

The background of the cover is a photograph of a garden. In the foreground, there is a large, dense bush of small, vibrant purple flowers. To the left, there is a bush with yellow and white variegated leaves. In the background, a brick wall is visible under a clear sky.

# **THE WELL**

**Kemsing Village Magazine  
with news from Woodlands**

**Autumn 2015 No 199**

**See Centre pages for village event  
photographs**

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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.*

**Summer border — Cover picture.**

**Photograph by John Farrow**

**COPY FOR NEXT ISSUE by 1st November 2015**

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 Debby Pierson—01732 762033

## KEMSING BOXING CLUB—KENNY'S AWARD



Those of you who read Sevenoaks District Council's 'In Shape' will have already seen the above photograph, showing Lizzie Yarnold MBE presenting Kenny Libretto with the Sevenoaks Community and Voluntary Award for Sports/Health and Wellbeing for starting Kemsing Boxing Club.

Kenny has been running the Club for 3 Years, and it has given our children the chance to learn a new discipline and gain fitness and enjoyment in a sport. Up to 30 children attend three nights a week at The St Edith Hall.

For further details, contact Kenny via email:  
[kemsingboxingclub@btinternet.com](mailto:kemsingboxingclub@btinternet.com)

# *Vicar's Letter*

Dear Friends

Waiting is never easy. Just over 16 months ago, our church hall was burnt to the ground. So many things seem to be delaying our wishes to build a new hall. We often find ourselves wondering: Surely God knows that it's harder running a full programme of activities without a permanent base? Why do we have to wait?



Well, God is using the delay to teach Kemsing Church many things, and one of them is the importance of being willing to wait. British society revolves around an expectation of instant gratification. If we can't afford something now, we prefer to pay on credit than to wait.

God gives us many good things now. Life isn't always easy, but every time we enjoy food, friendship, and laughter, productive work and enjoyable leisure, these are gifts from God. The Bible says that every good and perfect gift comes from above.

There are many benefits to being a Christian now as well. We enjoy forgiveness for the past, a place in God's family, God himself living within us to help and change us, the promise that he hears our prayers: ... and much more besides.

For all that is good in the present, God also calls us to wait. The best things are still to come. If people today still believe in heaven, they often have a very anaemic picture. We may not literally sit on a cloud with a harp, but we still think of the afterlife as equally dull and directionless.

Nothing could be further from the truth Jesus told his first followers that one day he would return. He would come, not as a baby in a corner of Palestine, but as a grown man in an event nobody would miss. The other side of the judgement would be life to the full. He will mend all that is broken in this world. He will mend broken bodies, too: Everyone who knows Jesus now will be made new in order to enjoy the richest life forever. There will be work to do, with energy to match; there will be fun and food to beat even the best experiences we have now.

Don't get me wrong: Being a Christian now is great! But God wants us to learn to wait; his best gifts are still to come. If we live for "now", rather than God's timing, we miss out on the best. That's one lesson we're learning as we wait for a new hall; maybe there's something for all of us to learn as well.

With every blessing. Your friend and vicar,

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

**St MARY the VIRGIN PARISH CHURCH, KEMSING**  
[www.kemsingwithwoodlands.org](http://www.kemsingwithwoodlands.org)

Vicar	Rev. James Oakley	01732 762556
Wardens	Ray Parton	01732 764132
	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

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 at the School 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

**Harvest Festival Services:**

**Woodlands**—Sunday, 27th September, 11.30am, followed by Lunch for all

**Kemsing**—Sunday, 4th October, 9.15 and 10.30am

**Remembrance Sunday: Kemsing** — 8th November at 9.50am followed by Service at the War Memorial at 10.45am

**SERVICES at St. Mary's Woodlands, Tinkerpot Lane, TN15 6AA.**

- 1st Sunday 4.30 All Age Worship
- 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 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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Parish Office on 01732 761351  
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(see page 5)**

## WOODLANDS—LIFE ON THE HILL



In the Autumn 2014 edition, monies received for the refurbishment of the **Church Hall** were listed, totalling £86,661. Since then, the amount received from the Woodlands Cafe and donations through the Cafe, went up from £34,337 to £36,680, a total raised to date of £89,004.

The final list of expenses is as follows:-

WJ Roofing Ltd	£1,776
Lester Electrical Services	£3,293
Meiko UK Ltd	£1,529
Woodward Ambrose Architects Ltd	£11,375
Estimated final cost	£4,000
Harper Construction Services	£55,709
VAT	£8,709
Hall Lighting	£2,229
Water Heater	£284
TOTAL:	£89,004

Although the major refurbishment works have now been completed, the Woodlands Cafe is continuing to raise funds for additional items that are still required. Once again, a huge thank you to all those who have contributed towards the refurbishment.

We hope to start a **Childrens Sunday Club** in the autumn on the second and 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday mornings of each month. For more information, contact Ruth Chatwin, tel.no.01959 522311.

### Woodlands Tots (for children 0-4yrs)

Every Wednesday during term-time 9.45-11.15am in the Church Hall, Details from Catherine Medlen 07815 107561

### Woodlands cafe

Every **Saturday** 11.30am-3.00pm. Why not come and enjoy a home-cooked lunch at a reasonable price, Woodlands Church Hall, Tinkerpot Lane, TN15 6AA.

## Events at Ightham Mote this autumn

**Join us at Ightham Mote this autumn for our events programme – to welcome in the seasonal colours.**

**From 1st September** Pick up a copy of our Autumn activity pack and do some of your 50-things at Ightham Mote this autumn. 50p.



**Sunday 6th Sept.,** Pastime Historical Dance performs dances through the ages. 12noon, 1.30 & 3pm

**Friday 18th Sept., Embellished Book Cover.** Join Sue & Annie as they expertly take you through creating an embroidered/embellished book cover. 10am-3.30pm £35 Book via office 01732 810378 ext 100.

**Sunday 20th Sept.** 11am The Great British Walks celebrates what the National Trust can offer walkers – of all abilities. Join us on this 2-3 mile walk around Ightham Mote estate. Please wear suitable footwear and clothes. Donations welcome book via office 01732 810378 ext 100.

**It's that time again when Ightham Mote celebrates apples & and the wonderful bounty of the earth.**

**Sat. 26th-27th Sept. 11.am-4.pm Apple and Orchard weekend at Ightham Mote.** The orchard is planted with a variety of heritage apple trees, which you can sample.

**There will also be a wide range of apple related crafts and gifts for sale from local suppliers, as well as a National Trust stall, and families can take advantage of a special Apple Trail around the garden!**

**Sat. 24th Oct. --Sun 1st. Nov. Half term family fun.** 10am - 3pm A Pumpkin themed trail in the grounds – and come and see our Pumpkin patch!

**Sat. 24th Oct. & 31st Oct. Ghost and Gourmet evenings 7.pm Candlelit spooky tour** of the house followed by a 2-course buffet supper in the Mote Café. £37.50 book via the office 01732-810378 ext.100

**Sat. 31st Oct. 50 things in Wild Art & Themed Halloween craft activity** 12 noon - 3pm Go wild with art - using natural resources, create works of art and get a little spooked by a craft activity workshop.

*Children can also enjoy the usual house trails and children's craft activity centre will be available for them to use during school holidays come rain or shine.*

For full events listing visit: <http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/ightham-mote/things-to-see-and-do/events/> Unless otherwise stated, events free, normal admission prices apply, National Trust members free entry. For further details on Ightham Mote, which is open through out the Winter please see their website: [www.nationaltrust.org.uk/ighthammote](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/ighthammote) or call 01732 810378 ext 100.



## **NEWS and NOTES**

**St. Mary's Church Fundraising Team.** We have had several successful events already this year, the next occasions are: A quiz in November and a pop up Fayre on Saturday November 14th from 10am-12 noon in St. Mary's Church. There will be bric a brac, cakes and our own Christmas Cards, which were very successful last year..

### **Going the Distance—London Bridges Walk 2015**

**W**alk London's most famous bridges on an 8 mile sponsored walks to help rebuild lives after spinal cord injury, 10am—Sunday 20th September 2015. Registration includes: Special Even T-shirt, Goodie Bag and Refreshments. To register call 01908 208541 or email: fundraising@spinal.co.uk

### **Voter registration forms to be sent out across the District**

**R**esidents are urged to look out for a voter registration form which would have been sent out in August. The form will include details on each household and who is registered as living there. The new national registration system of 'Individual Electoral Registration' means each house will have received this form, and it is important that it is checked and that the form contains the correct information and that names are added or deleted as necessary.

Changes can be made on-line or alternatively on the form and posted back to the Council. If no changes are needed, details can be confirmed via on-line, Freephone or text message services. Once any new entry has been provided, the Council will send an 'Individual Electoral Registration' form where residents can provide details including any who wish to apply to vote by post. For more information about voting and elections, visit: [www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/elections](http://www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/elections).

**O**xford Methodist Church & St Barts are starting a new monthly event called **Who Let The Dads Out** for Dads, Grandfathers or any male carer and children up to age 10 (sorry ladies!). This is a family fun time for men to spend some quality time with the children, meet other dads and carers or just relax. There will be bouncy castles, toys, stories, crafts, computer zone, etc. The event will be held in the Methodist Church Hall between 3.30 and 5.30pm. The first date is Saturday, 26th September followed by 10th October, 14th November and 12th December. For information, call Jeff Davies, 01732 761644, or Dan Yates, 01959 523681, or Peter Robinson, 07713 248642.

**O**ne of the committee members of the **Kemsing Evening WI** was present at the Albert Hall in June for the 100th Anniversary meeting of the NFWI at which the Queen was present. The WI in Kemsing will celebrate its own 100th birthday next year with a special party.

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## ST MARY'S, KEMSING – PCC NEWS

I am afraid there is no news on our Church Hall & Vicarage planning application, other than to say that the Diocesan Agent has been asked by Sevenoaks District Council for a further extension until October, to allow time for a report to be considered by the SDC Development Control Committee. This is mainly because further evidence of other church planning applications has been supplied to the District Council planners, in order to enable them to come to a reasonable and fair decision. We have no choice but to abide by the experts and await the outcome.

The PCC has been granted a faculty to keep the space where the four pews were removed at the back of the north aisle. This has enabled us to serve refreshments between morning services. We need a few more people to join a rota to help with the refreshments, and Jean Walker would be glad to hear from anyone who is interested, tel. 01732 761646. Jimmy (Clements) has been doing it more or less single-handed for some months, and is taking a well deserved break.

The PCC has also been granted a faculty to put two more seats on the Memorial Terrace. The Diocese's advice is that this is the maximum number it would consider for now. A further reminder that kerbstones are not permitted around graves, and only fresh flowers should be provided.

The 10.00am All Age service held on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday and the 10.30am service held on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays, in every month, are well attended. If you haven't attended one of these services yet, do come one Sunday. The children are great at doing the actions to the hymns, and the congregation join in as well! The Crèche, which is currently being held at the back of the Church under the Bell Tower, is also very popular with the younger children. On average there are over 20 children at these services.

The PCC is still seeking advice about the Church's sound system, and is hoping to apply for a faculty soon to provide new speakers and a more efficient loop system. Also, permission has been granted for repainting the interior walls of the Church, and the 'Friends of St Mary's' are continuing to fundraise for this project.

*Rosemary Banister, PCC Secretary.*

*Who do you trust with your best friend?.....*



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## KEMSING PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Mrs. Yolanda Tredoux (Parish Clerk) Tel: 01732 762841

The Clerk's Office, St. Edith Hall, High Street, Kemsing, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN15 6NA  
Email : [kemsingpc@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:kemsingpc@tiscali.co.uk) website: [www.kemsingpc.kentparishes.gov.uk](http://www.kemsingpc.kentparishes.gov.uk)  
Normal Office Hours : Monday, Wednesday & Thursday (9 am to 2 pm)

The **Annual General Meeting** of the Parish Council was held on Wednesday, 20<sup>th</sup> May 2015 when Mrs. Marie Cole was re-elected as Chairman and Mr. Tony Andrews as Vice-Chairman for the ensuing year. The **Parish Council Committee structure** for 2015/16 is as follows:-

### **DOWNLAND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

Douglas Bennett (Chairman), Brian Buttifant (Vice-Chair), Paul Burfield, Rosemary Wedderburn-Day and Philip Walker

### **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Paul Eaton (Chairman), Philip Walker (Vice-Chairman), Tony Andrews, Douglas Bennett, Marie Cole, Richard Lang

### **PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Bob Dawes (Chairman), Tony Andrews (Vice-Chair), Marie Cole, Godfrey Croughton and Margaret Roberts

### **RECREATION GROUNDS COMMITTEE**

Philip Walker (Chairman), Marie Cole (Vice-Chair), Richard Lang and Rosemary Wedderburn-Day

**Kemsing Saturday afternoon Bus Service** – The Council has extended its financial support for the service until the end of December with the hope that alternative funding opportunities for the continuation of this service in the long-term will be secured.

**Village car park** – Negotiations to purchase the car park continue.

**Parish Councillor vacancy**–Councillor Mrs. Sally Dickinson has resigned as a Parish Councillor at the beginning of July 2015 and has since moved away from Kemsing. We would like to thank Mrs. Dickinson for her contribution to the village as Parish Councillor for the past few years. The vacancy has been advertised and if you are interested, please contact the Clerk.

**Parish Council meetings** – 16 September, 21 October, 18 November 2015, 20 January, 17 February, 17 March, 20 April, 18 May 2016

**Annual Parish Meeting** – 24 March 2016

*Yolanda Tredoux (Parish Clerk)*





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## SEVENOAKS COMMUNITY FIRST RESPONDERS

Community First Responders are volunteer members of the community who are trained and dispatched by the Ambulance Service to respond to 999 emergency calls in their local area.

The primary role of a Community First Responder (CFR) is to provide life-saving emergency treatment to prevent deterioration, promote recovery and preserve life.

The Sevenoaks team responds to over 130 incidents a month. All CFR's are trained by the ambulance service to a very high professional standard, yet following training and qualification they rely entirely on donations by the community in which they volunteer, to pay for the lifesaving equipment they carry and the vehicles they run.

It costs approximately £1500.00 to equip a new responder. New responders are needed in order to ensure there is sufficient coverage for the area.

Fundraisers are also needed to ensure that the money keeps coming in to provide the vital life saving equipment.

Sevenoaks Community First Responders are recruiting for new CFR's in certain areas in and around Sevenoaks. If you are able to give up a few hours a week to help people in your local community, whilst still going about your day to day life and would like further information please contact us via the website or email: [info@sevenoakscfrs.org](mailto:info@sevenoakscfrs.org).

Tim Hall, Sevenoaks Community First Responders.

*[NB Kemsing now has its own defibrillator in place on the wall outside St Edith Hall. It's easy to use and could save someone's life.]*

## COMMUNITY FIRST RESPONDERS



Local Community First Responders—see previous page for details of how you could become one of them.

## THE BELLS RANG OUT FOR REBECCA and JIM



Rebecca Prinsloo and Jim Giddings were married by Canon Dr Philip Hesketh in St. Mary's Church on Saturday 8th August. Both long time village residents, Rebecca is also the St. Mary's Church Tower Captain of Bell Ringers. To celebrate the happy occasion, a quarter peal was rung on the Church bells on the morning of the wedding.

## RICHARD'S 30 YEARS



After 30 years running the shop, Richard has decided he needs to take life more easy, and retire from the business, now that his children are grown up.

He is looking forward to having the time to get more involved in village activities, before a change in direction.

Richard says he has been very touched by the many good wishes he has received from his customers.

We wish Richard and his family all the best for the future.

## KEMSING COMMUNITY CHOIR



The forty plus members of the Kemsing Community Choir gave their 5th Concert on Saturday July 25th in St. Mary's Church. A retiring collection of almost £400 was raised towards the fund for a new Church Hall, and an enjoyable evening was had by everyone with plenty of audience participation.



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## OUR POST OFFICES

A lot of us have been worrying about what is happening to our two Post Offices, in view of Post Office Ltd's 'Modernisation' of post offices throughout the country. This has resulted in the closure of hundreds, if not thousands, of local post offices, and the re-location of others to nearby retail outlets which are willing to take on the new contracts which POL are now offering. These mean less income (£10,600 pa less) and longer opening hours (60 a week). The latter may be beneficial for customers, but is less so for those running them.

Both Post Offices in Kensing were offered for sale earlier this year. As a result, Kensing Newsagents agreed to take over the contract for Dynes Road, which is good news. However, it is not certain what is going to happen to the St Edith's Road Post Office as it is apparent that sub-post offices like St Edith's Road will not be allowed to continue under their present contract for much longer.

It has been a worrying time for people like John and Val Elliot and, whilst some of us might agree that the Government needs to save tax-payers' money, if it means losing some of our valued village shops, it is not something we want. For more information, see: <http://corporate.postoffice.co.uk/modernising-post-office>.

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## KEMSING SCHOOL REPORT

As we come to the end of another busy year in school we say goodbye to our brilliant Year 6 children. They have been great ambassadors for the school and caring buddies to our reception pupils. The children from Year 6 are going on to several different secondary schools, including Knole Academy, Wrotham School, Trinity School, Weald of Kent Girls Grammar School and Walthamstow Hall School. We wish them all the very best for the future.

This year we also say goodbye to Mrs Williams, who is retiring after 27 years as a teacher at Kemsing. Mrs Williams has been an incredibly loyal, dedicated and hard-working member of staff and she will be greatly missed by children, parents and staff. At her special leaving assembly we talked about her 27 years as a teacher. Mrs Williams has taught 27 classes, which is a total of 810 children. She has therefore written 810 school reports, attended 1620 parent consultation meetings, 27 sports days, 81 Nativity performances, 1053 staff meetings and 5265 school days. We all think that she has earned a well-deserved rest and would like to thank Mrs Williams for everything that she has done for our school and our village community.

Next term we will be welcoming some new staff and our new children. All of the new Early Years class have visited the school and had “stay and play” sessions in their indoor and outdoor classroom. Much fun was had playing in the role play area, the book corner, the bikes and trikes area and particularly the mud pie kitchen!

On our return in September, some of our Year 6 children will be taking the 11+ exam and we wish them well for this. Shortly afterwards they will all be off on their one week residential trip to Rippledawn, near Dover, which is a great opportunity for them to bond as a group and develop vital skills of independence and self-reliance.

We would like to wish all members of our community a wonderful, restful summer.

*Eileen Mumford, Headteacher*

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## NEWS FROM COTMANS ASH

I am writing my note in the early hours of an August morning, the same place where I sat in May to listen to the dawn chorus from song birds beyond number – now silence – with bird song turned to foraging and feeding, a time to build up and prepare for a long journey and cooler days ahead.

Through my bedroom window a flock of noisy chattering Jackdaws cross the sky – Wood pigeon with the soft call from a Stock Dove remind me of the dawn, then the sound that belongs to the Tower of London or the crags and cliffs of the North Country – a Raven. Somewhere here he has set up home with his wife and family, his feathers glistening black and a large black fan for a tail.

The Raven is a bird with a brain, he has learned there are pickings in my compost heap and when I walk in my wood he will sit in the treetops and quietly watch me – clever old fellow!

Wild bees are having a bad time – it seems everything is stacked against them, they often use redundant mouse galleries to build their combs – at Cotmans Ash this year fifteen of their nests have been dug out by badgers, another three have been drilled out of tree stumps by woodpeckers – added to that crop spraying and domestic destruction. What is their future? They pollinate our fruit blossom and our wild flowers and hedgerows. If only they were birds! They would have National protection and charity support – in fact birds need bees more than bees need birds. Could not R.S.P.B become R.S.P.B.B?

At this time of year the centre of a bird's life must surely be food – to stock up and build up. For many it is their last feed before they take off for the sunshine of Africa. Swifts and swallows dipping and diving through great swarms of black gnats high in the sky with house martins flitting like moths at lower levels.

There is another sound – a shrill chattering from a pair of hobbies diving on to May bugs rising from the uncut hay meadow opposite my gate.

It is time for all change – some will come, some will go and at times I wonder how many will fall dead between here and their destination in the sunshine of Africa?

During the summer a family of rats moved into my woodshed and caused me some concern – lately a pair of weasels came to my rescue, ace hunters and born killers – very amusing to watch them dance and jig and somersault - arrogant, cheeky and defiant they stand their ground to me. Their work done and now a family of five they moved out and the last I saw of them was in the lane and in the half light they were bolting out a rabbit warren.

*Brian Doe*



## WHY NOAH'S ARK?

*The following is extracted from an article written by Vic Bowden and published in the Christmas 1991 edition of The Well:*

A question that is asked more than any other in Kemsing is “What is the origin of the name Noah’s Ark?” It is a question that has never been answered and may never be. The general explanation, often expressed, is that the name was a joking reference to a farmer, not specified, who lived in Noah’s Ark Cottage in the days before the coming of the railway and therefore of the Noah’s Ark bridge. His land would have run down to the Guzzle Brook, itself a much larger river than in recent years. In times of flood, his house being on a rise, this man is thought to have brought his animals up to the house away from the floodwaters, and so his friends in the village would refer to him as “Old Noah in his Ark”.

It seems that John Christopher, a Kemsing farmer who was born in Seal, died here in 1691. In his will he left a field that he owned in Kemsing to his daughter-in-law, Barbara (nee French) the wife of his son Richard, who was a wheelwright. This field, of some eight acres, was in a part of Kemsing then known as Middleton Green, and it was called Henstalle. A document dated 1703 indicates that this Richard Christopher was negotiating with another party about a strip of land in the road between Seal and Kemsing measuring eight feet by two rods. The interesting thing is that this strip of land was stated to be “near to his new house lately called Henstall and now Noah’s Arke”. Richard’s father had left a field, with no mention of a house, so it seems that Richard had built a house on the field called Hemstall. What we do not know is why he chose to call it “Noah’s Ark”. The date 1703 ties in with the estimated date of the building of Noah’s Ark Cottage in the Listed Buildings of Kemsing booklet, which is “late seventeenth or early eighteenth century”.

Fifteen years later Richard died, leaving his widow Barbara in possession of the house and land, with the understanding that on her death it would pass to their four sons, John, Richard, Robert and Oliver. In the event it appears that the second son, Richard the younger, lived in Noah’s Ark, because when he died in 1744 he held “land at Middleton Green in Kemsing called Hemstalls and also a parcel of waste”, Richard was also a wheelwright which may explain why he was the one chosen to follow his father in that house. His widow Margaret (nee Monke) was the occupier, and as she had seven daughters but no son, the property was to go to a nephew, Robert Christopher, son of Richard’s brother Oliver. Margaret died in 1767 and the nephew Robert then sold the property “called Hemstalls alias Noah’s Ark in Kemsing also a parcel of waste there” to Benjamin Fletcher, who in turn sold to Thomas Kipps.

This account has been deduced from a set of notes without reference to original documents, and the facts as set out cannot be vouched for, but one thing can safely be claimed, and that is that the name “Noah’s Ark”, which has since been applied to the whole hamlet which has grown up around the original house, goes back to at least 1703 – and we still do not know why it was so called.

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## REPORT FROM 3RD KEMSING BROWNIES

During the summer term the 3<sup>rd</sup> Kemsing Brownies have been working on the Out and About, and Wildlife Explorer badges. We have done lots of exciting things to do with nature including going to the park to take bark rubbings and a walk up Green Hill to look at flowers, in particular the orchids. We also held a recycled fashion show where each six was given some newspaper, sticky tape, and plastic bags. The challenge was to dress one member up in clothes that would be suitable for wearing whilst walking or rambling and we had all kinds of outfits featuring items such as welly boots, shorts and backpacks. Later in the term we had a joint meeting with the Brownies from Otford and played lots of fun water games

followed by a sing song.

In July we went on a Pack Holiday to Cudham Shaws and stayed in Copps Cottage for 2 nights.



We continued to work on our badges by doing lots of activities including making miniature gardens, bug houses, and pictures in the woods. Each six took it in turns to be cooks, waitresses, and orderlies to make sure no one was hungry and the cottage was nice and tidy. One of the favourite activities was the grass sledging on a nearby slope which was great fun! During the second evening we made some delicious fruit juice cocktails and then had a joint campfire with some Brownies from Shirley where we sang lots of songs and toasted marshmallows.

In the final meeting of term the Brownies were all presented with their Wildlife Explorer and Out and About badges as well as Pack Holiday and Pack Holiday Advanced Badges. We had a visit from some of the Guides from Kemsing who told the Brownies what it is like to be a Guide and taught them how to play the game King Neptune. We look forward to having an equally exciting time in the next few months.

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## FAMILY MILESTONES

### Baptisms

Logan Haughney on 12th July 2015

Kaitlyn Chua on 19th July 2015

### Weddings

Michael Lunn and Karen Davies—18th June 2015 at Woodlands Church

David Aslan and Louise Downs—20th June 2015 at Kemsing Church

Robert Heaton and Kelly Ralph—27th June 2015 at Kemsing Church

Samuel King and Selina Griffiths—11th July 2015 at Kemsing Church

Jack Bath and Lauren Griffiths—15th July 2015 at Woodlands Church

James Giddings and Rebecca Prinsloo—8th August 2015 at Kemsing Church

### Deaths—Rest in Peace

Ian Hay (75) on 17th May 2015

Hildegard Slezok (87) on 11th June 2015

Iris Collie (99) on 4th July 2015

Ronald Russell (93) on 4th August 2015

### **From " The Well" September 1965**

This was the first edition of "**The Well**". The magazine would appear four times a year (at a cost of 9d) and replace the Kemsing Parish Magazine which had appeared monthly.

In September there was to be a procession from the Church to the Well to commemorate **St. Edith**.

Kemsing School held their summer camp at **Sheerness**. Among the Campers (who travelled with Mr Smart) were Paul Syrett, Ian White and Roger Oakley.

**The Cricket Club** were enjoying their new square: after the inaugural match v The Throgs members of the Parish Council were invited to a strawberry tea. The Club believed they were entering a new era.

Vic Bowden wrote about **Simon de Montfort** and his connection with Kemsing.

**From "The Well" Autumn 1990 - Phil Burrows**, (of Bolebrooke Beagle fame) passed away (in June). He had an obituary in the national press.

The Editor (Mary Quenby) wrote about **St. Hilda of Whitby** and also interviewed **David Garret** about the Butcher's Shop in the village.

Ann Lang had represented **the Mothers' Union** at the Queen Mother's birthday celebration on Horse Guards Parade.



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## BRIAN WITH JUDY



Over the Spring Bank Holiday weekend in May 2015. Judy Rickwood completed her 8<sup>th</sup> annual '100 mile walk' organised by the Long Distance Walker's Association (LDWA) in the Forest of Bowland in Lancashire.

Her first '100' mile was completed in the same County in 1991 with me. The annual '100' takes place in different areas of the Country e.g. Dartmoor, Snowdonia, the Yorkshire Dales etc. The Challenge is to complete the walk within 48 hours, so no sleep until the finish.

In the late 1980's we started an informal walking group known as The Bell Walkers, fund raising for the Cheshire Homes. It was out of this group that Judy with Ian Needham and Geoff Betts took up long distance walking. Geoff moved away and Ian had back problems, so Judy's walking declined, but with encouragement she has got back to Long Distance walking over the last 2 years. After a gap of 17 years to complete another 100 is a remarkable effort. Well done Judy!

*Brian Buttifant.*

## *Village Diary*

### **September**

- 5th Kemsing Heritage Centre open 1st Saturday in the month 10.00am-12.00noon
- 7th Kemsing Heritage Centre open Monday afternoons 2.00-4.30pm (not bank holidays)
- 9th WI talk 'Livery Companies of London' by Sir Jeremy Elwes, St. Edith small hall 7.45pm
- 12th Gardener's Autumn Show, Kemsing Primary School 2.30pm
- 25th Kemsing Heritage Centre Assn. 'Chiddingstone Memoir of a Country Character' talk by Penny Harris St. Edith small hall 7.30 p.m Members free non members £2.50 tickets from Erica Cole 01732 761772

### **October**

- 9th Wild Life Group meeting St. Edith small hall 7.30pm £2.00 Wildlife on your doorstep with Victoria Golding. The work of the Kent Wildlife Trust.
- 13th Kemsing Gardeners talk 'Bees & Gardening' by Dr. N. Gammans, Project Officer Bumble Bee Project St. Edith small hall 8.00 pm
- 14th WI talk 'Hop picking in Kent' Chris Stewart St. Edith small hall 7.45pm
- 30th Kemsing Heritage Centre Assn. 'History of Ordnance Survey' talk by Mr. C. Brown St. Edith small hall 7.30pm. Members free non members £2.50 tickets from Erica Cole 01732 761772

### **November**

- 11th WI 'Waitrose presents' Food & Wine with samples **NB 7.30pm start** St. Edith small hall
- 13th Wild Life Group meeting St. Edith small hall 7.30pm £2.00. Beavers and Otters with Peter Smith
- 14th Scouts Jumble Sale at St. Edith hall donated items to the hall from 9.30am sale start 1.30pm entrance £1. per adult
- 27th Kemsing Heritage Centre Assn. 'Royal Visits to Kent' talk by C. Breed members free non members £2.50 tickets from Erica Cole 01732 761772

### **December**

- 8th Kemsing Gardeners Society 'Gardeners Questions' 8pm St. Edith small hall
- 9th WI Christmas Party with entertainment St. Edith small hall 7.45pm
- 10th Wild Life Group Christmas party with Hop Pickers 7.30pm St. Edith small hall £2.00
- 11th) Kemsing Singers Christmas Concert 'Mistletoe & Wine' St. Edith large and) hall 7.30 pm £8 adults £6 Friends of the Singers £4 children, from 9 Cleves
- 12th) Road, Kemsing, or tel.01959 523752 available from Mon. 9th Nov.

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