



# THE WELL

**Kemsing Village Magazine**  
**with news from Woodlands**

**Autumn 2014**      **No 195**

**Kemsing commemorates the start of WW1 in 1914**

**See centre pages**

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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 of garden flowers in Kemsing

by John Farrow

**COPY FOR NEXT ISSUE by 1st November 2014 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@gmail.com](mailto:welleditors@gmail.com) (PLEASE NOTE NEW EMAIL ADDRESS) or send to the Editors c/o Poppies Cottage, 3, St. Edith's Road, Kemsing, Sevenoaks, Kent TN15 6PT.

For postal subscriptions, contact Debbie Pierson—01732 762033

## St Mary's Woodlands—Church Hall Refurbishment



On Sunday July 6<sup>th</sup>, the newly refurbished Church Hall at St Mary's Woodlands was officially opened by David Brazier, our Kent County Councillor. The Hall is now bright and newly painted, the Kitchen well equipped and there is a WC to accommodate the disabled, creating a pleasant venue for the community to enjoy. Do pop into the Saturday Café (11.30am – 3pm) and have a look to see what has been achieved.

The helpers provided some excellent refreshment for those who came to the Church Service beforehand, and the Kitchen well and truly came into its own.

The Parochial Church Council would like to extend their thanks to all who have contributed to the scheme and enabled the refurbishment to be undertaken, noting especially the community of Woodlands for their support at the Woodlands Summer Fete last year. Monies received were as follows:-



	£
Funds made available by the PCC	8,315
Woodlands Café and donations through the Café	34,337
Other donations (including tax recovered)	3,125
Woodlands Summer Fete	4,884
Grant from KCC	11,000
Grant from Age UK	5,000
Grant from Cory Environmental Trust in Britain	18,000
Grant from Bernard Sunley Foundation	<u>2,000</u>
<b>Total raised to date</b>	<b>£86,661</b>

Our most gratefully thanks go to all those who have worked tirelessly for the Woodlands Café to raise such a large sum since 2006. In addition a donation of the kitchen shelving was made. Further details of exactly how the money has been spent are available from Mike Richards (01959 524113) should anyone wish to know.

*Anne Shelley*

# Vicar's Letter

Dear Friends

We've all been thinking about the centenary of the outbreak of World War I. Less well known is that 5<sup>th</sup> July was the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first televised news bulletin in UK.



The Christian message is called “the gospel”, a word which means “good news”. It’s what a herald would have proclaimed in the ancient world – a momentous declaration of an epoch-changing event. Perhaps a royal birth, or a victory in battle, would be announced.

The eye-witnesses of what Jesus did and taught were in no doubt that he was the best news the world had ever heard. So they proclaimed this gospel. Their message included both a royal birth (Jesus, the long-promised rescuing king was born), and a victory in battle (as he defeated the forces of evil by paying for sin as he died on the cross, then rose again).

The Christian gospel is unlike the Roman proclamations of good news, and unlike the modern news bulletin. With news on top around the clock, much that passes for news is actually speculation or opinion. The Christian faith, like a good news bulletin, is anchored in verifiable historical events. However it is not just a theory or a philosophy; it is the account of what God really did over a 30 year period in the eastern Mediterranean.

The first BBC news bulletin didn’t include a newscaster; (quite unlike today), the producers thought a presenter would detract from the seriousness of the news. By comparison, the Christian message is all about a person. Jesus is centre-stage; the Bible’s good news is presented so that we might see Jesus, know him and follow him.

Many of the Roman Empire’s official pronouncements were propaganda (as is quite a bit of today’s news). Political leaders were being airbrushed in campaigns of positive spin. The hero of the Christian gospel is Jesus, a very different kind of leader. He willingly gave up his life to save his people; he came to bring genuine hope to the poor and the oppressed.

Then finally, so much news we hear today seems irrelevant. It’s good to be informed of what’s happening to others, but little of what we hear will directly impact us. The Bible’s age-old message is ever relevant. There could be nothing more important to us than the offer of forgiveness of sins, friendship with God and hope in the face of death. Knowing Jesus gives fresh meaning and purpose to everyday life and affects everything. That’s not normally true of the 10 o’clock news. 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 large, sweeping initial 'J'.

# St MARY the VIRGIN PARISH CHURCH, KEMSING

[www.kemsingwithwoodlands.org](http://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 is now in the St Edith Club, and is open from 10am-noon on Mondays and 10.00 - 5pm on Thursdays. Answer phone at other times is 01732 761351. Ring first to make sure Margaret is there. Her email address is: [administrator@kemsingwithwoodlands.org](mailto:administrator@kemsingwithwoodlands.org)

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)
- 10.30 Morning Service (with coffee in the Church beforehand)  
Sunday Special in the Vestries 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
- 10.00 Combined service with Woodlands at Kemsing
- 18.30 Evensong

Our Remembrance Sunday service will take place this year on Sunday November 9th. The service in St. Mary's Church will start at 9.45am and will be followed by the procession to The Well which will include all the village's uniformed organisations. The Act of Remembrance will start just before 11am, with 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 11.15am before morning services. Evening services are followed by a light meal.**



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## St. Mary's Church Flower Tribute to those who served in WW1.



St Mary's Church Flowers arrangers were responsible for the splendid tribute to those who served during World War One. These are a selection of photos from the event which took place from 31st July to August 4th. See pages 16 and 17 for more photos of the events which took place over that weekend.



*The War Horse (above), Dover Patrol (top) and from War to Peace (right).*

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## ST MARY'S KEMSING—PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

It is nice to be able to report good news at last. The St Edith Club has kindly offered temporary office accommodation for the Parish Office where Margaret Robarts, our Parish Administrator, can once again have a proper office environment from which to work. Since April, Margaret has been working from my house and dining room table - not ideal! John Elliot has valiantly photocopied everything we gave him, free of charge, and so we have managed somehow. By the time this is published a new photocopier will be installed in Margaret's office, completing the equipment she needs to carry on the administration of the Parish.

A reminder that Margaret's hours are normally **Mondays, 10-12noon, and Thursdays, 10am-5pm**, but it is probably a good idea to ring first on the old number now re-connected, **01732 761351**, to make sure Margaret can expect you, as the Club's security has to be safeguarded.

The PCC appointed a Steering Group to agree the insurance claim covering all the church groups' losses in the Church Hall. This has been sent to the insurers now, and there should be sufficient funds to replace items as and when needed.

There is more good news we hope. Kemsing Parish Council is negotiating with Wealden Homes to buy the Village Car Park, which is currently leased to Sevenoaks District Council until 2016. If this sale goes through, then the Parish Council has indicated that "should the Diocese and/or the PCC make a planning application conditional on securing vehicular access rights over the car park, and if such an application were to be approved, Kemsing Parish Council would, in principle, agree to grant such vehicular rights, subject to acceptable financial terms being agreed". However, the Parish Council's recommendation on any such planning application would not be prejudiced by an negotiations which had taken place regarding the Car Park.

This could be a major step forward for the Church, as it would mean the West Kent Housing Association scheme, which was part of the refused planning application, will no longer be part of the Church's application, and that may help its progress through the planning process. It is understood that the Diocese may also be willing to contribute a sum for the right of access which would help towards the cost of buying the Car Park.

It is hoped that a fresh planning application can be submitted to Sevenoaks District Council soon, and I would urge as many people as possible to keep a look out for the chance, either online or via the Parish Council, to support it. Until we have planning permission, the PCC cannot start applying for grants to help the cost of building a new Church Hall.

*Rosemary Banister,  
PCC Secretary.*

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## KEMSING PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

The **Annual General Meeting** of the **Parish Council** was held on Wednesday, 21<sup>st</sup> May 2014 when Mrs. Marie Cole was re-elected as Chairman and Mr. Godfrey Croughton as Vice-Chairman for the ensuing year.

**Village car park** – The Parish Council is currently negotiating with the present owner to purchase the village car park.

**Saturday afternoon bus services** – I am pleased to inform residents Kemsing Parish Council, together with Seal Parish Council, have been successful in securing 3 additional Saturday afternoon journeys to Kemsing with Go-Coach Limited. Funding was sourced by a contribution from Mr. Nick Chard's Kent County Council Members' Fund and Kemsing Parish Council's own funds. (*Seal Parish Council contribution to be confirmed*). District Councillor Lorraine Stack is also in the process of placing a bid with the Sevenoaks District Council's Big Community Fund. This service will be trialled for 6 months during which time the number of people using these 3 journeys will be monitored to establish whether it would be feasible to continue in the long-term. Residents are urged to use these extra journeys whenever they can as their continuation after the end of this year will depend upon the usage made of them.

*The timings are as follows:-*

Sevenoaks Bus Station	16.30	17.15	18.00
Dynes Road Estate, Castle Drive	16.47	17.31	18.17
Kemsing, Springhead Road	16.50	17.34	18.20
Kemsing, St. Edith Well	16.52	17.36	18.22
Noah's Ark, Greenlands Road	16.53	17.37	18.23

Kemsing, Noah's Ark	16.54	17.38
Kemsing, St. Edith Well	16.56	17.40
Kemsing, Springhead Road	16.57	17.41
Dynes Road Estate, Castle Drive	----	----
Sevenoaks Bus Station	17.12	17.56

**Overgrown vegetation** – Just a reminder to all residents to regularly check their boundary shrubs, trees and hedges and trim back clear of footpaths and at road junctions for visibility.

**Parish Council meetings** – 17 September, 15 October, 19 November 2014

The Clerk's Office is in St. Edith Hall, High Street, Kemsing, TN15 6NA.

Office hours : Mon & Tues (12 pm to 3 pm), Thurs & Fri 8.30am to 1pm

Tel: 01732 762841, Email: [kemsingpc@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:kemsingpc@tiscali.co.uk)

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*Yolanda Tredoux, Parish Clerk*



**Ightham Mote is in Ivy Hatch, near Sevenoaks, Kent TN15 0NT**

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Lots of Christmas cheer to be had with a **special opening weekend on 29/30 Nov. 11am-3pm** when there will a market of local producers, Father Christmas and seasonal refreshments. Normal admission prices apply.

**Daily from Sat. 29 Nov. – Mon. 23 Dec. Ground floor of the house open with Gift Shop & restaurant 11am – 3pm and learn how to make Christmas Decorations**  
Visitors can **play on the Victorian billiards table** on selected dates, with advice and tuition from Peter Watson, an expert in Snooker who has refereed world champions and is a regular contributor to *Snooker Scene* magazine.

**Christmas and New Year Mote Restaurant events, Christmas Lunches daily, Sat. 29 Nov. – Mon. 23 Dec. 12 noon-2pm 2 or 3-courses.** To be pre-booked – contact the Restaurant 01732 811314 (or 01732 810378). [John.beak@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:John.beak@nationaltrust.org.uk)

### **Carols in the courtyard**

**Fri 12 & Fri 19 Dec.** 7pm Mulled wine and carols £9.50

**Sat 13 & 20<sup>th</sup> Dec.** carols, mulled wine, with a 2-course buffet supper £32.50

Ightham Mote is also open from **Boxing Day through to New Year's Day with special pre-bookable walks.** Further details including our Christmas video will be available at: <http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/ightham-mote/things-to-see-and-do/events/christmas/>  
Ightham Mote will be open 11am-3pm, daily all year – house (ground floor only Nov – Feb. In November by tour only) grounds (hard paths in winter), restaurant and shop. For further details please see: [www.nationaltrust.org.uk/ighthammote](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/ighthammote) or call 01732 810378 ext 100. Group rate (15+ people) adults £4.40 Nov. & December.

### **Winter admission prices 3 November – 1 January 2014.**

Normal Gift Aid Admission price November & December: Adult £5.75, Children £2.90 (standard admission £5.20 and £2.60)

Group rate (15+ people) adults £4.40 November & December.

For full opening times and prices go to: <http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/ightham-mote/opening-times/> <http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/ightham-mote/prices/>

## NEWS and NOTES

**T**able Top Sale . A successful table top sale was held at The Bell PH on 5th July when the sum of £110 was raised in aid of St Mary's Church funds. The Church Fund-Raising Committee would like to thank everyone who support the event, with special thanks to John O'Sullivan for allowing it to be held at The Bell. A follow-up sale is planned for **18th October 2014** at The Bell from 11.30am to 2.30pm.

**G**as Safety Week—takes place from 15th to 21st September, and the theme for the week is “Gas Safe Heroes”. Kent-based company Samsian Ltd. Is supporting this week by offering heavily discounted rates for safety checks and boiler servicing. Go to [www.GasSafetyWeek@info.gassaferegister.co.uk](http://www.GasSafetyWeek@info.gassaferegister.co.uk) for details.

**T**wo of our favourite residents have written to say that “as we all know, Kemsing is a unique and beautiful village and a very ‘villager’ village too! The Church, the Library and the Doctors’ Surgery are places we often see each other and catch up with everyday chat. But we have discovered a little gem, right beside The Well—The Tearoom. There are delicious home-made cakes and scones, and a special light lunch. It’s open from 9.30am to 4.30pm, but closed Wednesday and Sunday. Give it a try”.

**K**emsing School will be holding their annual firework Spectacular on **Friday 4th November** on Kemsing School field. Gates open at 6.30pm for BBQ, soup and hot drinks. Bonfire blast-off is at 7.30pm. Tickets are available from Dynes Road Post Office, the School Office and Best-One convenience store, West End. In advance tickets are £4.50, concession £2.50, a family ticket is £12. At the gate, tickets will be £5.50, concessions £3.50 and a family ticket £17. Buy in advance!

**S**couts Jumble & Quality Goods Sale. Contact Chris Arnold Scout Leader 01732 762774 nearer the time if you need help transporting large items. Other items to St. Edith Hall from 9.30. Sale starts 1.30pm entrance £1.

**K**emsing Evening WI will be celebrating Christmas with a visit from King Henry 8th on Wednesday December 10th in the small St. Edith Hall starting at 7.45pm! This specially invited guest will be talking about his life, his loves and his six wives. Kemsing Evening WI is always pleased to invite new members to join us. We meet on the second Wednesday of each month in St. Edith Hall at 7.45pm. Phone Janet Eaton for more details on 01732 763383.

**P**olice contact point van will be at Dynes Road on 12th and 26th September between 12 noon and 1. Feel free to pop along and say hello to the officer on duty especially if you have any matters you wish to discuss with them.



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## KEMSING COMMEMORATES THE START OF WORLD WAR ONE

From Thursday July 31st to Monday August 4th, Kemsing, along with almost every other City, Town and Village in Great Britain, commemorated the 100th anniversary of the start of World War One in 1914.

Barbara Brown, and the Flower Arrangers of St. Mary's Church put on a splendid display of Floral Tributes to those who fell during the war, and some photos of these can be seen on page 7. On Thursday 31st July, there was an evening of Poetry readings associated with WW1 in the Church, and some 50 members of the public came along to hear varied reading ranging from extracts from the Wipers Times to those poems more usually associated with WW1.

On Friday August 1st, Janet Eaton gave a talk to members of the Heritage Centre Association based on her book 'Lest we Forget' and featuring episodes of life in Kemsing during WW1 with some biographies and photos of those men from the village who lost their lives during the conflict.

On Saturday 2nd August the 49 members of the Kemsing Community Choir sang songs from 'South Pacific' and songs from WW1 to a packed house in St. Mary's Church. Everyone enjoyed singing along to the old songs and £365 was raised towards the re-building of St. Mary's Church Hall. The Community Choir started as a 'one-off' for the last Kemsing Festival in 2011 but it proved so popular that this was their fourth performance and they hope to carry on in their own 'unique' style in 2015.

On Sunday morning, a special service was held in Church at 9.15am remembering the Kemsing war dead from WW1. The Flower Commemoration carried on until Monday August 4th. One of the special ideas for this was a book in which anyone could write their own family memories of WW1, featuring their grandparents or even their great grandparents, who could then have their story read by anyone who cared to and they made fascinating reading. It is hoped that it might be possible for the book to be displayed again so that other villagers could give details of their own family during WW1.

'Lights out' the nationwide event to mark the start of the war on Monday August 4th at 10pm was also marked by the lighting of a lantern at the War Memorial. Those who served from the village during World War One will not be forgotten.





# THE START OF WW1 in 1914.





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## **Flanders & Ypres – 21<sup>st</sup> June 2014.**

**O**n Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> June, 45 members of the Kemsing Heritage Centre travelled by coach to Belgium to visit the military cemeteries in which soldiers from the village are buried.

At Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery we remembered Harry Nye originally from Kemsing, who died from wounds on 29<sup>th</sup> September 1917 and who is buried here. We left a wreath and a brief biography at his grave, so that other visitors would know a little more about him. A most interesting museum gave us all plenty of food for thought.

A visit to Talbot House in Poperinge near Ypres followed, with a look at their attic Chapel, resting area and beautiful garden. This was home during World War One to all ranks and all men and the founding home of ToCH. We then visited the New Military Cemetery at Dickebusch to honour the memory of Harold Avery, son of the village butcher, who was killed on 8<sup>th</sup> July 1917 at the age of 23. Here I was honoured to lay a wreath and read the words of the British Legion Exhortation.

We travelled on to Ypres and the Menin Gate. Here we remembered Arthur Slade whose name is engraved on the gate along with 54,896 other men who have no known grave. We left poppy crosses beside his name, and Janet Eaton laid a wreath during the 8pm 'Last Post' Ceremony. The 'Last Post' is blown every night by the buglers of the Ypres Fire Brigade and on this night it became a very special occasion as music was provided by the pipes and drums of the London Scottish Regiment. There were special dignitaries attending the service that evening, including the Prime Minister of Nova Scotia and members of the Royal Canadian Air Force. The attendance that evening was around 5,000 people.

It was the perfect end to a wonderful day and we arrived back in the village car park at 12.30am, a long day but a day full of interest.

*At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them.*

See photos on page 16 & 17.

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**K**emsing School has enjoyed a very busy Summer term. With numerous sporting events, school trips and environment week, the time has flown.

It has been a brilliant term for sport. In June a number of our children attended 'District Sports' at Wilderness School where our team came 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the middle schools section. We had several firsts in the sprints and a good deal of success in the field events.

A number of our children took part in the annual swimming gala in Swanley. The team did really well and finished 3<sup>rd</sup> place overall, showing great team spirit and some outstanding individual performances.

Kemsing's kwik cricketers had a great time at the tournament coming second overall and our school sports day proved to be a very exciting event with green team winning the highly coveted Roy Willmore cup.

The Summer term is always busy with a range of school trips. This year, the Infants enjoyed a day out at Godstone Farm, Class 6 visited Hever Castle and Class 4 went to Bradbourne Lakes for a session of pond dipping which extended their work on habitats that they have been studying at school this term.

The children took part in an exciting week at school focused around the environment. They learnt about issues such as endangered animals, climate change and conservation and classes R and 1 enjoyed learning about recycling through reading the book 'Dinosaurs and all that rubbish'.

As we come to the end of term 6, the children all get ready to move up to their next class, enjoying an afternoon with their new teacher in their new rooms. We prepare to say goodbye to our current Class 6. They have been a great support to the younger children and have relished all of their responsibilities this year. We wish them all well in their future education and hope everyone has a happy and restful summer holiday.

*Sally Brown*

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## **From: "Kemsing Parish Magazine Sept/Oct 1964**

On the occasion of the St. Edith Festival on 16 September there was a civic service in the Church in memory of **Sir Mark Collet**. At the St. Edith Hall Brigadier Norman (one of Sir Mark's descendants) unveiled an inscription recording Sir Mark's gift. There were tributes to Sir Mark from Mrs Doris Dew and Mr Leonard Lowing. Details about the Hall were outlined (including the provision of electric light by Sir Oliver Lyle until 1962).

An **Art** Exhibition in the Church Hall of artists from Kemsing was a notable village occasion. There were 19 exhibitors plus two juniors.

The Parish Council gave approval for the extension to the **Working Men's Club** at the Hall.

The **Cricket Club** had had a highly successful season and the cricket table was to be relaid in time for the 1965 season.

Mr Fenton retired as the **Parish Clerk** and was succeeded by Mrs Lawrence.

The Vicar had approved the sale of his top garden for old people's dwellings (the present day Mary Burrows Gardens) and hoped that the upkeep of **vicarage** and garden would prove more economical and labour saving.

## **From "The Well" Autumn 1989**

There was a profile of **Margaret Foss** who had been a teacher at Kemsing School for 25 years and had recently volunteered to go to Liberia in West Africa. Also of **Dennis Markham**, the landlord of The Bell.

Patricia Douglas recalled her upbringing at **Wybournes** in the beginning of the 20th Century. Whilst her father was causing the re-building of the present Wybournes the family stayed at the Box House.

Doug Kitchener wrote about the activities of the **Gardeners' Society**, and Robin Edmunds contributed an article on the **Singers**, who were looking for a new accompanist to succeed Marjorie Gardner. Cyril Shrimpton had been to see Billy **Graham** at Earls Court.

*Alan Waters*

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## ***WHERE THE BROWN BUZZARDS FLY—News from Cotmans Ash***

**A**ugust and September are the months that split the difference between Summer and Autumn –flower has turned to seed and fruit. The birds have gone quiet – many will be building up for the long journey of migration – that miracle of navigation that lures them south to the sunshine of Africa. Swallows, swifts, martins and the tiny warblers, some little more than an ounce of fur and feathers, hurled across the oceans in the trade winds like shuttlecocks – others follow the southern rivers to the sea. It saddens my heart to see then go – so much can happen between now and when they return next May.

A rare and lovely memory this year were the wild roses on the hedge tops in the lanes and country roads of Kent – beautiful simple flowers in the palest pink that turn to red rosehips. Another wild beauty is the trailing white rose. The Briar Rose is a rare local beauty with the scent of green apples – it is also the Rose of Eglantine chosen by Titania the fairy queen in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

It seems there are none who really know why the red rose became the emblem of England as a nation, or what the rose was called. Is the clue on Bosworth Field when the white Rose of York, the rose ensoleil took on the Red Rose of Provence and Lancaster ending in the blending of the Tudor Rose – Is that the emblem of England?

The backdrop to Kemsing village is the North Downs of Kent – unlike many I live high on the Kemsing Hills and share my place with all manner of Nature's children. In recent years we have played host to a pair of buzzards who raise their family with us. Like many other Kemsingites we are greatly entertained by their aerobatics. True masters of the sky, they hover and dip and dive – gentle old fellows forever calling to one another. Why buzzards have moved from the tors and coombs of the West Counties to the North Downs of Kent is an unsolved riddle – could it be that the rabbits have migrated east?

I write my note from my high seat, watching a giant combine harvesting the barley on Seal Chart. Where have all the sparrows gone I am asked, and I answer the question with a question.

“Where?” I really don't know. Visions come of childhood in rickyards and barley fields and those great “whirring” brown flocks of house sparrows leaving the corn ricks or swarming round the threshing machine – finding their nests pugged up in the ivy – an untidy hay ball lined with feathers and 6 – 8 eggs whitish with grey freckles. They slept in trees, barns, in the eaves, anywhere. Their twittering was the perfect backdrop for the dawn chorus – but there, they have gone, so have the rick builders, the threshing teams and the sound of corn sheaves dropping into the thresher, the slap of that great belt driving the thresher from the massive steam engine – kids with sticks laying into the rats and mice, barking dogs, the rick master forever calling out for more sheaves and so much dust as the chaff shot out the back of the clattering threshing machine – chaos, utter chaos, all gone now! Threshers will never return, but I am sure the sparrows will!

***BRIAN DOE***

## KEMSING VILLAGE FETE—29th June 2014



Despite heavy downpours later in the afternoon, everyone was able to sample the variety of stalls, and to listen to the band. Brian and Heather Doe with their

Plenty of people came along and enjoyed themselves. The BBQ proved extremely popular with everyone, as did the sale of ice cream.



Erica is pictured at the Kemsing Heritage Association stall, helping to raise funds for the Heritage Centre.

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## **FAMILY MILESTONES**

### **Deaths—Rest in Peace**

Frances Stevens (91) on 4th May  
Sylvia Novelle (90) on 10th May  
Doreen Martin (81) on 19th May  
Donald James (71) on 23rd May  
Hannah Miles (86) on 6th June

John Mcevoy (75) on 6th June  
Muriel North (97) on 4th July  
Florence Quinton (93) on 12th July  
Margaret Nickson (71) on 22nd July  
Joe Harris (85) on 27th July

### **Weddings**

Thomas Lynch and Tara Jenner on 31st May  
David Heeley and Emma Hodges on 14th June  
Andrew Magness and Josephine Sheratt on 21st June  
Steven Tripp and Victoria Cheriton on 5th July  
Michael Flitton and Juliet Clift on 26th July

### **Baptisms**

Scarlett Lee on 20th July  
Emily Taylor on 24th August

## **From Parish Council Minutes– January to June 1989**

It was agreed to apply for grants to help pay for the planting of trees on Green Hill together with two metal gates and three kissing gates, cost £4,500.

Dave Wellman reported that toads were on the move. 90% of toads had been lost in Kent in the last few years. One of their routes was across Pilgrims Way, and he brought along a sign depicting a toad to warn motorists.

The Council had written to the newly formed West Kent Housing Association asking that they discuss with Crest Homes, the developer, the possibility that the housing scheme would help locally generated needs .

Babs Watson wrote urging immediate action for signs indicating where toilets were available. The Council agreed to write to the District Council asking for a feasibility study to be carried out for the provision of public toilets *[since built and now maintained by the Parish Council]*.

Patios - Drives - Decking - Walls - Ponds - Paths - Fencing - Pergolas - Rock Features - Water Features

Patios - Drives - Decking - Walls - Ponds - Paths - Fencing - Pergolas

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## EXPLORERS FIND A NEW HOME



All groups which used the Church Hall for their meetings have now found a new home, including the Monday explorers for Key Stage One, which will meet in Kensing School Hall from September.



It was a different world. Here are the children from Kensing School in 1914. Can you name any of them?

*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

- 5th Heritage Centre talk by Wilf. Lower 'Medway, Tales on a Dividing River'  
St. Edith small hall 7.30 members free, visitors £2.50 tickets at the door.
- 6th Heritage Centre open the 1st Saturday in the month 10.00-12.00noon
- 11th **Trefoil Guild** Charity evening, filling shoe boxes for Smile The Gatehouse Otford
- 10th W.I. talk St. Edith small hall 7.45 by Martin Heard 'Gardens of Impressionism'
- 13th Kemsing Gardeners Autumn Show the school hall 2.30pm

## October

- 3rd Heritage Centre talk by P. Mortlock 'Tonbridge, Growth of a Market Town'  
at the St. Edith small hall 7.30 members free, visitors £2.50 tickets at the door.
- 8th W.I. St. Edith small hall 7.45. A visit from Taywell Ice Cream
- 9th Trefoil Guild games evening with Sevenoaks Scout Fellowship 7.30 Jubilee Rise
- 10th Wildlife Group talk on 'Water Voles' by C. Sadler from Kent Wildlife Trust.  
St. Edith small hall 7.30 admission £2.00 per adult
- 14th Kemsing Gardeners Society. Talk by A. Ford 'The Gardens at Ightham Mote'  
8.00 St. Edith small hall
- 22nd Trefoil Guild Bluebell Railway trip and pub lunch
- 25th Cancer Research UK Xmas Fayre St. Edith Hall 10.0-1.0, 50p adults inc.tea/coffee

## November

- 8th Scouts Jumble & Quality Goods Sale, Contact Chris. Arnold Scout Leader 01732 762774 nearer the time if you need help transporting large items. Other donated items to St. Edith Hall from 9.30 sale starts 1.30pm entrance £1. per adult children free.
- 12th W.I. St. Edith small hall 7.45 talk by Chris. Wade 'Kent in Four Seasons'
- 14th Wildlife Group St. Edith hall "Mote Park through the seasons by Simon Ginnaw"  
7.30 admission £2
- 15th Quiz in aid of Church Funds. Kemsing School Hall 7.30pm. Phone 01732 761351.
- 20th Trefoil Guild Musical evening, venue to be arranged.

## December

- 9th Kemsing Gardeners St. Edith small hall 8.00 'Gardeners Questions'
- 10th W.I. St. Edith small hall 7.45 A Visit from His Majesty Henry VIII.
- 12/13th Kemsing Singers 50th Anniversary Year continues with a Celebration of The Christmas Season in typical style. 7.30 St. Edith hall info and tickets 01959 523752
- 19th Wildlife Group Christmas Party at 7.30. Admission £2.

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