

THE WELL

**Kemsing Village Magazine
with news from Woodlands**

Summer 2014

No 194

Church Hall—its loss is affecting everyone

See Pages 15, 16 & 17.

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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 the beautiful bluebells this year
by Doreen Farrow**

COPY FOR NEXT ISSUE by 1st August 2014 please.

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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

KEMSING'S TREE CHAMPION

You may have noticed that trees have had rather a bad press over the winter, in the news mainly for being blown down and removed quickly. I have a special love for trees and because of that I volunteered to be the Tree Warden for the Parish of Kemsing.



This picture shows a 'Manna Ash Fraxinus Ornata' outside Kemsing Library

What does this involve? As Tree Warden I am part of a national scheme to champion our trees and make people aware of the natural treasures we have around us.

Why do I think that trees matter? Trees have so much to offer us, hugely improving the quality of the air we breathe, shading,

sheltering and screening us and providing beauty in all seasons, and being part of our wildlife world. The sight of a majestic tree can be awe-inspiring, and spring blossom on the tiniest tree can give joy. Even in winter their bare boughs provide a lattice of interesting shapes. Trees have stories to tell—of an anniversary, an occasion, or being associated with the memory of a special person.

What do I do as Tree Warden? I am certainly not a tree expert, and one of the pleasures of the 'job' has been the learning days run by Kent Tree Wardens where we have discovered more about trees. I can encourage planting trees and hedges, and generally give information and assistance where needed to care for trees in private gardens and public spaces locally.

How can you help? If you have a special tree near you, or if you'd like to find out more about trees in general then do get in touch. I hope to share some stories of our tree heritage in the future.

Caroline Copleston. c@copleston.plus.com

Vicar's Letter

Dear Friends

In the early hours of Sunday 13th April, our church hall burnt to the ground. It was built in 1961, with the help of a lot of Kemsing people, and it has served the village well ever since. The loss of the hall has saddened many. It has also drawn out many offers of help and support; we're truly grateful to everyone who has offered alternative venues or helped replace lost items. Almost all the activities that used the hall are running, nearly as normal, and that's thanks to many of you.



It reminded me of one of the schools I attended. From aged 8 to 15, I lived in Kenya; my parents lived there, equipping lay Christians to help their overstretched pastors. So I could be taught in English, I spent 4 years at a boarding school in the Kenyan highlands. In 1944 (before my time), the school burnt to the ground after a fire in the kitchen. We remembered this every year with an annual bonfire night, and the school's emblem featured a phoenix rising from the ashes.

It drilled into me from a young age that the sadness and loss of something being burnt down need not be the end. Out of those ashes can come a new beginning. Indeed, we worship a God who specialises in bringing life out of death.

So maybe, when Kemsing gets a new church hall, it should be called the Phoenix Building? Well, we could call it that, but there's no need. We already have an emblem. The symbol of the Christian faith is not a phoenix but a cross.

When God wanted to bring forgiveness and life to his world (the world we have broken) he did so by sending his Son to become the man we know as Jesus of Nazareth. Jesus taught that he had come to die; this made no sense to the people of his day. His whole life moved to the moment when he'd take our rebelliousness on himself, at cost to his life. By doing this, he was able to give us the new life and hope we need. He then rose from the dead, blazing the trail for all who would follow him down the centuries.

When God wanted to bring us life, he did it through the death of his Son. His people then find that the sadness and loss we experience is frequently the means God uses to work his new life in us. The cross and the empty tomb make far better emblems than a phoenix. Why settle for a fictitious bird, when we can pin our hopes on a real historical event?

With every blessing. Your friend and vicar,

James Oakley

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James".

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 Administrator	Margaret Robarts	01959 522853
PCC Secretary	Rosemary Banister	01732 762965
Readers	Mary Quenby	01959 522079
	Philip Walker	01732 761646
	Ruth Mason	01959 524486

The Parish Office would normally be open from 10am-noon on Mondays and 10.00 - 5pm on Thursdays. Due to the destruction of the Church Hall, including the office, unfortunately the telephone number 01732 761351 is inoperable for the time being. Temporary arrangements have been made for the work of the Parish Office, see below.

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

- 08.00 Communion in traditional language
- 09.15 Sung Communion service
- 10.30 Morning Service, 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
- 10.00 Combined service with Woodlands
- 18.30 Evensong

The loss of our Church Hall also means the loss of our Parish Office. Until permanent arrangements can be made, Margaret Robarts will be working during the office hours shown above, from Rosemary Banister's house at 3 St Edith's Road or at home on the numbers shown. At other times, please telephone either the Vicar, one of the Churchwardens or the PCC Secretary, Rosemary Banister.

There will be a Combined Service with Woodlands at Kemsing on **Sunday, 29th June**, at 10am followed by a Barbecue . There will be another Combined Service at Woodlands on the following Sunday—see page 21 for details.

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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ROY WILLMORE 1932-2014

On 18th March 2014, over 200 friends came together in St. Mary's Church to remember Roy and support his family in a Service of Thanksgiving. Stuart Robinson representing the Cricket Club, and Malcolm Macfarlane, shared their



memories of their long friendship with Roy, and Roan and Terry also paid tribute to their father. Three of Roy's favourite songs were performed by members of his singing group. Eileen Mumford, Headteacher of Kemsing Primary School, shared memories of Roy's time on the Kemsing School Governing body, and also read Sharon's own tribute.

Roy became a Parish Councillor in 1975 when he and Doug Kitchener, as members of the Kemsing Society, were determined that the Common Field which was still partly being used by Cyril Whitehead for arable purposes should be returned for sport and recreation. By the time they were both elected, the Parish Council had already made that decision. Although he did not

continue as a Parish Councillor after 1979, Roy still took part in the Recreation Grounds Committee as a co-opted member for 33 years.

Sport was always one of Roy's main interests, and he was a prominent supporter of both the Cricket and Football Clubs, Chairman of both at one time and latterly President of the Cricket Club. He was the last Chairman of the Kemsing Sports Association, which had raised the funds and built the Kemsing Pavilion, following in Allen Bryant's footsteps. A long-time member of the Pavilion Management Committee, he was always keen to see that the building was well maintained.

First and foremost, Roy was a 'do-er'. If a job needed doing, he would be there. As Parish Clerk I was forever having to sort out repairs and odd jobs, and I knew I only had to ring Roy and say "can you help" and he would say, "don't worry, duck, I will get it done". The Kemsing Investment Club had the benefit of Roy's enthusiasm from its beginning - some 12 years ago - and Roy fully partook in their deliberations. That is not to say that his suggestions were always agreed with!

Sharon would like to thank everyone who made a donation in his memory to the Hospice in the Weald—amounting to £1,215 to date. Kemsing will be a poorer place without him.

Rosemary Banister

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PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL NEWS - ST MARY'S CHURCH, KEMSING

At the Annual Vestry Meeting and Annual Parochial Church Meeting on 10th April 2014, held in the Church Hall, none of us could possibly imagine that this would be the last time we would be sitting together in the Hall and that, within three days, it would be totally destroyed by fire in the early hours of Sunday morning. We are all still coming to terms with the loss of everything which was kept in the Hall itself, as well as the place where so many of us had met over the years and enjoyed refreshments between Church services on Sunday mornings.

Ray Parton and Jean Walker were re-elected as Churchwardens for the coming year at the Vestry Meeting, and Jill Berry and Mary Quenby were elected as representatives to the Deanery Synod. Pat Giles, Trevor Mallinson and Debby Pierson were willing to be re-elected to the Parochial Church Council for another 3 years, and Paul Mayo was elected as a new member until 2017. Philip Walker, our PCC Treasurer previously a member of the PCC as a Reader, was elected to the vacancy for 2 years until 2016, leaving one vacancy for the same period.

Nigel Cuttill had done 6 years on the PCC and wanted to give his time to other things and so did not stand for re-election. James said how grateful we were to Nigel for those years and the wisdom and expertise he had brought.

David Penwarden, who had examined the Church Accounts for over 30 years, had written to say he felt it was time to let someone else do it, and Howard Pearl was appointed as Independent Financial Examiner for 2014, as he had kindly volunteered to do so.

Although there were quite a number of people appointed as Sidesmen, they were actually spread quite thinly to cover all the services, and Mike Cursons as Captain of Sidesmen would be pleased to hear of anyone else who would be interested in helping (tel. no. 01959 523135).

It was agreed to hold the Annual Vestry Meeting and Annual Parochial Church Meeting on Thursday, 23rd April 2015 from 7.45pm (venue to be notified nearer the time).

*Rosemary Banister,
PCC Secretary.*

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REPORT FROM KEMSING PARISH COUNCIL

Sevenoaks District Seniors Action Forum (SDSAF) campaigns on issues of concern to the 50+ age group. Joining the Forum is free and involves no commitment. SDSAF informs members about what is going on through its website and printed newsletters. The Forum has grown to over 350 members, and successes so far include some improvements to transport to hospitals, and winning a Lottery grant to provide 7 public access defibrillators - one of them for Kemsing. You can sign up at www.sdaf.com, or by calling Roger, the Membership Secretary on 01322 664754.

Annual Parish Meeting - Some 70 residents attended the Annual Parish Meeting which was held on 26th March at the St. Edith Hall.

Arriva Bus services 431 & 432 – Many residents will be aware that the 431 & 432 services had been withdrawn and merged with the 452 for Dunton Green on 6th April 2014. The Parish Council was extremely disappointed at the lack of any form of notification or consultation from either Arriva or Kent County Council which left no time at all to allow the Parish Council to consider the provision of any alternative transport, particularly for those residents who need to travel home from Sevenoaks later than 3 p.m. on Saturdays. Kemsing Parish Council, together with Seal Parish Council and a number of residents, formed a Working Group to gather evidence of use and how residents would be affected by the changes, and to put forward a proposal of how these gaps could be filled. We are currently in the process of trying to negotiate the possible introduction of 3 additional journeys to Kemsing on Saturdays after 3 p.m. with support from County Councillor Mr. Chard and District Councillor Miss Stack.

Overgrown vegetation – Just a reminder to all residents to regularly check their boundary shrubs, trees and hedges and trim back as necessary.

Family Fun Day - The provisional date for the free Family Fun Day in Kemsing is **Monday, 28th July 2014 between 10 am and 2 pm**, on the Common Field Recreation Ground. Please check notice boards nearer the time for details.

Parish Council meetings - For information regarding forthcoming Parish Council meetings, please check village notice boards and Parish Council's website. **Contact Details:** The Clerk's Office, St. Edith Hall, High Street, Kemsing, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN15 6NA. Office hours are Monday to Friday between 9.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. Email to: kemsingpc@tiscali.co.uk and www.kemsingpc.kentparishes.gov.uk

Yolanda Tredoux, Parish Clerk



Come along to Ightham Mote this Summer. There is something for everyone. Take a look at some of our exciting events.

Sunday 15 June

Father's Day 11am-3pm
Enjoy fishing in the moat, beer tasting and games.

Saturday 28 June

First World War Poetry event
7:30-10pm

Saturday 5-Sunday 6 July

Military Ancestry Roadshow
11am-3:30pm

Saturday 5 July

Pirates of Penzance 7pm
Open-air Theatre

Saturday 19-Sunday 20 July

Ightham and District Gardener's Club Summer Show

Saturday 26 July

'Friday Night Live' 6pm-Midnight
Family music festival

Saturday 2 August

Sense and Sensibility 7pm
Open-air theatre

And for the Children....

Tuesday 1 July-Sunday 31 August

Summer Activity Pack

Thursday 31 July

Regency Family Fun Day
Family Fun featuring pastimes from the time of Jane Austen

Saturday 16 August

Den Building 10:30am or 2:30pm

Thursday 28 August

Teddy Bears Picnic 11am-3pm

Saturday 30 August

George's Marvellous Medicine
Open-air theatre

Ightham Mote is now open 7 days a week, 10:30am-5pm. Please see our website www.nationaltrust.org.uk/ighthammote or call our main office on 01732 810378 ext 100.

NEWS and NOTES

Community Choir lives! Yes, in spite of many difficulties this year, the Community choir will once again be performing their own special brand of music in St. Mary's Church on **Saturday August 2nd starting at 7pm**. This year's theme is based on music from both world wars, with an especial emphasis on World War One which the Church will be commemorating at the same time.

After the loss of our usual venue, we are very grateful to Kemsing School for allowing us the use the School Hall for our rehearsals which start on **Tuesday June 24th at 7.30pm**. As always, everyone is welcome to come and join our rehearsals, and we warmly welcome everyone to our concert. As always, audience participation is assured!

Oxford Medical Practice. From April, the Kemsing Surgery will be open at the following times:

Mornings: 9.20 to 11.40

Afternoons: 2pm to 3pm and 4pm to 5.30pm.

The practice is requesting a change to current planning restrictions so that opening hours at Kemsing can be further extended. Also from April, all patients over the age of 75 will have a named GP and be offered a care plan.

If you need help when the Surgery is shut, in a medical emergency phone 999, for medical advice out of hours phone 111. The 111 service is designed for conditions that cannot wait until the surgery is open. For less urgent problems, your local pharmacist can give very useful advice.

Sevenoaks District Council's garden waste service update: Purchase a Sevenoaks District Council garden waste collection permit (£43 for 12 months) and they will loan you a 240 litre wheelie bin for your garden waste for as long as you remain a member of the scheme. Or, if you do not have much garden waste, you can buy our compostable garden waste collection sacks (£13 for a bundle of 25). Then place your wheelie bin and/or your garden sacks at your property boundary on the scheduled collection day—every fortnight—and we'll take your garden waste away. We'll also give your a colour coded calendar showing your fortnightly collection weeks for the year. For more information, visit www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/gardenwaste or telephone 01732 227000.

Saddle up for Air Ambulance bike ride: Cyclists are invited to sign up for this year's Double 100 Cycle Challenge to help save lives at night, on **Sunday, 28th September**, to make the first anniversary of the launch of the night flying service. The ride is open to regular and occasional cyclists including individuals and teams with feeding stations along the scenic route. The first 200 riders to sign up will receive a special Air Ambulance jersey. To register go to: www.kssairambulance.co.uk/involved/double100, or for more information call Julie Clare on 01622 833833, or email Julie on Julie@kssairambulance.org.uk.



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OUR CHURCH HALL

As James has written in his 'Vicar's Letter' (page 4) our Church Hall was seen to be on fire in the early hours of Sunday, 13th April. Despite gallant attempts by the Fire Brigade, there was no way they could save the building which was largely timber-built, and the weather during the previous few days had been quite dry for once.

The Hall was built in 1961 and had served the Church and village community faithfully for over 50 years. Many older residents can remember having wedding receptions and special events in the Hall. There was something about its atmosphere which was especially welcoming, despite its drawbacks (no double glazing, and a floor that was giving up).

As I write, it is over a month since the fire, but I still find it hard to believe that the building has completely gone - and everything in it. Those who attended Church services regularly were so used to being able to go in the Hall and have a cup of coffee or tea either before or after the Morning Services - it was a chance for a get-together at least once a week. Sunday School is temporarily taking place in the two Vestries, and Crèche is now under the Bell Tower, and we are determined to carry on as many of the Church activities as possible, with groups scattered around the village. As James says, we are very grateful to everyone who has offered help.

The refusal of the Diocese's and PCC's joint planning application last year set back the plans for a new Church Hall and Vicarage. Sadly the destruction of the Church Hall has made the replacement of the Church Hall even more urgent, and we do hope that the planners will assist us to get the right plans approved, so that we can start adding to the fundraising which has been going on for some while.

The insurers have also been very helpful, and the PCC has been given enough funds to carry on in the immediate future with replacing essential equipment and providing alternative meeting places (without affecting the Church Hall Development Fund).

The Parish Office was also destroyed in the fire, together with some irreplaceable documents (not thankfully the current Burial, Wedding and Baptism records). Computers, photocopiers and filing cabinets can be replaced, but some things have gone forever. In the meantime, Margaret Robarts and I are working from my house on Monday mornings and Thursdays and, with the generous help of John and Val Elliot at the Post Office, we are getting the *Parish News* printed as well as the children's activities pages and Church rotas.

Let us hope and pray that a new Church Hall can be built and - as James says - rise like a phoenix from the ashes. We won't forget the old one though because it has so many happy memories.

Rosemary Banister



TO THE OLD CHURCH HALL

Remember me when next you walk
Towards the Church, beside the village wall.
Remember me, just as I used to be,
An open door, a place for one and all.
Remember the pancakes, the quizzes, the teas,
Shoe boxes piled high with toys,
The coffee, the chatter, the concerts, the songs,
The Mothers and Others, the girls and the boys.
Remember the learning, the listening, the prayers,
Throughout all the years of the weeks during Lent;
The Books of the Bible made clearer to us
The Psalms on enlightenment.

I may be now a blackened space, an open empty shell
But remember, oh remember, that I have served you well.

Barbara Brown



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KEMSING SCHOOL REPORT

It has been a busy and exciting term so far in Kemsing Primary. Before the term even began 4 children visited Knole Academy where they were involved in the open top bus parade for Olympic Gold Medallist Lizzy Yarnold. The children who attended not only met Lizzy Yarnold but had their photographs taken and were able to hold the gold medal.

We have made the most of Kemsing Village this term with a beautiful walk exploring the Bluebell Woods in Year 1. In addition, Year 3 have been investigating their fascinating local history at the Kemsing Heritage Centre.

In Key Stage Two, Year 6 have been studying the novel *Private Peaceful* and have enjoyed an action packed one man show at the Churchill Theatre that captivated their imagination. They have also worked collectively and collaboratively completing the 'Safety in Action' course. Year 4 took an exciting trip to Ightham Mote for a World War II Home Front experience day. Both children and adults dressed the part spending the day helping as an evacuee and a fire guard. The activities included make-do and mend and working with the Home Front to protect the Mote when the evening came.

Reception, Years 1 and 2 have taken part in a fun-filled drama workshop 'Under the Sea' delivered by Perform drama company. The children enjoyed taking the role of divers exploring the ocean for sea creatures. Later in the term reception will be enjoying a fabulous Ugly Bug Ball, including some fantastic bug costumes and songs.

The rest of the summer term brings a range of events for the children to enjoy including Sport's Day, District Sport's Day and the Summer Fayre. Lets hope the weather continues to shine to see in the end of the current academic year.

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LIFE ON THE HILL

East Hill—Knatts Valley—Tinkerpot Lane—Romney Street



St Mary's Woodlands is happy to announce that on **Sunday, 6th July** the Church Hall on Tinkerpot Lane will be officially opened.

There will be a Combined Service at Woodlands with Kemsing at 10am followed by the official opening at 11.30am. People are invited to bring a picnic to have after the opening.

Please pop in at any time during the day to see the newly refurbished hall, meet neighbours and friends, and join in the celebration.

+++++

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SIR MARK COLLET PAVILION

It is some time since activities have been updated at the Sir Mark Collet Pavilion. Some classes have gone, but some new ones added. Before I list the activities, I would like to draw attention to the two top Tennis Courts on the Common Field Recreation Ground. These are public courts, now under the Pavilion umbrella and only £50.00 a year will buy unlimited use. As the season has started, the price will be pro rata for the remaining months of the year.

Classes at the Pavilion are as follows:-

Monday	am	Pilates
Tuesday	am	Pilates
	pm	Short Mat Bowls
	evening	Zumba
Wednesday	am	Keep Fit (over 50's)
	evening	Short Mat Bowls & Bridge
Thursday	am	Pilates
Friday	evening	Bridge

All enquiries in the first instance, telephone: 01732 762865 and speak to me. The rooms are also let upstairs and downstairs for children's parties, meetings, christenings, etc. Our other facility is the Squash Court, so lots to choose from. We hope to see some new faces joining our activity programme! As well, the Football and Cricket Teams which play on the Common Field Recreation Ground are always looking for new members.

Vicky Bishop, Pavilion Manager

The Cricket Club is in mourning because in March it lost two of its old members. Firstly **Roy Willmore** sadly succumbed to cancer, then **Persis Saunders** died from a heart attack shortly afterwards.

Roy was an opening bowler who took more than 350 wickets as was acknowledged at his Memorial Service on 18 March. Roy was known as an obdurate batsman who usually went in at No 11. He still is a joint holder of the record for this last wicket. In 1973 he helped put on 62 v Lamberhurst of which his contribution was 14 not out. A demoralised Lamberhurst duly lost the match. Persis was the mainstay of the batting for many years. He played over 500 Innings and scored over 7000 runs with two centuries and 18 scores of more than 50. He also held the record for many years of the most catches in the outfield during a season. His funeral service was on 19 March and 5 members of the Club travelled to attend it.

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News from Cotmans Ash—COCKNEYS WOOD

The view southwards from Cotmans Ash is over the rooftops to Noahs Ark – it was always my belief that old Noah dropped anchor from his giant barge on the foothills of Mount Arrarat in Turkey, not in a tiny hamlet in Kemsing! A little further on I see a giant canopy of tree tops rippling in the spring sunshine – Cockneys Wood – tucked away on the flank of the village it is one of our greatest treasures, completely unmanaged with giant Oaks and great stands of coppiced hornbeams grown in years past as hop props.

A surprising resident of the wood was a large grass snake, who hurried away – why are people so afraid and often hostile toward snakes? Does he still carry the Curse from the Garden of Eden on his back, ‘The Great Tempter’. I visit the wood to see my first orchids of the year, the Early Purple – deep green shining leaves with glistening black freckles, the purple flowers cluster round a rising column. Other orchids in the wood are Twayblade, Common Spotted, Birds Nest and Heleborine.

This year I was beaten to it by two other orchid hunters with four dogs who cheerfully showed me their findings – and where did they and four dogs come from – Noahs Ark – where else? Mysterious trenches, ponds and potholes turn up throughout the wood speaking of some ancient history! While I was there a Spaniel dog turned up and threw himself into one of these ‘mud pies’ – could that have been their ancient purpose?

Those cool rain-leaden days of February that flooded so many parts of the nation seem well behind us now – Kemsing as a village did pretty well, the busy little brook west of Brookfields backed up into ‘Oxenhill’ – no one seems to know the source – from Brookfields it travels south, mainly underground to join Guzzle and within the hour is in the Darent at Otford.

Another little waterway, source unknown, passes east of Montfort Road, under Castle Drive heading for Guzzle. The source of the St. Edith Well and well stream hold their own secret. From the north of course, we know nothing of the streams’ temperamental habit of drying up for long periods even during heavy rainfall. Wise men, pundits and diviners will tell you “from the North”, even wiser men will tell you “They don’t know” – it seems only the ancients who built The Well and tapped into the spring to supply the village with clean water knew the secret of everlasting water for Kemsing. We do know where it ends up – into Guzzle – via Noahs Ark !

Brian Doe

NORTH DOWNS CHALLENGE WALKS

The North Downs Challenge Walk which draws Walkers from near and far was held on Saturday 10th May. This year had its difficulties or should I say “Challenges” as a result of the Church Hall burning down. However, venue wise we were very fortunate in securing the use of the Sir Mark Collet Pavilion as a location for staging the Buffet and hot drinks at the end of the walk. Initial numbers booked were similar to last years but we had some “non shows” probably as a result of the adverse weather forecast given for the day. As it turned out we did get some light rain early and heavy rain late afternoon but for most of the day we had dry weather with sun and light cloud.

Financially the Church should benefit by circa £2,500, but most important of all I am pleased to report that there were no injuries, all the walkers returned safe and sound although tired and with a few aches and pains. The buffet and drinks provided at the finish were enthusiastically received particularly the home made cakes.

Without the help of so many people both on the day and in the weeks building up to the walk it would not be possible. Many thanks to all those people.

Pauline Mallinson , Walk Organiser

ROSEMARY FIELDEN 1923-2014

A Service of Thanksgiving was held on 9th May, with family and friends of Rosemary's. Members of Kensing Singers and the Church Choir sang 'The Lord's my Shepherd', the Nunc Dimittis and 'The Lord Bless You and Keep You', some of Rosemary's favourite music.



Rosemary was a very active member of the Kensing community. It was largely due to the way she ran the Library at the back of The Bell that helped to persuade Kent County Council to build the new Library in West End. She started the housebound visits so people who could not get to the Library had, not only library books to read, but a visit from someone to talk to as well.

She set up and managed the Age Concern Lunch Club for many years, and the photograph shows Rosemary with Gillian Shepherd-Coates, Gwen Hart and Jenny Corby at the October 1987 Lunch Club 3rd birthday.

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FAMILY MILESTONES

Deaths—Rest in Peace

Mick Tolliday on 20th December 2013

Kenneth Finch (83) on 11th January 2014

Joan Gardner

John Lewis (81)

Roy Willmore (81) on 3rd March 2014

Rosemary Fielden (91) on 15th March 2014

From: Kemsing Parish Magazine May-August 1964

The Choirboys played football against Maidstone and won 4-2. Brian Morris scored three goals.

The Cricket Club were enjoying a successful season under the leadership of Leon Tregaskes. It was to be the last season on the old playing square.

The KADS performed "Night must Fall" in May. Produced by Kay Robertson and featuring Jack Wood, Olive Hamlyn, Barbara Williamson and Kath Ford.

The St. Mary's Brownie Pack enjoyed an afternoon in the grounds of Dorton House.

The Young Wives Group had enjoyed a talk by Alf Haynes who spoke about Old Kemsing.

Mr R Bangay presided over the General Meeting of the Youth Fellowship in the (then) Church Hall. That Hall had been put up in 1951.

From "The Well" Summer 1989

The Reverend John Goulding was ordained at Rochester on 2 July.

The Gardener's Society held their 37th AGM and had a successful Spring Show.

The Kemsing Singers were preparing for their Spring Concert and were going to sing at Ightham Mote, having been invited by the National Trust.

The Historical Society had various meetings and outings including a visit to St. Clere.

The School Summer Fete took place. The children were able to use the swimming pool and very few left the School unable to swim.

The editor wrote an article about Betty Waters - who sadly died later that year.

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

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The 4 acre garden is full of interest with formal terraces surrounding the mansion (not open) and beautiful views of the Kent countryside. There are herbaceous and shrub borders, a productive kitchen and herb garden, lawns and rare trees. There will be refreshments on sale in the



Garden Room, and all proceeds will go the National Gardens Scheme. The funds raised go to help a host of national charities, including Help the Hospices, Marie Curie Cancer Care and Macmillan Cancer Support.

There will be fabulous garden tours with our entertaining head gardener, Martin Platt at 2.30, 3.30 and 4.30pm (£1 per head).

Admission is £5 per adult and £1 for children.

For more information visit

their website at www.stclere.co.uk.

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Village Diary

June

- 10th Kemsing Gardeners St. Edith small hall 8.00 talk by Mr. Bareham *'May your photography blossom/bloom'*
- 11th W.I. Garden Meeting at The Keep, High Street. 7pm. Bring a chair.
- 24th Community Choir first rehearsal 7.30-9.00 in Kemsing School Hall and then every Tuesday at the same time until July 29th (last rehearsal). Everyone welcome.
- 28th Kemsing Village Fete 1.00pm Kemsing school.
- 29th Heritage Centre Reptile Walk 2.00pm village car park, adults £2.00 children free.

July

- 5th Kemsing Gardeners Summer Show, Kemsing School hall 2.30 admission by donation
- 9th W.I. St. Edith small hall 7.45 talk by Sue Hollings *'Medieval Cookery'*
- 31st **Flower Commemoration St. Mary's Church** in memory of the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of WWI, continuing to the **3rd of August**. At 7.30pm in the Church there will be an evening of poetry and prose readings from WW1.

August

- 1st Heritage Centre talk by Janet Eaton *'Lest we Forget'* St. Edith small hall 7.30 Members free, visitors £2.50 tickets on the door.
- 2nd Community Choir Concert songs from WW1 and other favourites. All welcome. St. Mary's Church 7pm.
- 13th W.I. Craft & Produce show for members only. 7.45pm Large St. Edith Hall

September

- 5th Heritage Centre talk by Wilf. Lower *'Medway, Tales on a Dividing River'*

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