

THE WELL

**Kemsing Village Magazine
with news from Woodlands**



Winter 2020

Number 220

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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 of The Well in winter Photograph from the archives

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

THE WELL - is published and distributed free, four times a year by the 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 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

Vicar's Letter,

Dear Friends,



The details of all our Christmas services are now on our website at kemsingandwoodlands.org/services/christmas. There are also buttons and links on that page to enable you to book directly from there.

This year may be heavily affected by coronavirus. But the birth of Jesus at Bethlehem remains the best news in the world, and as we gather to celebrate we re-orientate ourselves around the good news we feel our need of so acutely. So please plan to join us. And please bring friends and neighbours as well; Christmas remains one of the best opportunities they will get to hear the Christian good news.

Booking is essential at all our services. Many may join us who are not used to our Sunday booking system, so please spread the word that people need to book, and not leave it to the last minute.

Menu

Full details are on the webpage linked above, but in summary here are the services this year:

- **Open Air Carol Service:** 2.30pm. Sunday 20th December. Oak Hall have kindly let us use their garden stage, so that we can hold a carol service in the open-air. Under government guidelines, this means we will all be able to SING! I thought we would not be able to sing carols this year, but at this event we can. We can take up to 500 people at this event, so let's pack the place with as many of our friends and neighbours as possible. Wrap up warm, because it's the middle of winter, and let's warm our spirits as we praise our God and Father for the birth of his Son.
- **Candlelit Carol Service:** 6.30pm. Sunday 20th December. Some may prefer a service in church, either for its warmth or for the candlelit atmosphere. We can seat the usual 29 people for a service of "5 lessons and carols" on the Sunday before Christmas, with our choir singing the carols for us.
- **Crib Service:** 1.30pm and 3.30pm. Thursday 24th December (Christmas Eve). These have always been hugely popular in the past, with over 500 joining us at the Kemsing Crib Service. This year, we have to be covid-secure, but we can still have an all-age, fun and engaging service, as we build up the Christmas story using our crib as a visual aid. The choir will sing carols. To fit as many as possible, bookings are *per pew not per person*. So please book one pew for your whole household, and if possible save the longer pews in the north aisle for larger households. You can still come on your own; just phone the church office, and Anita will book you into a shared pew.

Vicar's Christmas Message, continued overleaf

- **Christmas Communion Service:** 9.00am and 10.30am. Friday 25th December (Christmas Day). We are holding two 40-minute Christmas Day Communion services in Kemsing Church, with our choir to sing carols during the services.

Please note: The afternoon and evening services on 20th December are instead of the usual morning services; there will be *no morning services* that day. We're also having a break on Sunday 27th December; 9.30 and 11am services will resume on Sunday 3rd January (Covid restrictions permitting).

Booking Times

Booking for all these services opens at 9am on Thursday 3rd December. The bookings usually close the day before the service concerned, but please see our Christmas Services page for the exact details.

Extra Services

I think the number of services planned will roughly meet the demand this year, but it's hard to be sure.

- Please book early for the services you plan to come to, to avoid disappointment.
- This allows me to gauge demand, and possibly to put on an extra service where it would be appreciated.
- If you cannot come to a service to which you are booked, please cancel your ticket so somebody else can come instead. It would be sad if bookings were full, but we then had empty seats.

I'm hugely excited about the services we have on offer this year. Let's all be praying that God uses them to shine light into the darkness, and to bring people to know the Lord and Saviour who was born for our salvation.

Wishing you all lots of joy as we celebrate our Saviour's birth together. Every blessing,



James

See Christmas Poster on page 7

PARISH CHURCHES OF KEMSING & WOODLANDS

www.kemsingandwoodlands.org

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

Services at St Mary's, Kemsing

December 13th, Sunday

- 9.30am Church Service (pre-bookable, up to 29 people)
11.00am Communion Service (pre-bookable, with Sunday Special)

December 20th, Sunday

- 2.30pm Open Air Carol Service at Oak Hall—up to 500 people, and we will be able to sing, wrap up warm!
6..30pm Candlelit Carol Service (pre-bookable, up to 29 people) with Choir singing the carols for us

December 24th, Thursday

- 1.30pm & 3.30pm—Crib Services in Church (pre-bookable)

Christmas Day, Friday

- 9.00am & 10.30am Communion Service (40-minutes each) with Choir singing carols

Please note the afternoon and evening services on 20th December are instead of the usual morning services. There will also be a break on Sunday, 27th December. All details are included in the Vicar's Christmas Message, see pages 3 & 4, and poster on page 7.

St Mary's, Woodlands

For the time being, sadly the Church will remain closed.

LIFE

What is this life, I ask myself

What is it all about

A life that's full of sorrow

A life that's full of doubt.

We plough through the rat race

And speed along our way

Then read about the horrors

That happen every day.

But life has its happy moments

When you see a child jump for joy

For just the simple things

It has, just like a cuddly toy.

But when my life is over

And all my days are done,

At least I'll leave the memory

Of some laughs, some jokes and some fun.

J.E. Horton

Carol Service in the open air

by Kemsing and Woodlands Churches
hosted by Oak Hall Expeditions

**Join us at the only Christmas event where
you can sing to celebrate the birth of Jesus!**

Sun 20 December 2.30pm



Free

Otford Manor

Booking essential: kmwd.org/tickets

SING your favourite carols
HEAR the Christmas story
REFLECT on the hope this gives us
PRAY for the needs of the world

Covid-secure open-air venue

All ages welcome

See our website for other Christmas services: kmwd.org/xmas

PARISH OF KEMSING & WOODLANDS

Charity No.1131431

PCC Secretary: Mrs Rosemary Banister,
Poppies Cottage, 3 St Edith's Road, Kemsing TN15 6PT
Tel: 01732 762965

Those of us who have been able to take a walk past the site of the new Church Hall will have seen what almost looks like a finished building—but sadly, this is not the case by any means.

The exterior, with its oak shingled roof, and oak cladding looks in complete keeping with the church adjacent to it, but all that long-lasting material cost a great deal, and the fact remains that there is very little money in the Church Hall Fund now to carry on and finish the interior work.

Our fundraising activities, like everyone else's, had to be cancelled this year, and applications to the various trusts which usually make generous grants have also dried up.

The usual regular income from those attending church services has been greatly reduced, although the PCC is very grateful to those who have managed to keep up contributions through online banking and monthly pledges. The latter are helping to make sure the PCC can repay a loan from the Diocese over the next 5 years. Even so, that will be insufficient to make the hall usable in the foreseeable future.

Ways of giving for the Hall are given on the opposite page, and any contribution, however small, would be most appreciated.

The Fundraising Committee has produced a "**Kemsing Cook Book**" which is now on sale cost £5 (see pages 10-11). The recipes were kindly given by some of our friends, and the printing and artwork cost was donated.

Please do buy one! All profits will go to the Hall.

Rosemary Banister

St Mary's, Kemsing, Church Hall



To donate, you can either send a cheque payable to:

'St Mary the Virgin PCC, Kemsing' to: Rosemary Banister,
PCC Secretary, 3 St Edith's Road, Kemsing, Kent TN15 6PT

Or pay by BACS, to the PCC's CAF Bank: Account no. 00012841, sort code 40-52-40. *Any donation can also be increased if gift-aided.*

Another way of helping to support any loan which the PCC will have to take out is to pledge a monthly amount which can also be gift-aided. To do this, you can set up a standing order with your own bank to pay into the CAF bank account above.

New: See a video of the old and new halls: kmwd.org/hall-video



Price:
£5.00

KEMSING Cook Book

**KEMSING COOKS HAVE
COOKED UP A BOOK TO
SHARE WITH YOU**

KEMSING COOK BOOK (cost £5)

It includes over 30 recipes

All contributed by people in the village which have
been favourites of their own

The Cook Book is in A5 format, and is spiral bound, so
easy to use whilst cooking

The cost of printing was donated so all proceeds from
its sale will go to the fund for the new
Church Hall

To buy a copy, either contact Rosemary on:
Rosie.Banister@btinternet.com

Tel: 01732 762965

(Address: Poppies Cottage, 3 St Edith's Road)

Or Anita, our Parish Administrator, on
administrator@kemsingandwoodlands.org

Tel: 01732 761351

KEMSING PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

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: Wednesday & Friday (11am-1pm) – currently closed consistent with Government guidelines

Welcome to the December Parish Council report.

The **Parish Council**, the third tier of local government, is the most local part of the democratic system with the interests of the community at heart. It has many **statutory powers**, including provision of recreation areas and allotments, and is consulted by and can comment to Sevenoaks District Council, Kent County Council and Government consultations. Other authorities can be lobbied on behalf of Kemsing residents; sometimes successfully and sometimes not, but we cannot solve problems which are not within our power. Decisions taken by the Parish Council affect our environment, safety and enjoyment.

Just a reminder that **Parish Council meetings** are usually held on the third Wednesday of the month (excluding August and December), and commences at 7.30 p.m. Details can be found on the Parish Council's website, village notice boards or by contacting the Clerk directly. Forthcoming meetings are planned to take place on 20 January 2021, 17 February 2021, 17 March 2021, 21 April 2021 & 19 May 2021.

The **Covid-19** pandemic has presented unparalleled challenges to us all which has significantly changed the way in which we live and work. Parish Council meetings, in line with Government advice, are currently taking place online as we are adapting to the "new normal" way of working. Just a reminder that we should all be practicing social distancing and under current Government regulations, face coverings are required in shops, unless you are exempt for health reasons. Sevenoaks District Council has taken the lead and worked incredibly hard to provide help to vulnerable individuals as well as supporting local businesses across the District during this difficult time.

I would like to give special thanks to our local Parish Councillors who continue to serve Kemsing with dedication and commitment by giving their time freely to make Kemsing a pleasant place to work and live in. I know how hard they work and am grateful for each and every Councillor's contribution.

Thank you also to our District Councillors Mrs Dee Morris and Mr. Simon Reay and County Councillor Mr. Roger Gough for their continued and valued support. We look forward to 2021 with hope and keenness in striving to continue these commendable efforts.

To everyone who has contributed to the well-being of Kemsing over the past year – THANK YOU! We hope everyone is keeping safe and well.

Updates on some of the work the Parish Council is dealing with:

The **Ash Dieback disease** which spreads between Ash trees came into the UK from abroad and is now present on Kemsing Parish Council land. Signs include loss of leaves, lesions, crown dieback and death with a risk of the tree collapsing. Trees have been inspected and we are now finalising our ash dieback management plan to assess the extent of the disease.

Forestry Commission approval for a felling licence will be necessary to fell potentially dangerous trees. Whilst funds have been earmarked for the expected costs associated with the management of affected trees in our land, this will require topping up in the next financial year to allow further recommended work. Replacing lost trees will be considered once the full effect has been assessed. Work on trees in future months will be more evident as a result.

Improvement works funded by the Darent Valley Living Landscape Partnership Scheme (funded through the Heritage Lottery Fund) **Green Hill, The Dell** and Goss Bank will start soon. Scrub clearance, controlling dog rose and improvements to livestock handling and ensuring fencing remains adequate for grazing this important Local Wildlife Site are included in the project. Grazing will help preserve and enhance important flora and fauna.

Sadly there has been an increase in **fly tipping** around the village. Incidents are reported to the District Council who is working hard to clear this.

In October last year we explored options for a new **website** and a provider was approved and a contract signed. Only a few weeks ago the company withdrew but working in partnership with Kent Association of Local Councils (KALC) and Kent County Council (KCC), an alternative option is under consideration. We are hoping the new website will be up and running by the end of March 2021.

Working in partnership with Kent County council (KCC) we have recently reviewed the **Highways Improvement Plan**. Further updates will be given once the plan has received KCC approval. A few years ago the Parish Council considered carrying out an opinion survey about 20mph speed limits in Kemsing, in particular Pilgrims Way. Discussions and investigation work in partnership with Kent County Council and Kent Police was undertaken but following traffic survey data obtained by KCC, the project did not proceed due to the data results not meeting the criteria for KCC to support a 20mph speed limit.

Community Infrastructure Levy funds have been allocated to Otford Medical Practice to progress with their expansion plans for improving service levels for Kemsing residents at the **Kemsing Surgery**.

Repairs to the **damaged wall** as a result of an accident at the horse trough near The Well area have been completed and we are planning to do further repointing work to the wall next year.

Looking ahead, some of our long-term projects include refurbishing the existing **public conveniences**, resurfacing the **village car park** & car park at **Nightingale Road Recreation Ground** and replacing the **village notice boards**.

Arrangements for a **Christmas tree and lights** at The Well area are underway and we hope this will bring a little Christmas cheer to all! On behalf of the Parish Council I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Please do get in touch with me via the email address above, or leave a message on the answerphone (messages are currently checked on a weekly basis) if you have any questions or concerns.

Yolanda Tredoux, Parish Clerk.

THE GREATEST GIFT OF ALL

Given to all humankind. God gave us his son Jesus. Jesus was faithful to God and loves each one of Gods creation because God created and loves what he created. Jesus loves us all because Jesus is faithful to God, St Paul calls it *pistis Christou*.

When we love some one we give them presents as the Magi did at Epiphany and as God did when he gave us Jesus born a child like us. I have a story of a very precious extravagant gift I received a sign of incredible humbling love.

During the 1950's I was called to work as a volunteer in a mission station in the Diocese of Pretoria South Africa. It was a large station with a school, a big hospital, a nurse training school and a Mission of 4 priests from the Community of the Resurrection, Mirfield.

I helped teaching students and caring for patients. I tried to learn the dialect but it was very difficult - one of the fathers helped me, but it had not been written down.

When we had a day off my friend also Mary and I would go hiking in the mountains or across the veldt. So, each outing was exploring without a map. There were no maps.

Sekihuniland was semi desert, very beautiful with a big range of mountains an extension of the mountains of the moon running from Kenya and making up the spine of Africa. The mountains run through the valley and a vast wide valley floor.

One day we set out to explore in the mountains, and then trekked up the mountainside without a map. With no paths we just headed up hoping to reach the top. We got very thirsty and had hoped we would find a mountain stream. Suddenly we became aware that a young African girl was watching us from behind a thorn bush. I called out to her and she came over. I asked if she had any water. She disappeared but later met us with some oranges in her skirt. They were wild oranges and very sour but she knew they would quench our thirst and they did. After this she followed us all the way up.

Talking was difficult she knew no English and my Sasuto was poor. Eventually we got to the top. Like all mountains in that area the top was a huge flat rock above us.

In rejoicing we thanked God and taught Selale Tau how to do the cha cha cha (which we had learned on the boat coming from England.) We jumped around and laughed a lot all 3 of us on the top of the mountain. Then we shared our cheese sandwiches with her; she had never eaten cheese before, washed down with more wild oranges. This was a real Eucharist (thanking God for his gifts to us.) the beauty of the land and friendship.

Going down the mountain, Selale Tau insisted on taking us to her Kraal. There we met her lovely baby daughter, she told us her husband was in Johannesburg in the mines. All the able-bodied men in Sekihuniland worked in the mines for 10 months at a time living in huts 200 miles from home.

After this Mary and I would visit Selale Tau about once a month on our day off. We became good friends. And loved the beautiful mountain scenery

Then one day I got an urgent message from England to go home as my father was dying. I managed to send a message to tell Selale Tau; she lived about 20 miles from us. But the day I left she arrived with a chicken and a bag of beans for my sick father. That gift was sacrificial extravagance and a sign of incredible humbling love. Chicken and beans were rare treats.

God's gift to us of his son who in his faithfulness to God loves us and redeems us all. Gods gift of Jesus to us was incredible humbling love.

The Magi brought gifts to the infant Jesus, Selale Tau brought me great gifts.

We have much to learn from each other about gifts and love but the greatest gift of all is Gods only son given to us who in his faithfulness to God loves and redeems us.

Mary Quenby

Care for the Family

Ruth Chatwin was so impressed with the following story of how one family helped someone who had none, that she asked us to tell it here:

A young couple who had only been married for a few years heard a knock on their door just before Christmas. The man standing at the door used to attend Sunday School with them as children, but had spent almost all of his childhood in care. Ronnie had left care at 16 but didn't do so well, and was in his late 20s, mostly sleeping rough. He had been given a frozen chicken but had no way of cooking it. He was invited in by the couple to stay the night, and he never left.

Ronnie lived with them for almost 45 years, and was part of their family before the children were born, and long after they were adults with children of their own.

When he had been living with them for a little while he got a job as a dustman, and Rob, the husband, would give him a lift to work every morning. When Rob got home he would find Ronnie sitting in the same chair with a huge grin on his face. When Rob asked him what amused him so much, he said that, when the men he worked with asked him who brought him to work, he would reply "Oh, that's my solicitor!" (Rob was a lawyer at that time.) Ronnie was a man then but at last someone was at the gate. We all need someone at the gate.

Rob came to the conclusion that Ronnie's happiness was because he never had a mother to take him to school, or a father to ask him how his day had been at school.

Ronnie was a remarkable man and had a genuine compassion for others. He helped at a homeless shelter run by their church. One day he left home to go to the shelter wearing new shoes, when he came back he was wearing scruffy trainers—he had given them to somebody who needed them.

He was a regular volunteer with Care for the Family and each week he would attend their office and pack their seminar brochures. Not long ago they presented him with a certificate of recognition at their staff conference, and after that every visitor to the house was taken upstairs to see it hanging in pride of place in his bedroom.

Ronnie taught them that the small and often unseen acts of kindness will count for far more than the grand gestures. In heaven's economy we don't need great wealth. We can make a difference each day by doing simple tasks faithfully and where possible being "somebody at the gate" for someone.

He passed away peacefully aged 75 in the arms of his adopted family.

[Care for the Family is a charity, no.1066905, www.careforthefamily.org.uk]

St Mary's Craft Group.

Like so many other people, the craft group has not been able to meet since March but this has not stopped a lot of work going on for our charity, the Queen Mother's Clothing Guild. In September we gathered in all the items knitted and crocheted items over the past year and after sorting, counting, tying up, packing and labelling we were delighted to have 664 items which filled 34 sacks. The charity distributes to many other charities including the homeless on the streets and in hostels, the Salvation Army, Hospices, nursing homes and anyone else in need. One other craft group contributes to the total. Everything was transported to a farm in Sussex from where the items were distributed to the various charities. This venue was because St James' Palace could not be used in the pandemic.

Due to not meeting up we are getting very short of funds to buy wool. If you have any wool not needed we would love to make use of it. Any donations would help us make more items for all these deserving charities.

Jane Webb

The following was "Advice from a Singer Sewing Machine Manual" from 1949 which may amuse some of our sewers!

Prepare yourself mentally for sewing, think about what you are going to do, never approach sewing with a sigh or lackadaisically, good results are difficult when indifference dominates.

Never try to sew with a sink full of dirty dishes or beds unmade, When there are urgent housekeeping chores, do these first so that your mind is free to enjoy your sewing.

When you sew, make yourself as attractive as possible, put on a clean dress, keep a little bag of French chalk near your sewing machine to dust your fingers at intervals.

Have your hair in order, powder and lipstick put on. If you are constantly fearful that a visitor might drop in or your husband will come home, and you will not look neatly put together, you will not enjoy your sewing.

Remembering Michael Barlow, our former Church Organist and Choir Master

Michael Barlow was a musician, he lived and breathed music and devoted himself to it in many ways.

He was a composer and had composed at least 49 works many of which we at Kemsing Church now have in our library.

These works included much church music, music written for school use, and piano duets, which were performed by pupils in the concerts he was always ready to take part in, at Kemsing Church and elsewhere.

He contributed many articles, particularly for the works he researched in English Music, of which he was very learned. Vaughan Williams was a favourite, and he contributed to various journals where his opinion was much appreciated.

He was always ready to encourage young folk, and taught the piano to various of his pupils who were rising young musicians.

September 2000 saw Michael “retire” when he developed a career teaching piano, organ and theory. But his pièce de resistance was a book “WHOM THE GODS LOVE” published in 1997 on the life and music of George Butterworth, of whom he had great admiration and view that, had he lived, he may well have been a Mozart or one of equal status, but there

Michael, who died this year, was held in great esteem by all who knew him, and was particularly valued in his musical world.



Ray Parton

Jeannie Poppy May Hughes (née Skinner)

27.05.1933 - 3.10.2020



Jeannie was the longest living lady of Kemsing village.

Her family were greatly involved in the Church.

She trained as a nurse in 1951 and had a long career, starting at Chase Farm, Orpington I.C.U., District nurse in Sevenoaks and surrounding area, and also as the practice nurse of Sevenoaks

Town Medical Centre.

She died the day before her 68th Wedding Anniversary, leaving our Dad, 6 children, 14 grandchildren, and 17 great grandchildren.

She was loved so much by everyone that knew her and would always adopt the role of 'Mum' to everyone that met her.

She has taken a piece of all our hearts which we will never fill.

She was loving, kind and generous and will be greatly missed and be always in our hearts.



Jackie Warren, daughter.

Kemsing Scouts—Remembering the past, embracing the future

Kemsing Scouts has grown and evolved in so many ways. Our volunteers have been making a difference to the young people of Kemsing, helping to shape our story. Here are some of our key dates and leaders.

1925-1931 Under the sponsorship of St Mary's Church and Rev RV Bristow, a troop of 8 boy scouts. Five months later it swelled to 17. The following year a Rover Crew of 5 was formed, and in 1928 Miss Peters started the Wolf Pack.

1932-1936 Captain CNC Boyle—Group Scout Leader

1936 The Scouts met in a wooden hut on land at the top of The Landway, donated by Sir Oliver Lyle. The Cubs met in The Box House, St Edith's Road until the beginning of the War when it was requisitioned by the Army.

1936-1948 Our Group Scout Leader was Bill Hillier. We continued to meet during the War years but in 1948 our registration was cancelled due to the decreasing number of boys in the village.

1948-1956 During this period Freda Mephram ran the Otford Scout Group and as more and more Kemsing boys attended a second pack was started. These boys formed the nucleus of the reformed Kemsing Scouts.

1956 Sam Smart re-registered Kemsing Group. The Cub pack and Scout troop flourished holding meetings in the old School classrooms. Sam was our Group Scout Leader between **1956-1961**.

1962 The Group ran two cub packs, the Wolf and Tawny. In 1965 a Senior Scout section was started. Fred Burridge was our Group Scout Leader between **1962-1974**.

1976 Digging the foundations for our current Scout Headquarters began in 1976. Located on the Common Field it opened on Thursday, 7th October. Bert Trattell was our Group Scout Leader between **1975-1991**. Approximately 130 young people attended the Sections.

1986 Kemsing Beavers Colony formed for ages 6-8 years making Kemsing Scouts the first Group in the District to have all four sections (Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, and Venture Scouts).

1991-1996 Joan Chidgey was Group Scout Leader, seen on the left in photo taken during the Chief Scout visit in 1989.



1997-1999 Peter Carvill was Group Scout Leader

1999 We were awarded Best All Round Group in Sevenoaks District.

1999-2005 Ian Cox was Group Scout Leader

2005-2015 Chris Arnold joined as an assistant Scout Leader before becoming our Group Scout Leader. With all the Sections meeting at the Common Field HQ Chris began working on plans to replace the old building.

2016-2020 P'Nut (Stuart) Holden is our current Group Scout Leader for approximately 64 young people, boys and girls. With his leadership team the 3 Sections (Beavers, Cubs and Scouts) create exciting programmes and attract a healthy waiting list of new recruits. They still meet in the same building built back in 1976.

2017 We won the District Trophy once again.

2020 The Coronavirus pandemic has not stopped our meetings, despite the challenges. Unable to meet in person due to the national control measures, our Sections join each other online to participate in activities and earn badges.

Planning permission to replace our 44-year old HQ has been granted. We hope fundraising can begin soon. From the beginning to today, our aim remains the same, to prepare young Kemsing people for the future and build stronger communities. Long may it continue. To find out more about Kemsing Scouts, go to: www.kemsingscouts.org.uk/ or:

Email to: info@kemsingscouts.org.uk [facebook.com/kemsingscouts](https://www.facebook.com/kemsingscouts)

Deaths

Maria KOSCHELL on 12th September 2020

Norman STONE (82) on 2nd October

Jeannie HUGHES (87) on 3rd October

Stephen WREN (66) on 17th October

David PENWARDEN (83) on 27th October

Stephen BLACKBURN (67) on 3rd December

Hilary THURSBY (89) on 3rd December

From “The Well” Christmas 1970

Miss Mary Burrows had died on 31 October and the magazine contained an appreciation of her life (her name is perpetuated at Mary Burrows Gardens in Church Lane).

Vic Bowden wrote about the Hop Scotch court on the terrace of The St Edith Hall, below the clock.

The origins of the carol “Silent Night” were explained.

The imminence of the motorway (now known as the M26) was on the minds of Kemsing residents (there was an enquiry into the route held at Oxted). Ironically today vehicles wanting Dover could leave the M25 at Junction 4.

From “The Well” Christmas 1995

The cover picture was of The Well area from a photo taken during the snowy winter of 1987. It was contributed by John and Lesley Gambrill of the nearby Post Office.

The Historical and Arts Society had been to Yaldham Manor and there was an appreciation of the hospitality of Mr and Mrs Lade.

Remembrance Service

Kemsing War Memorial - 11th November 2020



Six of the older children from Kemsing School laid crosses and read out the names of the fallen, and then observed the 2 minutes silence, all live streamed to the children at school.



Autumn leaves on the Common Field