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Editorial Team:- Doreen Farrow, Janet Eaton & Rosemary Banister
Advertisement Editor—John Farrow
We reserve the right to edit [i.e. cut, précis, alter, correct grammar or
spelling] any item published, and our decision is final.

Cover photograph by Janet Eaton

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Please submit any items or articles for the next issue of The Well before then.

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Parochial Church Council of St Mary’s Church, Kemsing and St Mary’s Church,
Woodlands, to encourage and stimulate the life of the community. The views
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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

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Easter Services at Kemsing & Woodlands

Celebrate with us this Easter!

Friday 19th April (Good Friday)
9.30 am   All-age worship in Kemsing Church
10.30 am   Open-air service on Green Hill followed by
            Hot Cross Buns in Kemsing Church
12.15 and 2pm   Quiet, Reflective Services

At the cross

Sunday 21st April (Easter Day)
8.00 am   Traditional Communion in Kemsing
10.00 am   All-age Communion in Kemsing
11.00 am   Communion at Woodlands
Dear Friends

As I continue planning my 3-month sabbatical I’ve had some interesting conversations. Some people can relate to this, coming from professions such as medicine or education where they meet this; others find it harder to relate to. The word “sabbatical” comes from the Hebrew word “shabat”, meaning to rest.

The opening chapter of Genesis describes God making the world. (Genesis does not contradict modern science. Science asks how the world came into being; Genesis asks who made it and why) God created for 6 days, and then rested on the seventh. He stopped working, and delighted in all he’d made.

God calls us to enter into his rhythm of work and rest. The ancient Israelites were told to rest from their work every seventh day. Many languages, from Arabic to Kiswahili, get their word for “seven” from the root “shabat”.

Rest is so much more than inactivity, more than a pause from work to recharge ready for the next piece of work. God calls us to rest to remind us that, even when work is enjoyable, it is not what we were not made for, we were made to enjoy, to delight, to celebrate the good things of life, and supremely God himself.

Sadly, because of our selfishness, the world is broken and work is often painful. When we rest from our work, God writes into us a longing for the long-term plan for his people: a day when work and all of life will be without pain. The problem is, a rhythm of work and rest can help maintain perspective, and can nurture a longing for life as it’s meant to be, but it cannot actually take away toil. We remain restless. So when Jesus came, one of his invitations was a call to come and follow him, so he can give us rest.

Then as the Bible looks forward to the ultimate destination for the Christian, to heaven, it’s described as an invitation to enter into God’s rest, to be forever with the God who is at rest, resting ourselves – not bored with inactivity, but engaged in fruitful work as we celebrate and enjoy God’s goodness and his good gifts.

Sabbatical is an opportunity to rest, to reconnect with God, to rediscover what it is to be a human made to worship him, to find again the priorities he gives for life. All of this is to anticipate heaven itself.

This is not something you can only find in a profession that gives extended leave. Jesus invites us all to follow him, letting him reshape our lives so they are the right way up. With every blessing. Your friend and vicar,

James Oakley
PARISH CHURCHES OF KEMSING & WOODLANDS
www.kemsingwithwoodlands.org

Vicar          Rev. James Oakley    01732 762556
Wardens        Ray Parton          01732 764132
               Trevor Mallinson     01959 524725
Parish Office  Anita Connelly     01732 761351
Readers        Mary Quenby        01959 522079
               Philip Walker       01732 761646
               Ruth Mason          01959 524486

The Parish Office is temporarily in the St Edith Club, and will usually be open on four mornings a week, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, 9.15 to 12.15pm. Answerphone at other times is 01732 761351. Ring first to make sure Anita, our Parish Administrator, is there. The Parish Administrator’s email address is: administrator@kemsingwithwoodlands.org

Apart from 5th Sunday, the pattern of services at Kemsing 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 Evensong.

10th March 6pm for 6.30pm start
Annual Memorial Service remembering loved ones.

The service pattern on the 5th Sunday will be:
08.00 BCP Matins
10.00 Combined service with Woodlands at Kemsing
18.30 Evensong

SERVICES at St. Mary’s Woodlands (see also page 3)
1st Sunday  4.30 All Age Service
2nd Sunday  11.00 Informal Communion
3rd Sunday  11.00 Morning Praise
4th Sunday  11.00 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.
The Evening service is followed by a light meal.

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Please support our advertisers and mention this publication
Les Green who died suddenly on 21 January, was a member of the Kemsing Gardeners’ Society from about 1960 and one of the first Committee Members serving with Sam Smart, founder of the KGS.

He became Membership Secretary with the help of Heather, his wife, in 1989 and became Show Secretary in 2001.

He was a dedicated and conscientious Committee member, always prepared to help and never complained. He enjoyed organizing the Shows and spent time and effort making them enjoyable and varied. Les also helped with the upkeep of the The Well and Horse trough. He was well known and liked in the community and will be greatly missed.
Advertising Rates for the next 3 issues in 2019

This 1/8 page £65
1/4 page £95
1/2 page £150
Full page £225

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Church Hall Walk Saturday, 18th May

There will be a self-led walk on 18th May to raise money to help rebuild the Kemsing Church Hall. Choose one of three routes (c.5, 11 or 15 miles long) starting from Kemsing Church and finishing at The St Edith Hall, via checkpoints where refreshments will be available. Entry fee: adults £12, under 18s, £6. Entry forms from P. Mallinson or the back of the Church. Entry closing date is 20th April, or when the maximum number of 250 is reached.

Helping Hand in 2018

As most people will know, this group of volunteer drivers helps the elderly, disabled or otherwise disadvantaged, to get to medical appointments in Sevenoaks District and West Kent. 2018 was a record year as the number of drives passed 300 for the first time ever, and finally reached 325—an astonishing 22% increase over 2017. Our service seems to be getting better known in the village. Many thanks to the stalwart drivers: Sheila Creates, Chris Gray, Malcolm and Sue Macfarlane, Gil McIntyre, Robert Pierson, Margaret Robarts, Geoffrey Taunton, Alan Waters, Jenny Williamson, and to the two new boys who joined us last April—Dave Bellingham and David Round. As usual I make a plea for more drivers to cope with the growing demand. There is absolutely no regular commitment, and drivers do as much or as little as they feel able. Anyone interested in helping us, please 01959 522490 or email: applewood122@gmail.com.

Are you a keen photographer? Would you like to see one of your photos in The Well? We would love to see more photos of Kemsing in the magazine. Please email them to welleditors@gmail.com. We cannot offer any payment, but we will acknowledge your contribution, with thanks.

Otford Medical Practice have recently welcomed two new members of staff. Dr Varma recently joined the practice. He has an interest in skin cancers and performs carpal tunnel surgery. He also holds a community surgery at Kemsing. Mark Murphy with 10 years experience as a paramedic with the London Ambulance Service has also joined them. The former Practice Manager Wendy Anag who has retired, will be sorely missed.

Kemsing Singers and the Sevenoaks & Tonbridge Concert Band are joining forces on Saturday 9th March at The Space at Sevenoaks School, TN13 1HU to present a lively concert of popular music in aid of The Silas Pullen Fund. Items included are from Chess, Phantom of the Opera and Verdi choruses. Adult tickets £8.0 & £1. for under 18s from https://boxoffice.sevenoaksschool.org 01732 467765.

Kemsing Singers Spring Concert ‘Bouquet Garni’ at 7.30 on 11th May in St. Edith hall. Tickets £8. from 01959 523752 for the Kemsing concert only
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WOODLANDS NEWS

Hall Hire
Please remember that our newly refurbished Hall is available for hire. Contact Ruth Chatwin, tel: 01959 522311 for details.

The Lunch Club
Meets every Thursday, details from Anne Shelley, tel: 01959 522986.

**********

Woodlands Cafe, Woodlands Church Hall, Tinkerpot Lane, TN15 6AA

The Woodlands Cafe will be open on the first Saturday of each month once again, 11.30am to 3.00pm. Please do pop in for delicious home-made meals, cakes and snacks.

More helpers are always needed if you have time to spare. Thank you. Tel: 01959 522232.

Please come and visit us, you will be most welcome.

For monthly service times at Woodlands, see page 5
Easter Services, see page 3
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ANNUAL PARISH MEETING NOTICE

You are invited as an ELECTOR of KEMSING PARISH to attend the Annual Parish Meeting on

Wednesday, 3rd April at 7.30pm in The St Edith Hall

It would be helpful if you could let the Parish Clerk know if you have any specific questions or proposals.

Please submit these in writing by 27th March 2019

The business to be transacted at the meeting will be as follows:-

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 28th March 2018 (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
   Sevenoaks District Council (District Councillors)
   Kent County Council (County Councillor)
   Police Community Support Officer
5. Questions from Electors
6. Consideration of any new matters raised by Electors
7. Closure of meeting

Mrs M.R. Cole, Chairman of the Parish Council

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Tucked down in a sheltered hedge or wood pile, our hedgehogs are slumbering the winter away, but soon warmer days will tempt them out for a bite to eat. Talk to people in Kemsing and some will say that they have seen one. Hedgehogs can roam a mile each night in search of food. We can encourage them—by providing ‘hedgehog highways’ through gardens, where they are safer than on roads.

If you have a pond, a piece of wood or a stone acting as a ladder can avoid hedgehogs drowning when they come to drink. They love cat or dog food, (NOT milk) and a saucer of fresh water, which can be placed under an upturned bowl or similar, with a small opening.

Leave a corner of the garden a little wild for them, but be sure to tidy away netting and anything they could tangle in, and always check before strimming or digging in the area. It’s definitely ‘no’ to scatter slug pellets which can poison them.

A thick hedge or undisturbed logs, provide a hiding place during the day and a home for their prey but if its a bonfire pile, that could be lethal. So always check underneath and light from one side.

These prickly characters are becoming rarer but if you want to help them—became a Hedgehog Champion. Register with Hedgehog Street, where you will find lots of facts and can record your sightings on a BIG hedgehop Map on www.hedgehogstreet.org. Ring Folly Wildlife Rescue Centre 01892 543213 to report a day time sighting or an injured hedgehog www.follywildliferescue.org.uk. Kemsing Wildlife Society are interested to hear of local sightings please email c@copleston.plus.com and say where and when seen. Simple steps like these will help make these fascinating mammals, around in Britain since pre-historic times, safe for the future.

Caroline Copleston
Secret Squirrels spotted in Kemsing

Secret Squirrels can now be regularly spotted in Kemsing riding their bikes! Kemsing Primary School recently started offering its pupils the opportunity to hone their biking skills after school in safe traffic-free environments.

The Secret Squirrel Bike Club was set up by Kemsing resident Claire Hitchings: “Cycling for me plays a big part in my life. It’s shaped who I am and I’ve been lucky enough to represent the Great Britain age group team in triathlon and duathlon. I wanted to provide the opportunity to local children to learn good bike skills from a qualified coach. Seeing the comradery of the kids riding with each other is really satisfying and there’s so many life skills you can learn through sport. Coaching my own kids and their friends adds an extra sentimental value. I am super keen to see more kids on bikes, riding safely and responsibly.”

There are two after-school sessions each week, for girls and boys aged 6 to 12. The emphasis is on having fun, learning, improving and building confidence. Skills include the ready position, braking, mounting and dismounting the bike, gears, cornering, balance and coordination, climbing, descending and group riding.
The older children have played a role in educating the whole school about bike and scooter safety. They ran a school assembly, which had two key messages:

**Wear a helmet that fits you.** Often you see children wearing helmets that actually would do very little to protect them in a crash. The helmets are either too big or small or the straps are too loose. The graphic below explains how to fit a helmet.

Two fingers above your eyebrows to the bottom of your helmet  
Two fingers to make a V shape around the bottom of your ears  
Two fingers under the strap beneath your chin

**Ensure your bike/scooter has handlebar grips covering the ends and these are not damaged.** Without a simple handlebar-end plug, the open metal tube can impale you in an accident; basically, taking a core sample of the body just like an apple-corer. It’s extremely dangerous to the rider and those around them and there was a recent horrific case of an exposed handlebar killing a 6-year-old boy in a bike crash.

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Elections:

The next scheduled local elections will take place on Thursday, 2

Kemsing residents elect their local democratic body of thirteen Councillors for a term of four years. Parish Councillors are the voice of our community by representing the objectives and concerns of the residents they serve. Every important decision made on is by majority of vote after debate at Council and Committee meetings.

Parish Councillors generally say their duties occupy them for about three hours a week, but some spend more time than this – and some less. The three main areas of work involve decision making, monitoring, and getting involved locally. The formal part of the role is to attend Parish Council and Committee meetings. The less formal part is listening and talking to people, including the local elected members of the District and County Councils.

Please contact me if you would like to find out more information.

Public Byway SR74 (Chalky Way)– Notice:

The public byway is located on the North side of the junction with Pilgrims Way and Childsbridge Lane, Kemsing (which leads to the Kemsing Downs Nature Reserve).

Vehicles are regularly being parked along this byway, and in particular in front of the field gate leading to the Reserve. The Parish Council would like to remind residents that this is a restricted byway with no vehicular access allowed and there is a sign displaying the restriction at the access point just off Pilgrims Way. The only exception is for the adjoining land owner/s and their contractors to carry out maintenance works to their properties.

Yolanda Tredoux  Parish Clerk
Please support our advertisers and mention this publication.
Revision of the Church Electoral Roll 2019
Every 6 years the Church Electoral Roll is revised (not to be confused with the local authority Electoral Roll) and this means that those people who have already been on it, and wish to continue, need to complete an Application for Enrolment form. You should have received one with a covering note from me by the time you read this. Anyone who has not been on the Roll before, but attends church services regularly and lives in the parish, may apply to enrol, and spare forms will be left at the back of the church, or can be obtained from me. Completed forms must be returned to me by 31st March. The new Roll will be displayed in the Church from 7th April for 14 days.

Church Hall Report
We have met with our Architect who is finalising the tender process in order to go to several building firms for their price on building in stages. We will need to continue fundraising in order to complete the building. Tenders should be received by mid-April, and building will be started by July. We are continuing to apply for grants, but will need to receive donations, so please support our new Hall by going to: www.kmwd.org/hall, or: www.kmwd.org/justgiving. Alternatively, cheques can be sent to me at the above address, made payable to: St Mary’s, Kemsing PCC.

Parish Office
Our temporary Parish Office has been located in The St Edith Club’s Committee Room, for which we have been extremely grateful. None of us could foresee though that it would be 5 years since the old hall was destroyed by fire before we could start building the new one. The Club understandably would like their Committee Room refurbished now, and so we need to find another temporary room before the autumn, which could be used by our Parish Administrator, Anita Connelly. If anyone has a spare room in the village which might be suitable, do please contact me.

Annual Vestry & Parochial Church Meetings
The date has been changed from the provisional date mentioned at last year’s annual meetings. The two meetings will now be held on Thursday, 25th April 2019, beginning at 7.45pm in the Church. Please remember that only those on the revised Electoral Roll will be eligible to vote on any matters discussed at the meeting.

Rosemary Banister, PCC Secretary.
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March by tradition is a noisy month caused mainly by March winds – it is also the gateway to spring leading on to summer. In Kemsing we have high rise downland to the north with acres of open scarp covered by wild flowers and grasses – to the south we have a wooded gully of mixed woodland, mainly centred around Noah’s Ark and a tiny waterway ‘Guzzle Brook’ that winds its way eventually into the Darenth at Otford.

Cockney Wood with massive ancient oaks and hornbeams, English crab, apple, beech and hawthorn – all grow together to form a canopy protecting a ‘jewel box’ of wild woodland flowers including four different species of wild orchid.

Sparrowhawk and Kestrel, Buzzard and song birds beyond number share the wood, but even here amongst so much natural beauty there is worry and anxiety from the threat of building and development on a massive scale. If granted, Kemsing is no longer a Downland village, but a London satellite!

Following the same gully to the south of Castle Drive a belt of very precious mixed woodland that separates Castle Drive from the motorway. It is a haven for nesting birds including the very rare grasshopper warbler and a flock of waxwings – it is the only place in the village I have seen hedgehogs – slow worms are common as are great spotted and green woodpeckers. In recent years I have seen parakeets that no one really wants.

The tree belt continues to ‘Oxenhill Shaw’ where ancient trees grow – I believe they are protected by order. Oxenhill meadows are home to all manner of wild flowers including hundreds of Pyramid Orchids.

Nightingale Road sets me a riddle – Did Nightingales ever sing in Nightingale Road, or was it the ‘Lady with the lamp’ we are talking about?

It would be a painful blow to Heaverham and the village if ever the proposed development around Kemsing Station were to go ahead for isn’t it a bird watchers paradise? Standing in Honeypot Lane recently watching that little ribbon of running water that is Guzzle Brook, a pair of white egrets came to fish in the clear water. Another rare resident there is the true ‘English crayfish’ – other residents there are a pair of tawny owls that nest in the Ash trees. Heaverham has got a fight on its hands attempting to prevent this monstrous development in such a sensitive area of Kemsing Village.

I have often thought that ‘Nearly Corner’ is the spirit of Old Kemsing with its ragstone cottages – hop oast graneries, cattle yard and wayside pub – not hard to imagine the thriving hop gardens that spread down to Crowdleham and the Malt House.

Brian Doe

Brian Doe
The Kemsing Players spring production is an “edge of the seat” thriller written by English playwright, Frederick Knott. The play premiered in 1952 on BBC television, before being performed on stage later the same year, both in London's West End in June and on New York’s Broadway in October.

It is most famous, however, as a mystery crime thriller directed in 1954 by Alfred Hitchcock starring Ray Milland and Grace Kelly. Considered one of Hitchcock’s most classic films, this stage production will get your adrenaline flowing as the suspense and drama continue to build throughout the play. Make a date in your diary now as you won’t want to miss it!

The performances are on Thursday 2\textsuperscript{nd}, Friday 3\textsuperscript{rd} and Saturday 4\textsuperscript{th} May 2019 at 8pm in St Edith Hall in Kemsing.

Doors and bar will open at 7.30pm. Tickets are £10 (concessions £8 for the Thursday performance only) and will be on sale from Monday 8\textsuperscript{th} April at Dynes Road Dry Cleaners, by phone on 07811 465061 or via e-mail at kemsing.players@live.co.uk
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Tel: 01732 761581 🔗 Kemsing Italian Deli
What a busy Spring term it has been – Christmas and the short days of January seem a distant memory now as the welcome Spring sunshine peers into our classrooms again. During two Staff Training Days at the beginning of January, staff met to use some initial ideas from the children to distil and refine a new set of values for Kemsing—values defined as being the qualities that we really value in a person. We wanted to end up with words that the children would truly understand the meaning of and be able to exemplify daily in their actions and conversations. We settled on six words—kindness, trust, determination, creativity, positivity and teamwork. The school council will soon announce some competitions that will further explore these values, how we might show them and how we might symbolise them around school, for daily reference.

We can think of no person who better exemplifies these values than our caretaker, Mr Abbott! Not only was he up at 4am to begin clearing school pathways at 5am to ensure that school could open safely during the recent wintery weather, but he has also just been awarded a medal for 15 years of service for the School Crossing Patrol. Here are some facts that we worked out and shared with the children in assembly: 160 people per day; 190 days of the year; over a 15 year period; 456,000 people guided safely across West End; 150,000 journeys from the pavement to the centre of the road; 900km travelled—the distance from Kemsing to Inverness! As Mr Abbott quipped, no wonder his feet ache! Well done Mr Abbott for your exemplary service. We are very lucky to have you.

In addition to the football and netball teams continuing to represent Kemsing in local schools leagues, Kemsing children have taken part in a January speed cup stacking event at Knole Academy for the first time. Our 12 children had practised with great dedication over the weeks leading up to this event and they did a super job representing Kemsing.

Another new event for our children in January was the Alternative Sports festival, where pupils could try out parcourt, karate, boxing and fencing. Congratulations go to Y6 who have been appointed and elected to various roles of responsibility. To Louie, Evie, Jasper and Polly—well done for your head and deputy roles and to Luke P, Jess, Luke T, Bridie, Ed, Layla, Kaylum and Megan—well done on your house captain roles! We are confident that you will serve the school community in an exemplary manner for the rest of this academic year.

Andrew Kilbride, Headteacher
Groups  We have had 3 age groups: Explorers- Reception to year 2, Adventurers- Year 3-5 and Pioneers Year 6+. But we will split into 4 groups for the summer term to see how it goes. The new groups will be: Explorers-Reception to year 1, Adventurers Year 2-4, New Group (name to be confirmed)- Year 5-Year 6 and Pioneers Year 7+. We have approximately 30 children on our records with an average of 12-15 children each week. We are trying to encourage each age group to participate in the all-age services through sharing what they have been learning about, as well as doing the Bible reading and prayers.

Wednesday Club (aged 7-11) now has around 10 children regularly attending. The leadership has changed slightly with Tim King leaving. We have had a few different people step in week by week to allow the club to continue, and now we have 2 regular helpers from Oak Hall: Elsie and Rio who have joined the team with Deb, Ali and Ben. We have covered topics including what it looks like to be on the Christian journey- learning about the importance of the Bible and looking at our future destination of heaven. We have also looked at ‘people of history’ focusing on some of the key Old Testament figures that inspire us to live for God through the good and the bad. Now we are looking at The Lord’s Prayer. A mixture of games, crafts, stories, drink and biscuits and creative prayer, this club continues to be a place where children are welcomed wherever they’re at in their relationship with God and we explore what God has to say to us. We recently went on a trip to Hope Church where Doug Horley did some science experiments and singing to bring God’s message alive once again. The children really enjoyed this.

After the Easter Holiday our numbers could easily double as Year 2s move up to Wednesday Club. We pray that this will be the case and that as more children come, the dynamics of Wednesday Club can adapt well and that it continues to be a place of fun, belonging and learning all about Jesus.

T7(aged 11-16) now has around 8 regular young people attending. This group is consistent in their attendance and the environment is a great place for them to explore their questions on faith and learn more about the God that has created them. We have recently covered a young people’s version of ‘Christianity Explored’ and we have 5 maybe 7 who would like to be confirmed. The course was aimed at helping the young people to explore the foundations of Christianity in a way that helps them to decide if Christianity is something that they believe for themselves. From this some of them have decided that they would like to make that public declaration for themselves through confirmation. This is very exciting as young people from both Kemsing and Woodlands Church are ready to take this step in faith. We pray that as they do, we can support them well as their Church family and for those not ready to make this commitment, that they will continue to find T7 a place where they can keep exploring faith.

Deb Goodhead, Youth Worker
FAMILY MILESTONES

Baptism
India Rose GILMOUR —10th February 2019

Deaths— Rest in Peace
Margaret FERRY (96) on 26th December
William NEIL (93) on 13th January 2019
Ruth LARDNER (83)
Les GREEN (84) on 21st January

John HYDE (90) on 16th December
Audrey NYE (82) in 20th December

From “The Well” Easter 1969
The Editor (Vic Bowden) wrote an article on Sir Mark Edlmann Collet (1864-1944)—a great benefactor of Kemsing (he helped move St Clere from Ightham into Kemsing parish). Amongst his memorials are the School’s playing field, the crinkle-crankle wall in the Churchyard, and the present vicarage which he presented to the Rochester Diocese (the first occupant was the Reverend R V Bristow).

John Rahe-Hughes ((the then Vicar) wrote a tribute to Douglas and Mary Woodcock who had moved to Dorset.

Sid Payne (who recorded the current record of the Annual Vestry Meeting) referred to the 1859 minutes in the Vestry Book (sadly lost in the Church Hall fire) and noted that they were much shorter!. The Vestry Book also mentioned the Royal Jubilee celebrations of 21 June 1885 when after the distribution of 8lbs of beef to each parishioner, and a service in the Church, there was cricket in “Mr Stonham’s meadow” (Dynes Farm).

From “The Well” Easter 1994
Tributes were paid to those who had recently died including Mrs Margaret Norman, Ray Side, and Philip Scrivens.

Letters came from Kemsing people serving around the world: Margaret Foss in Liberia, Jeremy and Geisa in Brazil and Tim Fowler in Malawi.

The Oak Hall team had recently been to Yugoslavia with Christmas gifts for local children that had been much appreciated in that war-torn country.

The Craft Group were seeking helpers for a new carpet under the tower of the Church. The carpet had been designed by Diana Springall and Margaret Goulding needed 120 squares to complete it.
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2nd Kemsing Guide Unit meets on a Friday evening in Kemsing School hall. Guides is open to any girl aged between 10 and 14 years, working together in small groups with the support of a team of leaders. We have been excited this term in Kemsing to try out some activities from the new UK Girl Guiding Programme. We've been focussing on 'Living Well' and have had a session of Tae Kwando, inventing and cooking a healthy meal (some interesting combinations!) and are wrapping up the term with a mocktail party.

After Easter we may look at some of the 'Be adventurous' activities as we prepare to join with around 100 other guides from all over Kent at the 'Safari' county camp at Blacklands Farm. We'll be sleeping in tents, cooking over open fires, having a drum session as well as loads of outdoor activities from Kayaking and rock climbing to maybe a bit of grass sledging. For this we are joining Otford and Sevenoaks Guides, a great chance for the girls to get to know other guides outside of Kemsing and make some new friends.

As a previous guide and now a leader, Guides gave me the chance to light fires, sleep out under the stars, try new activities and meet girls from all over the world. As a leader now I still get to do those things as well as try things I'd never thought possible - turns out a marshmallow melted in a cup of tea isn't as bad as you think!

If you have a daughter between 10 and 14 and think they'd enjoy joining us on a Friday evening, have a look and register your interest on the Girl Guiding website and we'll be in touch.

Tamara Maretlane
Village Diary

March
12th  Kemsing Gardeners AGM & Quiz night 7.30 St Edith small Hall £1.00
13th  WI talk by Tim Anthoisz ‘Antiques’ St. Edith small hall 7.45pm
23rd  Scouts Jumble Sale donated items to rear of St. Edith hall from 9.30. Sale opens at 1.30 adults £1.00 children free
29th  Heritage Centre talk by I. Corrigan ‘Master Mason’s The story of how they built Cathedrals’ St. Edith small hall 7.30

April
9th   Kemsing Gardeners St. Edith small hall 7.30 talk T.B.A. Entry £2.00
10th  WI 61st Birthday meeting. Talk ‘Rudyard Kipling’ by Geoff. Hutchinson St. Edith small hall 7.45 Please bring a donation of food and a guest.
12th  Kemsing Wildlife Group talk by Terry Doe ‘Highland Calendar part 2’ 7.30 St. Edith hall. See Kemsing wildlife web site for further details.
19th  For Easter Church services see page 3
26th  Heritage Centre talk ‘Tour through Darenth Villages, Westerham to Dartford’ by Rod Shelton St. Edith small hall 7.30

May
8th   WI Annual Meeting & Resolutions, plus talk on ‘The Persian Gulf from top to bottom’ by Jim. Moreton-Robertson 7.45 St. Edith small hall.
10th  Wildlife Group talk ‘Birds of Kent’ by Brian Nobbs 7.30 St. Edith hall.
11th  Kemsing Singers Spring Concert entitled ‘Bouquet Garni’ St. Edith Hall Kemsing 7.30 tickets £8.00 from 01959 523752
12th  Kemsing Gardeners coach outing to Leonards Lee Gardens Sussex. details re cost and pick up times from Mike Davies 01732 762266
31st  Heritage Centre talk ‘19th Century Kent+Victorian years’ by Bob Ogley St. Edith small hall 7.30

June
12th  WI talk on ‘Summer Cookery’ by Julia Davies 7.45 St. Edith small hall.
28th  Heritage Centre talk ‘Conservation Project at Knole’ by D. Noon 7.30

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Mrs Yolanda Tredoux, Parish Clerk, Tel: 01732 762841
Clerk's Office, The St Edith Hall, Kemsing, TN15 6NA
Email: kemsingpc@tiscali.co.uk
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Parish Council elections in May 2015
Could you be a Parish Councillor for Kemsing?
Are you interested in your local community and would like to voluntarily contribute to keeping Kemsing a good place to live and work?

Sounds interesting, what do local Parish Councils do?
Parish Councils are the most local part of the democratic system. Kemsing residents elect their local body of thirteen Councillors for a term of four years. As community leaders, Parish Councillors are the voice of our community by representing the objectives and concerns of the residents they serve. The Parish Council can lobby other authorities and influence decisions to the benefit of the residents of Kemsing.

What do Parish Councillors do?
There are 3 main areas of work which involve decision making, monitoring, and getting involved locally. Every important decision made on your behalf is by majority vote after debate. At these meetings, which are open to the Public, Councillors discuss many issues affecting Kemsing residents. The formal part of the role is to attend monthly Parish Council meetings and some Committee meetings. The less formal part is listening and talking to people, including the local elected members of the District and County Councils.

How much time is involved?
Parish Councillors generally say that their duties occupy them for about three hours a week, but obviously there are some Councillors who spend more time than this and less.

Am I qualified?
You are qualified if: you are 18 years or older and a British citizen, or a citizen of the Commonwealth or the European Union, your name appears on the current register of Voters list, you have, for the past 12 months, resided in or within 3 miles of the Parish of Kemsing, or Kemsing has been your only place of work during the past 12 months.

How do I get involved?
Residents who would like to volunteer their time to work as a Parish Councillor to help contributing to Kemsing, can put themselves forward at the next election on 7th May 2015. If you are interested to find out more, please contact the Clerk.

Dates of Parish Council meetings
18 February, 18 March, 15 April, 20 May  in Small Hall, St. Edith Hall, Kemsing at 7.30 p.m. Please see website and notice boards for further information.

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