

THE WELL

Kemsing Village Magazine
with news from Woodlands



Spring 2016 No 201

See Centre pages for news of the village
Car Park.



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Editorial Team:- Doreen Farrow, Janet Eaton & Rosemary Banister
With special thanks to John Farrow for sorting out the advertisements
We reserve the right to edit [i.e. cut, précis, alter, correct grammar or spelling] of any item published, and our decision is final.

Cover picture from Kemsing Primary School

Class 1 visiting the Church (see page 24)

COPY FOR NEXT ISSUE by 1st May 2016

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 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

Easter Services at Kemsing & Woodlands

Celebrate with us this Easter!

Friday 25th March (Good Friday)

9.30 am All-age worship in Kemsing Church

10.30 am Open-air service on Green Hill ↙

followed by

At the cross

Hot Cross Buns in Kemsing Church

1.30-3.00 pm Quiet, Reflective Service

Sunday 27th March (Easter Day)

8.00 am Traditional Communion in Kemsing

10.00 am All-age Communion in Kemsing

11.30 am Communion at Woodlands

7.00 pm Easter Carol Service

Vicar's Letter

Dear Friends

Now there's a British astronaut on board, we've all been thinking more about the International Space Station. What is it like to be up there, in space, looking down at our planet? It's even tempting to envy Tim Peake, until you remember the years of rigorous training he's been through, which few of us would endure.



Sometimes, the Bible writers look up from earth to the stars. They make us feel small. We're part of an enormous universe, of which even our galaxy is only a tiny part. So think how big God must be if he made it all.

The Bible writers don't stop there. They move from the size of the universe, to the greatness of God, to the privilege it is to be human. "When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is mankind that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them? You have made them a little lower than the angels and crowned them with glory and honour. You made them rulers over the works of your hands; you put everything under their feet."

So wrote King David, 3000 years ago. How remarkable that God should care for us, as individuals? How amazing that he should give us the job of looking after the world he's made.

And yet, as the New Testament writer of "Hebrews" observes, we don't see humanity "crowned with glory and honour". We see much suffering, and human beings struggling. Which leads that writer on to realise that there is one human being who is crowned with glory and honour. Jesus of Nazareth was executed in his early thirties, but then rose to life again. He's still alive today, and he's ruling over heaven and earth.

If God made the world, it's automatic that he's in charge of it; it's his. But how astonishing that the God who made the stars wants human beings to rule his creation. Yet he does, and by God the Son becoming human and rising from the dead, there is already a human being on the throne of the cosmos. When Jesus returns to this earth, everyone who follows him will join him in doing so, crowned with glory and honour.

The stars make us feel small. From feeling small, we then realise what a privilege it is to be a human being. Why not join us at one of our Easter services this year, as we celebrate Jesus rising from the dead, and all that means?

With every blessing.

Your friend and vicar,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James". The signature is stylized with a long horizontal stroke above the letters.

St MARY the VIRGIN PARISH CHURCH, KEMSING
www.kemsingwithwoodlands.org

Vicar	Rev. James Oakley	01732 762556
Wardens	Ray Parton	01732 764132
	Jean Walker	01732 761646
Parish Office	Parish Administrator	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 will usually be open on 4 mornings a week from the beginning of April. Answer-phone at other times is 01732 761351.

Ring first to make sure someone is there. The Parish Administrator's 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 in 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

Easter Services at Kemsing: see page 3
Easter Services at Woodlands:
24th March—Pesach Meal, Woodlands Church Hall
25th March—9.30-10am “The Way of the Cross”
27th March—11.30am Easter Day Family Communion with a special surprise for the children

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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Copy in Woodlands Church Hall

WOODLANDS CAFE open every Saturday, 11.30—3pm

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The Cafe has a warm, bright, welcoming atmosphere, and the food on offer is very reasonably priced. Local grown produce is used whenever possible, and the hot meals vary from week to week. For less than £10, you can have, for example, cottage pie and vegetables or lasagne and salad, plus apple crumble with custard, or fruit salad, with cream or ice cream. There are home-made soups, such as carrot, parsnip and coriander, for £2.25, or a slice of delicious chocolate cake for £1.25. The regular menu offers a variety of hot and cold drinks for under £1.30, and beans, eggs, cheese on toast, or bacon sandwiches, for £2 to £2.60.



The kitchen was completely refurbished in the last two years, as readers will have seen from previous editions of *The Well* and the volunteers who run it, week by week, are always ready to cook and serve you with a smile. There are a number of cards and publications to view before you leave.

The route to get there from Kemsing is either via Cotmans Ash Lane, up to the end, and then turn right and follow the hill downwards until you see the Church on the right hand side (the Church Hall is next door), or via Row Dow (first left on Pilgrims Way East when you come from Otford) then right turn into Clarkes Green Road and carry straight on.

So, come and discover our Church Hall if you haven't been before, and enjoy a warm welcome and delicious lunch!

Nature & Art – Reflections of two Victorian gentlemen artists.

New exhibition at Ightham Mote this year



National
Trust

Ightham Mote, a picturesque medieval moated manor house in Kent, restored by the National Trust over 20 years, featured in a special Time Team programme, and, more recently, in Country Life magazine and was described by the architectural editor as ‘most beguiling’.

In the 19th century, two gentleman artists – the renowned naturalist Prideaux John Selby – who produced the Illustrations of the British Ornithology - and Charles La Trobe, the first Governor General of Victoria in Australia who rented Ightham Mote in the mid 1850’s. **From 29th Feb to 30th Oct** we will be presenting an exhibition, Nature & Art, about the lives and works of these two artists in relation to Ightham Mote.

The exhibition includes some of their work, and we have engaged a watercolour artist in residence, John Wiltshire – whose work focuses on the 19th century watercolour techniques – and whose work has been chosen and exhibited at the RA Summer exhibition and won first prize from the Royal Watercolour Society.

The exhibition will be associated with special activities and events for both children and adults.

House opening times. days and dates

29th Feb-30th Oct 11.am-5.pm M T W T F S S

5th Nov-20th Nov 11am-3pm M T W T F S S

26th Nov-31st Dec 11.am-3pm. M T W T F S S

Garden, café, exhibition and shop

Jan/Feb & Nov/Dec 10-3.30pm M T W T F S S

29th Feb-30th Oct 10.-5pm M T W T F S S

Ightham Mote is a moated manor house dating from

1320 – described as the best example of a small medieval manor house in the country. The main features of the house span many centuries from a great hall through to the last owner’s library dressed from 1950s; there is an extensive and beautiful garden, children’s natural play area, and sign-posted walks on the estate. Mote Café outside the ticketed area, and Shop by the house.



Ightham Mote is in Ivy Hatch, near Sevenoaks, Kent. TN15 0NT 01732 810378 ext100

Further details at www.nationaltrust.org.uk/ighthammote

NEWS and NOTES

Kemsing Country/Scottish Dance Group—Sadly our group has finally closed after more than 60 years in existence. It was established in the early 1950s by Mr Brian Jolley, who was a teacher at the School, and classes were held in the old School building, which is now the Kemsing Surgery. Eventually Brian moved on, and it was taken over by Mrs Betty Waters. After many years at the School, our Club moved to The Dynes, entertaining the residents on Monday evenings. Upon Betty's death, Mrs Janet Edmonds took over the helm, and successfully carried on in Betty's footsteps.

Over the years there has been a slight change with the introduction of more Scottish dancing. However country dancing was not left out altogether. Most of our members have been dancing for many, many years but, finally, age has caught up with us and, due to lack of younger newcomers, we have had to call it a day, but we shall be eternally grateful for the many hours of fun and enjoyment we have experienced.

Rita Burfield

Designs for Christmas Cards—Remember that lovely cover of the December edition of *The Well*? It was also a Christmas card, sold by the St Mary's Church Fundraising Team. The Team is looking for designs for this year's Christmas cards. Submissions please by the end of July to the Parish Office, tel.01732 761351 or Debby on 01732 762033.

UK Power Networks—This is the company which owns and maintains the electricity lines and cables in London, the East and South-East of England (regardless of our chosen energy supplier who we pay our bills to) and it is their engineers who will work around the cost 24/7 to restore power in the event of a power cut. The elderly, those dependent on medical equipment, or who have a disability or young children, can register to receive extra support. Call 0800 169 9907 for information on how to get registered.

Can you cook a simple meal? Could you cook for a few more than usual? The Age Concern Lunch Club which meets in the small St. Edith Hall on most Wednesdays needs one more team. It only involves cooking every 5 weeks at **most**. **To find out more, please phone Lesley Harman on 01732 761680. YOUR VILLAGE'S OLDER PEOPLE NEED YOU!**



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ST MARY'S, KEMSING – PCC NEWS

Since our last edition, the good news has been that the faculty was granted for the two new loudspeakers for our sound system, and the installation was carried out on 25th January, together with the reinstatement of the loop induction, which enables those with hearing aids to link in. The second good news is that Sevenoaks District Council has granted planning permission for the erection of handrails either side of the steps leading to the Memorial Terrace, and it is hoped to get these done shortly.

The bad news is that we still have no planning approval for our Church Hall. Fresh plans were due to be submitted in the New Year, but we are in the hands of the Diocesan Agent and Architect who have been in further discussions with Sevenoaks District Council. The last time they had these sort of discussions before the planning application was submitted in December 2014, the outcome was still not what we had hoped and prayed for. One cannot help thinking that there is some sort of prejudice against the Church of England somewhere in the system.

It looks less and less likely that we shall get a new Vicarage, unless the Diocese decides to appeal against the refusal of the last planning application. Then it would be for the Planning Inspectorate at Bristol to decide. If the Vicarage is not allowed to go ahead, there will be a substantial shortfall in the fund for the new Church Hall, as the Diocese would have purchased the land from the PCC.

We are delighted that the number of families with children is increasing each year who come mainly to our 10.30am morning service. The Church was full at the last Combined Service with Woodlands on 31st January, which is held on the 5th Sunday (4 times a year) at 10.00am. Details of church services are displayed on the notice board by the lychgate in Church Lane and inside the Church Porch. Also, look at the Church's website for more details: www.kemsingwithwoodlands.org.

The Choir would like to hold a Sunday Evensong service at The Dynes once a month at 6.15pm, and this was agreed by the PCC for a trial period, provided it was welcomed by residents and staff.

There will be a Flower Festival this year in recognition of HM The Queen's 90th birthday from 10th to 12th June, so do look out for further details nearer the time.

*Rosemary Banister,
PCC Secretary.*

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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 website: www.kemsingpc.kentparishes.gov.uk

Normal Office Hours : Monday, Wednesday & Thursday (9 am to 2 pm)

Parish Councillor vacancy—The Parish Council welcomes Mrs Zoe Taylor who was co-opted at the Council meeting in November 2015.

Village Car Park—see centre pages for good news!

Village Tidiness Officer – Sadly Mr Fred Lomas resigned at the end of December as our village tidiness officer. The Parish Council takes this opportunity to thank Mr Lomas for his hard work and dedication over many years to help keep Kemsing litter free and to wish Mr Lomas and his family the very best for the future.

Kemsing Saturday afternoon Bus Service – Sevenoaks Town Council, in partnership with Kent County Council and local bus operator, are providing a new local bus service for Sevenoaks. The new No 8 service, fully funded for three years, started on 1st November 2015 and includes the Kemsing 452 Saturday route.

Kemsing War Memorial - Historic England was successful in applying to the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport to include the Kemsing War Memorial to the List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest. The building is now listed at Grade II.

Rubbish bags – Occasionally rubbish bags are being left out overnight before collection day. This sometimes attracts animals resulting in bags being damaged or torn open. Please remember that residents are responsible for clearing up if the contents of bags are scattered.

Parish Council meetings - Minutes and agenda are available on the Parish Council's website, notice board at St. Edith Hall, or Kemsing Library.

Dates of forthcoming Parish Council meetings -16 March 2016, 20 April 2016. Annual Parish meeting—see page 15.

Yolanda Tredoux, Parish Clerk



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KEMSING PARISH COUNCIL

Annual Parish Meeting

You are invited as an ELECTOR of KEMSING Parish to attend the Annual Parish Meeting on Wednesday, 23 March 2016, at 8 p.m. in the Main Hall, St. Edith Hall.

It would be helpful if you could let the Parish Clerk know if you have any specific questions or proposals in writing by 16 March 2016.

A G E N D A

1. **Chairman's welcome and introduction**
2. **Minutes**
To approve and sign the Minutes of the Meeting held on 25 March 2015
(available to view at Kemsing Library, notice board at St. Edith Hall, or on the Council's website)
3. **Matters arising from the Minutes**
4. **Reports from:**
Kemsing Primary School
West Kent Police
Sevenoaks District Council (District Councillors)
Kent County Council (County Councillor)
St. Edith Hall Management Committee
St. Edith Club
Kemsing Heritage Centre
Sir Mark Collet Pavilion
Kemsing WI
Downland Management Committee Chairman – Cllr Douglas Bennett
Finance Committee Chairman – Cllr Paul Eaton
Planning Committee Chairman – Cllr Bob Dawes
Recreation Grounds Committee Chairman – Cllr Philip Walker
5. **Questions from Electors**
6. **Consideration of any new matters raised by Electors**
7. **Closure of the meeting**

*Mrs Marie Cole,
Chairman of the Parish Council.*

PICTURED BELOW: The current members of the Parish Council. Front row shows the Car Park Committee L to R Paul Eaton, Tony Andrews, Marie Cole (Chair), Douglas Bennett & Godfrey Croughton. Back row: Philip Walker, Bob Dawes, Zoe Taylor, Yolanda Tredoux (Parish Clerk) Brian Buttifant, Paul Burfield, Margaret Robarts and Richard Lang.



After the Wheatsheaf Pub perished in a fire in June 2011, the land, including the car park, became available on the open market. The Parish Council was urged to secure the car park for the village and residents voiced their concerns at a special public meeting in January 2012. The Parish Council resolved to make an offer to purchase the land but unfortunately this was rejected. In October 2012 the Parish Council applied for the land to be included on the Sevenoaks District Council's Community Asset Register which was finally approved in July 2013.

ED FOR THE VILLAGE

In May 2014, negotiations for the possible purchase of the car park started with interested parties and for a second time, in June 2014, the Parish Council resolved to purchase the car park. The Car Park Working Group was appointed: Chairman Mrs. Marie Cole, Councillors Tony Andrews, Douglas Bennett, Godfrey Croughton and Paul Eaton. They worked tirelessly on behalf of the Parish Council, diligently attending many meetings and reading through countless paperwork for the past 18 months, which involved discussing and determining difficult legal complications. Finally, on the 20th January 2016, the Parish Council obtained the freehold of the land by using its own reserves (which had been saved over a number of years) and a loan from the Public Works Loan Board.

The Group's work is by no means complete and it continues with



the hand over arrangements from Sevenoaks District Council whose lease expires on 31st March 2016 when the maintenance and upkeep of the car park and public conveniences become the full responsibility of the Parish Council.

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COMMUNITY CHOIR

Community Choir Rehearsals start on Tuesday, 29th March, at 7.00pm in the School Hall, and every following Tuesday for a

CONCERT IN ST MARY'S CHURCH

ON 6th MAY 2016 AT 6.30pm

Contact Ray Parton on tel.01732 764132 if you would like more details about joining the Choir.

NORTH DOWNS CHALLENGE WALKS

The closing date for entry to the North Downs Challenge Walks is 22nd April. Please contact Pauline Mallinson on 01959 524725 or NDCWChurch@gmail.com for an application form. The walks take place on Saturday May 14th.

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KEMSING REMEMBERS WORLD WAR ONE

20 young men from our village died during World War One. Considering that the population of Kemsing at this time was only about 600, this was a tremendous sacrifice and affected almost every family in the Village. Most of these young men were part of large village families and educated at Kemsing School. Although some of them had left England to make a new life in other parts of the World, they returned to England when Britain put out the call for them to join up.

It seemed only right that we should honour these young men on the 100th anniversary of their deaths. Few of them, if any, have families still living in the area, so it's up to us to remember them. The first of these occasions took place on an extremely wet and windy January day when we remembered Reg Dimon, who died aged 19 in France on 26th January. I am glad to say that 23 other people from Kemsing took the time to come to the War Memorial, and the St Mary's bell ringers ran a quarter peal on the bells to mark the event.

The next to be remembered will be Jack Vaughan (see photograph) who died aged 20 in France on 9th March 1916. If you can, please do come and join us at the War Memorial at 2 pm on Wednesday 9th March to hear a little about his life. The next event will be on Monday June 6th when we will remember Arthur Slade, one of the young men who left Kemsing for Canada, but returned when his country called. Again the event will be at 2pm at the War Memorial. The final event for 2016 will be on 13th July when we will remember Thomas Holmden. There will then be a break until 10th February 2017.

For more details about these young men and the other men and one woman who died during World Wars One and Two, please see my book 'Lest We Forget' available from the Heritage Centre. *Janet Eaton*



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NEWS FROM COTMANS ASH—March Winds and April Showers Bring forth May and all her Flowers

I wonder if the old poet was writing as a prophet with his Spring prediction – is it not the gale winds of March that bring flocks of migrating birds, some to journey from as far as the African continent, across the Channel to landfall on the English Coast from Dungeness to Portland Bill and beyond. The story of migration is still to be told; as yet no one has the answer to how they find their way through the ancient highways of the sky.

Many birds, I am sure migrate westward along the ridge of the North Downs - I have seen flocks of finches and many unknowns passing through Cotmans Ash and at night great skeins of geese (or are they swans) cross the face of the moon, One exhausted guest who turned up after dark stayed a week! An "Archangel" pigeon who was very vain gobbled gooped at himself in the bird water, preened every feather every day and fell out with the local pigeons - now archangel is in Russia – the journey to Kemsing must be a thousand miles, much of it over oceans – he took his leave of us and headed to the west.

Another visiting stranger came up to us in a shoebox in the hands of a child. "The cat caught him" came the story, the strangest bird I'd ever seen with neck feather resembling a snake skin – she looked at me through her tiny frightened eye, but she was beyond help and died in my hand leaving me with a puzzle – what was a wryneck doing in Orchard Way?

For me the bird that is the heart of Springtime in England is the cuckoo – when he calls in April I know that Spring is here and long hot days of Summer are ahead. In years past (over 40) I used to take my children to 'The Dial' at the top of Heavens Lane to listen to the nightingale as well as the blackcap, willow warbler, meadow pipit and whitethroat – sad to say you would hear nothing of those spring minstrels today, they all prefer deep undergrowth which through modern conservation practices of clearance and coppicing has robbed them of their natural habitat.

Plans are in hand to dedicate the North Bank of St. Mary's north churchyard into a wild flower area, meaning it would be a set-aside, overplanted with cowslips, poppies, foxgloves etc. There are already the snowdrops and winter aconites that have been creeping under the fence for generations from Cleves, so there's a good start.

I am sure the resident grasses will continue to grow, so we may have to put up with it being a little unkempt for a couple of years. We will do our best to involve the young people of the village in the gathering and re-sowing of the wild seed. It is an interesting project and we will be doing our bit for the birds and bees in the Parish!

Brian Doe

KEMSING PRIMARY SCHOOL REPORT

Everyone at Kemsing Primary is looking forward to welcoming spring. Science week is set to be a learning adventure - we will have Astro Dome (a mobile Planetarium) visiting the school and Eagle Heights will be bringing birds of prey to talk about their lives and conservation. All classes will be doing a quiz on British scientists and will be getting involved in doing lots of experiments.



Class 3 are heading off to the British Museum to find out about life in Ancient Egypt. They will be looking at the animals and humans that have been mummified and finding out all about the mummification process! Class 5 will be performing a Victorian dance and a jive in the Love 2 Dance show at the Stag Theatre along with other local primary and secondary schools. In March, Class 4 will be going to Bore Place. They will spend the day brick making, learning how our ancestors made wattle and daub walls and will spend some time on the farm. Class 2 are being visited by a medieval history group in March for a special medieval day. They will get to try on chainmail and learn to churn butter.

Exciting changes are afoot at Kemsing Primary. Congratulations to Toby and Naomi who have been named as our Head Boy and Head Girl, and to Joe and Aimee J who will be the deputies. We know that they will be fantastic ambassadors for our school. We are also introducing a house system, with each child belonging to one of four houses – Ash, Elm, Oak and Beech. Easter is approaching fast and we will be celebrating with our Easter Service in St. Mary's Church on Wednesday 23rd March. Our cake decorating competition will take place just before the Easter holiday, with each class competing for first prize with their own Easter-themed cakes. Last year's entries could have rivalled the best efforts on The Great British Bake Off, so we are very excited to see what the children will produce this time!

Jenny Simpson

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OUR PARISH ADMINISTRATORS

Margaret Robarts—Margaret is retiring at the end of March 2016 from her role as Parish Administrator for the Parish of St. Mary's Kemsing, a role which she has held for the past 10 years. During this time she worked for Nigel Ashworth our former Vicar, a challenging year during the interregnum and 6 years for the current Priest in Charge, James Oakley. For the past 2 years, since the Church Hall was



destroyed by fire, she has had to cope with the many challenges that this brought – losing all the Parish records, and everything from her computer to her favourite coffee cup! She has risen to all these challenges with aplomb and has carried out all her duties with her usual attention to detail. Margaret is one of the few people living in Kemsing who was born here. Consequently she has a great and deep local knowledge which has helped many people out on so many occasions. In spite of her retirement from this role, we shall still be seeing plenty of

her in the village as she remains a Parish Councillor, Trustee of the Heritage Centre, Treasurer of the WI and friend to many.

Anita Connelly will be taking over from Margaret with effect from 28th March, and says she is looking forward to working within our Church community. She has lived in the village for nearly 20 years, and recently retired from a nearly full-time job in London, and had been looking for a part-time job which will give her more involvement in the village. Anita's daughter goes to Kemsing Primary School, and Anita is the current PTA Secretary. She also helps John Gadd with Wednesday Club at the School. Anita will usually be in the Parish Office on 4 mornings a week, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday.



The Well is printed by
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FAMILY MILESTONES

Deaths—Rest in Peace

Philip BAKER (78) on 27th October 2015

Paul DOWNS (71) on 15th November 2015

James MOYLE (47) on 21st November 2015

Ione CRUIKSHANK-MARSON (86) on 9th December 2015

Lorna HEAD (95) on 21st December 2015

Muriel SMOLNIK (81) on 31st December 2015

Robin WICKENDEN (72) on 29th January 2016

From "The Well" Spring 1966

At the Annual Vestry and Church Meeting Tom Dew and Doug Woodcock were re-elected churchwardens. Amongst those elected to the PCC was Mr Ron Bangay. Mr Robin Long was an ex-officio member as a Lay Reader.

Mrs Hurren retired from her caretaking duties at the St. Edith Hall after 24 years of service.

The Football Club were having a good season and team spirit was high. The players were looking forward to a new Pavilion with better facilities, and the excellent form of the reserves could prove a spur to cup and championship hopes next year.

Philip Burrows contributed an enthusiastic article about Beagling.

The Annual Parish Meeting was to take place on 16 March. There were elections for councillors in May and there was an explanation of the powers of Parish Councils and who can elect councillors.

From "The Well" Spring 1991

Dave Wellman was going to be at the Mount Everest Base Camp as part of his efforts to raise money for Hospice in the Weald.

The Bell Tower in Kemsing Church was the subject of an article by Vic Bowden, who thought it may have been added in the 13th Century.

The Headmaster wrote about St Michael's School where clearance work to restore the School to how it looked in the early 1900s was taking place.

The Church Choir were to give a performance of Stanier's "Crucifixion" and the Choirmaster (Mark Wandless) also announced the arrival of a new organist:

Mr David Leeke

Crest Homes were developing the Fairfield Nursery site on behalf of the Moat Housing Society. 54 houses and bungalows were envisaged some for shared ownership and some to be owned by Sevenoaks District Council.

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

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LE FEVRE LANDSCAPES

Garden and drive construction

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1st KEMSING BROWNIES



1st Kemsing Brownies have been taking part in a GirlGuiding project called ‘Growing Up Wild’ which encourages girls to get outdoors. Last term as part of the ‘autumn’ badge the girls explored the woods while playing leaf-bingo and had a walk on the hills which

included climbing trees and spotting bats. For those of you who enjoy Enid Blyton, we even found a Faraway Tree complete with rope swing – great fun!

TREES TO WEST OF THE COMMON FIELD

Some eighteen months ago, Kemsing Parish Council was advised by a trees expert that the trees in the spinney alongside Church Lane on the western edge of the Common Field were becoming unsafe. Sevenoaks District Council’s Trees Officer confirmed this opinion, and so the Parish Council had to apply to the Forestry Commission for a licence to fell the area. The work was carried out early this year, before the bird-nesting season. This means that the adjoining Play Area will be safe in future from loose branches and trees which may have fallen in heavy winds.

One interesting result from the clearance has been the opening up of the view from Church Lane to Green Hill. The photograph was taken during the work by Andrew Doe and his team.



Village Diary

March

- 9th W.I. St. Edith small hall 7.45 Talk by D. Farrow '*Beekeeping- the wife's tale*'
11th Wildlife Group meeting St. Edith small hall 7.30 talk '*Environmental changes in the Arctic*' by Glen Morris £2.
12th Scouts Jumble sale St Edith hall items from 9.30 sale starts 1.30 £1.00
18th Heritage Centre talk '*Chaucer's Canterbury Tales*' by G.Doel St. Edith hall 7.30 Members free, non members £2.50.
23rd Annual Parish Council meeting St. Edith large hall 8.00 pm all residents welcome.
25th For Good Friday Church services see page 3
27th For Easter Day Church services see page 3
28th Community Choir rehearsals start at Kemsing School at 7pm. Everyone welcome.

April

- 8th Wildlife Group meeting St. Edith small hall 7.30
12th Kemsing Gardeners St. Edith small hall 8pm talk '*Four days on a Nursery*' By J. Aviolet
13th WI Celebrating 100 years of the WI in Kemsing. Afternoon tea with extras! **please note 2.30 is a different start time from usual** St. Edith small hall
9th Heritage Centre visit to Chatham Dockyard
9th Kemsing Gardener's Society Spring Show 2.30 the school hall
28th **Annual Vestry & Parochial Church Meetings 7.45pm St Edith Hall**
29th Heritage Centre talk '*Cobham an Armchair Guide*' by C. Bull St. Edith hall 7.30 members free non members £2.50.

May

- 2nd Heritage Centre open every Monday 2.00—4.30
6th Kemsing Community Choir Concert in St. Mary's Church.
7th Heritage Centre open first Saturday in the month 10.00—12.00
10th Kemsing Gardeners visit to a local garden.
11th WI Annual Meeting & Resolutions plus talk on Wey and Arun Navigation with Kevin Crawley.St. Edith small hall 7.45pm.
13th Wildlife Group meeting St. Edith small hall 7.30
14th North Downs Challenge Walks.
21st Heritage Centre visit to Wey and Arun Canal Trip
27th Heritage Centre talk '*Tonbridge Growth of a Market Town*' by P. Mortlock St. Edith small hall 7.30 members free non members £2.50.

June

- 4th Heritage Centre open first Saturday in the month 10.00-12.00
4th Kemsing Singers Concert '*Saints & Sinners*' St. Edith hall 7.30 tickets from 01959 523752,9 Cleves Rd. Adults £8. Friends of the choir £6 children £4
6th Heritage Centre open every Monday 2.00-4.30
8th WI St. Edith small hall 7.45 talk '*How women remained healthy & beautiful In WW2*' by A. Astin
25th Kemsing Village Fete at Kemsing School

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