us all to enjoy and Kent Wildlife Trust is keen to ensure that this will continue in perpetuity and as such is aiming to raise £450,000 by the summer of 2013 in order to become its new custodians. To date over £150,000 has been raised but much is still to be done and the Trust is currently running a public appeal.



MAGPIE BOTTOM

andscape comprised of a valley bottom and steep sides of dry chalk.

Forty years
osaic of fields
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ere that nature,
hetic manage-
fect conditions

act, that half the
e UK and Kent
s. The thin, dry
changing pat-
he wonderful
birds associat-
ong our most
e reasons Kent
of chalk grass-



and are now in the process of purchasing Magpie Bottom.



To support this appeal, an illustrated talk on Magpie Bottom and the inherent importance of chalk grassland by leading orchid expert Irene Palmer, will take place at St Edith's Hall, Kemsing on **Thursday 13th June 2013 from 7pm to 8.30pm.**



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REPORT FRM KEMSING PARISH COUNCIL

Some 60 residents attended the **Annual Parish Meeting** which was held on 27th March at the St. Edith Hall. Reports were received from County Councillor Mr. Nick Chard, Sevenoaks District Councillor Miss Lorraine Stack, pupils from Kemsing Primary School, Play Place, West Kent Police, St. Edith Hall Management Committee. The draft minutes of this meeting can be viewed on the notice boards at the Kemsing Library or St. Edith Hall Notice Board and the Parish Council website.

There has been an increase in the number of notices being placed on the **white wooden fingerposts** at the top of Childsbridge Lane (junction with Pilgrims Way) and at the crossroads (junction with West End). When holes are made in the posts water penetrates and causes damage to the wood so we would ask that notices are not placed here. I would also like to point out that drawing pins and not staples, should be used when notices are placed on the **Parish Council's notice boards**, which may be used to promote Village events.

I am sorry to have to write again about problems with **dog fouling** in the village. Please remember that those dog owners responsible for not picking up after their dogs can face fines of up to £1,000. Thank you, as always, to dog owners who do clear up and use the red dog waste bins provided by the Parish Council on leisure areas. It is also permissible to deposit bags in the black litter bins, but preferably take home for disposal.

The Parish Council would like to remind residents to regularly check their boundary shrubs, trees and hedges and trim back as necessary as **overgrown vegetation** can cause problems for pedestrians, cyclists and motorists.

The provisional date for the free **Family Fun Day** in Kemsing is Wednesday, 7th August 2013. Please check notice boards nearer the time for details.

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. 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

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KEMSING SCHOOL REPORT

As always, the Spring Term was busy. Africa week was exciting. We had visitors teach us African dancing and drumming (see photograph). Each class studied aspects of Africa such as the geography and wildlife of different regions. It was quite amusing studying



such a hot continent when we had snow on the ground here!

Year 4 also visited Ightham Mote for a World War 2 Evacuee Experience. A great day was had by all and the children returned to school grateful that they hadn't had to live in the war.

Year 6 took part in Safety in Action. This is an event hosted by KCC. A variety of 'real life' situations are staged and the children's reactions and safety awareness is assessed in

each scenario. Lots of schools take part. You will be pleased to learn that the children of Kemsing School scored top marks. The eldest children also took their Cycling Proficiency test recently and once again all passed with flying colours. Year 5 spent an exhilarating few days at The Swattenden Centre, near Cranbrook. They embraced the opportunity to try the zip wire, go orienteering, build and sail rafts and many other outdoor pursuits.

All of KS2 were entertained and taught by 'Sensational Science' who presented 'Feel the Force', an exciting show about forces.

Each class in KS1 took part in a Drama day with an actor from 'Perform'. This was great fun.

Comic Relief Red Nose day was celebrated by hosting a book swap, Alice and Finlay Woodward's idea. Everyone brought in a book to swap with a class mate and a £1 donation. We raised approx £155!

We have lots to look forward to in the Summer Term. As well as class outings members of The Science Club are working hard in preparation for their Race Day. They have been busy making electric go-karts to race in competition against other schools on 8th June. We wish them luck.

Finally, the School Council are busy preparing for 'Phil The Bag'. Families were invited to fill a bag with unwanted clothes, shoes, handbags, belts and/or curtains which were collected by the charity on Thursday 23rd May. They paid us 50p a kilo and I'm sure you will agree this is a worthwhile way of making money for the school.

Gwen Warr, Class Teacher

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News from Cotmans Ash

MAY MORNING

For certain May is having problems shaking off winter this year, the cold east winds of late April have delayed migration to the extent that I doubt if some species will bother to come, swifts, swallows and martins seem very low in number and who has seen a cuckoo or heard a nightingale? Where are the flycatchers? Even the Scandinavians are low in number – encouraging though has been the sound of the ‘Dawn Chorus’ around my cottage.

Cotmans Ash sits in a deep fold of the North Downs, bell shaped, it carries reflected sound like some giant auditorium through my open window in the half light of a May dawn comes the song from a blackbird leading the singing of birds innumerable, thrush, robin, wren, dove wood pigeon and dunnoek all mingling into one loud anthem and the miracle of a May morning as if the Great Creator has raised his baton- then within the hour comes a blank silence as every bird turns to serious thoughts of nest building, egg laying and feeding the family and protecting the nest- the world becomes a quiet place again.

There are birds that no longer visit us, forced out by predators, that lovely gentle purring of the turtle dove – to me the voice of quiet England. The wood lark, his beautiful music rising and falling, ascending and descending, such a tiny minstrel, but his music would fill a cathedral. At the crack of dawn who is more English than the mistle thrush? What has happened to him? Gone, I’m afraid! The sparrowhawk is an ace killer and a master butcher with no known predator, he causes me much grief, but unlike puss cat who murders for fun, he kills that others might live.

Magpies had a good early brood, they must rate amongst the brightest of bird brains in the kingdom of cannibal birds – I rate their plundering, murderous, thieving ways second only to grey squirrels – between them they are taking many of our favourite garden birds off the map.

It is well over 100 years now that a ‘few’ North American tree rats were let loose to run and live where they pleased in the grounds of Woburn Abbey, Bedfordshire. In no time at all they were over the wall, crossed the Thames and now could anyone name to me a County in England where they are not resident?

Bumblebees have been in the headlines of late because of their diminishing numbers – part of the problem at Cotmans Ash is the badgers – bumbles usually use mouse galleries or tree stumps for their nests and badgers are expert at uprooting and tunnelling, but leave the bees homeless and me with enormous holes to fill!

Brian Doe

A vibrant illustration for a summer fete poster. At the top, a bright yellow sun is partially obscured by a blue sky with white clouds. Below the sky is a green hill with a yellow and white bunting banner. The main text is centered on a white background. At the bottom, there is a detailed illustration of a grassy field with various flowers (red, yellow, white, blue), butterflies (orange and black, blue), and green foliage.

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Martha Garston on 28th April 2013

George Garston on 28th April 2013

Marriages

Liam Hitchen and Katie Hillman on 17th May 2013

Stuart Howard and Ann Richardson on 1st June 2013

Deaths—Rest in Peace

Mary Connolly (87) on 18th February 2013

John Oakley(90) on 4th March 2013

Gwendoline Hine(96) on 9th March 2013

Boris Gaskin

Christopher Mansell (58) on 14th April 2013

Arthur (Roy) Saunders on 30th April 2013

From **Kemsing Parish Magazine** (May –August 1963)

Parish Council elections took place on 11 May. Henry Henry was re-elected and remained as Chairman. **Colonel and Mrs Hadow** left “Kesters” in Cotmans Ash, for Devonshire (Mrs Ada Hadow later died there). **Vic Bowden** had produced a new Church Guide Book. The new extension to the **Churchyard** was consecrated by Bishop Mann on 21 July. The regulations for the Churchyard were summarised, and anything introduced later should have the approval of the Vicar. **Patricia Norman** married Henry Crichton-Stewart. Dorothy Cowlard wrote about attending the **Thanksgiving Service** for HM The Queen’s marriage at St. Paul’s Cathedral. The **School** was due a new classroom and four more were planned in anticipation of the increase in population. The Vicar (**Geoffrey Young**) wrote about the status of the laity within the Church and the current deficiencies in its organisation. At **Hatton** School the initial headmistress, Miss Blunden, retired and was succeeded by Miss Joan Wright.

From “**The Well**” Summer 1988.

Vic Bowden wrote about the Australian connection concerning the family of **Thomas Carleton Skarratt** who was the Vicar at Kemsing from 1889-1908. Robin Edmunds wrote about a forthcoming Organ Recital for the **Frank Johnson Memorial Fund**. A **Parish Week-End** took place at Ashburnham Place near Battle in East Sussex

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ST. EDITH WELL DRESSING 2013



The picture (left) shows the well dressing made in 2012 especially commemorating the Jubilee and the Olympics.

The well dressers will be hard at work in September on another well dressing, ready for its dedication on Sunday 15th at St Edith's Well. Although mainly a Derbyshire custom, this will now be the third year that Kemsing has had it's own well dressed.

An Afternoon Tea will be held on Friday 13th September in the Church Hall in aid of Church funds, when you can learn more about the tradition of well dressings and perhaps a have a go yourself. It is addictive!

Tickets will for the tea will be available at a later date but for more information in the meantime please contact Heather Porter on 01959 523543

Village Diary

June

- 1st Kemsing Heritage Centre open 1st Saturday in the month 10.00-12.00
- 7th Kemsing Heritage Centre talk '*Oldbury Hillfort & its Trackways*' by David Williams St. Edith small hall 7.30, members free visitors £2.50
- 11th Kemsing Gardeners '*Down to Earth*' talk on soil testing, compost etc. by Steve Bradley 8.00 St. Edith Small hall.
- 12th Kemsing Evening W.I. Garden Meeting at The Keep.
- 13th Illustrated talk on Magpie Bottom St. Edith Hal 7pm. See page 17 for details.
- 19th Trefoil Guild Strawberry Tea and Bring and Buy details from Secretary C. Scales 01959 523200
- 22nd Community Choir Concert 'Midsummer Madness' audience participation guaranteed. St. Mary's Church no tickets required. Interval refreshments, retiring collection in aid of Church Funds.
- 23rd Kemsing Heritage Centre Reptile & Orchid walk. 2.00pm village car park, adults £2 children free
- 29th **Kemsing Village Fete**, Kemsing School grounds from 1pm to 4.30pm

July

- 6th Kemsing Heritage Centre open 1st Saturday in the month 10.00-12.00
- 6th Kemsing Gardeners Summer show. School hall 2.30 pm
- 6th **Woodlands Summer Fete**, Porters Farm, Birchin Cross Rd., East Hill TN15 6XH from Noon to 5.00pm
- 7th Kemsing Gardeners trip to Kensington Palace gardens details from M. Davies 762266
- 10th W.I. talk by J. Handley 'The work of the Bridge Trust' St. Edith small hall 7.45 details J. Eaton 01732 763383
- 18th Trefoil Guild St. Mary's Church Hall 7.45 'Over 50's Dance/Movement' L.Napleton demo & talk.
- 18th AGM of the British Legion in St. Mary's Church (not Church Hall) at 8pm followed by '*Hong Kong POW during WW2*' a talk by Clive Himsworth.
- 27th Cream Tea with music by the Jean Bentley Band in aid of Church Funds on Church Hall field. Tickets from the Parish Office 01732 761351 after 1st July

August

- 3rd Kemsing Heritage Centre open 1st Saturday in the month 10.00-12.00
- 14th W.I. talk by Neil Arnold '*Mystery Animals of Kent*' 7.45 St. Mary's Church Hall (St. Edith Hall will be closed)
- 15th Trefoil Guild Picnic at Trosley Country Park.
- 27th—30th incl. St. Mary's Holiday Club. 9.45 to 12.30pm '*Junior Heroes*' See page 3 for more details.

September

- 6th Kemsing Heritage Centre talk by S. Robinson 'Curiosities of the City of London' St. Edith small Hall 7.30 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 Ogleby 'Life as a Local Newspaper Reporter' St. Edith small hall. 7.45
- 13th 'Well Dressing' Cream Tea at St. Mary's Church Hall (see opp. page)
- 14th Kemsing Gardeners Autumn Show the school hall 2.30 pm
- 15th St. Edith's Well Dressing dedication
- 19th Trefoil Guild Harvest Supper St. Mary's Church Hall 7.45



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