

CONTENTS - The Well—Summer 2021 No 222

Vicar's Letter	3/4	Kemsing School Report (see p.30)	19
Church Services	5	Kemsing Singers	21
1st Kemsing Brownies	7	Kemsing Cricket Club News	23
News and Notes	9	Ivy Jones remembered	
Parochial Church Council News	11	Kemsing Scouts Easter Trail	26
Kemsing Heritage Centre News	13	Family Milestones	28
Margaret Goulding	15	25 & 50 Years Ago	28
Kemsing Evening WI	15	School photos (see also page 19)	30
Tribute to John Goulding	16/17	Village Diary and poem	31

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 Photograph by Brian Doe

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

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If you use a computer to type your article, it would be extremely helpful if you could Email it to: **welleditors@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

ear Friends



"And now the end is near, so I face the final curtain." So begins one of Elvis's most well-known songs, "My Way".

I write my 49th and final "Vicar's Letter" for The Well Magazine. The end is near; a few weeks after this issue is published, we'll set sail for Scarborough in North Yorkshire and leave you in the care of the church here, led by whoever comes to be the next vicar.

As I look back on 12 years, there are some ways in which it's both true and good to say that "I did it my way". I hope I've been true to my own convictions. Christian ministry is also personal; my ministry here has been inevitably coloured by my particular personality. Both of those are good things; they relate to integrity.

There are other ways in which it would be a bad thing for me to have "done it my way". At times, I'm sure I've done things out of self-interest, or to satisfy my own preferences. I'm only human, after all (although I'll come back to that thought). Insofar as that has been the case, I apologise. I'm here to serve others. You can't please all of the people, all of the time, so I'm not here to be a people-pleaser, but it's certainly not the intention that I'm here to serve myself.

Self-rumination aside, Elvis's refrain, "I did it my way!", is a motto of the human race. We're fiercely independent. We don't like to be told what to do. We all say, "I make my own decisions".

It's good to take responsibility for our own choices. It's not good, however, to fail to see our need to care for others, or to see the authority others rightly have over us. If we go through life, each of us living like we're mini gods, we'll be on collision course with everyone we meet. The result is disagreement, war and conflict. More disastrously, we're on collision course with the living God. He's not someone you can pick a fight with, and expect to win.

Continued overleaf

James' letter, continued

This is the world Jesus was born into. He is the only human being who has ever lived whose anthem was never "I did it my way". Yes, he was the eternal Son of God, but he was also a human being. As a human being, he consistently said to God the Father, "You do it your way". He most famously rejected Elvis's refrain in the Garden of Gethsemane. The night before he died, he'd have loved any other path than the death he was about to face. He took his anguish to God and prayed, "Not what I will, but what you will."

Of course, we all know the story didn't end there. On the first Easter Day he rose from the dead. The one human being who is not marred by wanting to live for his own foibles and comfort is the one now at the helm of the universe. He lives to welcome all those who want to be rescued from the consequences of "doing it my way", and who want to be transformed into better people whose song becomes "I do it his way".

The time has come for us to leave Kemsing. If you missed why we're leaving, you could read last quarter's Vicar's Letter (kmwd.org/well-spring-2021) or watch the presentation I gave to our church family (kmwd.org/leave-vid). In essence, I believe the Church of England has made Elvis's song its anthem, and therefore a new context is needed for Christian ministry.

We're sad to leave, but we leave with many happy memories, and many new friends. I'd love nothing more than for the legacy of my time among you to be that I have introduced you to this Jesus, or helped you to discover fresh ways in which he's more wonderful than you ever realised.

With every blessing! Your friend and vicar,

James

James Oakley

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The Church Office is in Room 5, 9 West End, Kemsing (over Kemsing Motors) and Anita is back working in the office on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday mornings, from 9.15am to 1.00pm, but it is advisable to ring first, and at the time of printing, face masks need to be worn and social distancing followed. Messages can be left on the answerphone (email: administrator@kemsingandwoodlands.org).

Until otherwise advised, currently there are two identical Sunday services at 9.30 and 11.00 am at St Mary's, Kemsing, but places must be pre-booked, go online to: kmwd.org/tickets

Check on the church website: kemsingandwoodlands.org for up to date advice, or ring the Church Office.

The situation is constantly evolving, and we are hopeful that normal services will be able to re-start in the not too far distant future, i.e. 8.00am, 9.15am, 11am, and Evensong at 6.30pm.

SERVICES at St. Mary's Woodlands

Sadly Woodlands Church remains closed until further notice.

The Pastoral Team have continued to support those families which needed help during the last months, especially where one of the family is frail. The Food Bank has also been carried on during the lockdown, and contributions can be left after the 1st Sunday in the month at 23 Park Lane until the following Wednesday.



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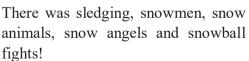
1st KEMSING BROWNIES

Although we've not been able to meet in person, the girls at 1st Kemsing Brownies have been getting stuck into our online activities and weekly catch-up on Zoom.





However, once the snow arrived, the girls headed outdoors with their families and enjoyed the weather.







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NEWS and NOTES

elping Hand Driving Scheme relaunch—postponement—You may have seen posters around Kemsing advertising the relaunch of our local driving scheme for those villagers who find it difficult to travel to medical appointments.

We had hoped to start up again from 1st June, but now need to submit a Risk Assessment for insurance purposes to St Mary's PCC, who are responsible for insuring the Scheme. We don't have a timescale for this at present, but please contact me for an update in the need for a lift arises. I recommend you use my mobile number in future—07400 711985. You can still use the home number 01959 522490 but it may take longer for me to reply.

When we do start up, we would be delighted if more drivers would join us. It's usually just 2 or 3 jobs a month and there are no binding commitments - drivers can always say they will not be available for a specific job. Petrol expenses are paid for the longer journeys and you will always get heartily thanked at the end – instant gratification!

Alastair Boobyer

Craft Group—Sevenoaks Library has not been able to give me a date when Kemsing Library will re-open but will inform me when a date is arranged. Sadly we have not been able to meet during lockdown but we have kept in touch with the group; some have kept knitting for the last year or so. We are always grateful for unwanted wool or donations to help us continue knitting for The Queen Mother's Clothing Guild. The charity uses all the knitted donations to give to charities mainly the homeless or those in need. Please phone me on 01959 522256 if you have wool to donate. We will be meeting again as soon as we have a venue.

Jane Webb

E very Step Counts— Kemsing Free Walk—starts at 10.30am on Friday mornings from the Village Car Park, past the Church and around the perimeter of the Common Field Recreation Ground. Coffee is served in The Bell Pub afterwards. All are welcome.



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We shall be saying goodbye to James and Liz and the boys at the end of July, after over 12 years, during which time our congregation increased year on year with the families and children joining in with our children's and young people's groups.

Having a young family themselves, both James and Liz have been able to relate to other families, and we thank them for all their contribution in helping to encourage the younger generations to come and join in with our Christian worship. They will be missed, and we wish them all the best for their new lives in Scarborough.

Meanwhile, this has involved the PCC in discussion with the Diocese about filling the vacancy, and I am hoping by the time the next issue of *The Well* is distributed we shall be able to have some news about what is going to happen next.

The new Church Hall is looking good and the site looks a lot less like a building site but, unfortunately, there is no money to continue with the fitting out. Fundraising events had to be cancelled during the past 15 months, and the income we would normally be expecting from our congregation has dropped considerably, like many other parishes in the country.

Our only hope of being able to finance the rest of the work is if the Diocese gets planning permission for a new Vicarage (which is urgently needed now that the old Vicarage has been sold). If permission is given by the local planning authority for a new Vicarage next to the Church and Church Hall, the PCC will receive a sum of money which should go a considerable way to finish the Hall, as the PCC owns the land.

The Kemsing Recipe Book is almost sold out, but a few copies are still available, at £5. Please get in touch if you still haven't got one!

Rosemary Banister, PCC Secretary

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KEMSING HERITAGE CENTRE

For those of us who do not know, the Kemsing Heritage Centre was set up in 1999, and has been located at the entrance behind The St Edith Hall since 2010.

The Centre houses a variety of local exhibits, and keeps Kemsing history alive and shares it with everyone, including the children from Kemsing Primary School.

We hold the remains of a Roman Bath house along with history books and publications of local walks and listed buildings. We also arrange talks, and have a variety of speakers who come to The St Edith Hall to speak to the members, as well as holding trips to places of interest.

All are welcome to attend the talks, and details are displayed on the noticeboard in the Village Car Park and on our Facebook page. We are looking for new members to join us, and the yearly subscription is just £5.

The Centre is usually open on the first Saturday of the month, although at present guests are by appointment only, and this can be arranged by contacting Erica Cole, tel: 01732 761772.

Kemsing Village Picnic

The Heritage Centre Association plans to hold a Picnic on the Common Field Recreation Ground to celebrate St Edith's birthday, on Sunday, 12th September 2021 from mid-day.

Everyone will be welcome. Look out for more details on the village noticeboards and on our webpage.

(The above will hopefully be with the permission of Kemsing Parish Council which has been unable to meet to formally agree to it at the time of going to print.)



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A message from Margaret Goulding

I would like to thank friends and neighbours in Kemsing for the many beautiful flowers, cards and letters I have received since the sad loss of John in March.

John was always happy to help at St. Mary's during five interregnums and had fond memories of the many friends he made during that time. Although ill health prevented him from taking part in many activities in the last four years, he enjoyed chatting to people at Open Door and the British Legion lunches at The Bell.

The help and support I have received recently has been quite overwhelming and together with my family I send everyone a big 'thank you'.

Margaret

Kemsing Evening WI

A fter so long, the members of Kemsing Evening WI are looking forward to getting back together again this Summer. We had hoped to re-start our meetings after an Afternoon Tea last September, but this was not to be, so I'm delighted to say that we shall start our meetings again where we finished, with tea and cake in the garden at The Keep at 2.30pm on July 14th.

Our regular meetings will start again in The St Edith Hall on Wednesday August 11th at 7.30pm with Anna Astin giving her view on "Women in Motoring", which should make a very interesting evening (!) . After that, all restrictions permitting of course, we shall be meeting on the second Wednesday of each month in the Hall at 7.30pm with a speaker, and a chat.

If you have been a previous member of any WI, or have always fancied trying us out, your first meeting is free, and visitors are always welcome. Do watch village notice boards for all details of our future events.

Janet Eaton, President

OUR TRIBUTE TO

Rev John Gilbert Goulding: 11 A Tribute by John Quenby

With the passing of John, the village of Kemsing will have lost a more renowned both for his concern for others and for sermons of penetrating degree at Durham University he made a firm acquaintance with Michael Ramse Canterbury. This inspired John to become a licensed Reader in the early 1960s, in Rochester Cathedral in 1988 and subsequently by Priesthood. So the Parish of a Reader supported by a committed wife and family of three boys.

Apart from educational work and the Church, John needed to engage in pioneeri back yard in a new build estate. John's ministry in the Parish of Kemsing was no five interregna. In the earlier stages, a youth house group took place in his home Open Door coffee morning which was then led by the Dynes Road Free Church welcomed integration of both the Open Door and the Wednesday children's when the Dynes Road facilities were sold.

His ministry was characterized by visiting the sick, lonely and needy. I experi way to encourage me in my own development of faithful living, as I pursued an of Science and Religion. I am sure many in Kemsing have a similar tale to the people and taking funerals, John led Lent courses, two of which resulted in boot also was the leader of several weekend retreats and quiet days. One example suggestion to my wife resulting that she got together with the Bell Ringers for the members of the congregation came both to listen and enjoy hospitality-in a way recently, he again became a regular attender of the Open Door where he continued

On the wider scene, John taught religious education in schools and then becan National Moderator for Reader Training, and one summer he took over a Caribb from his ministry during a long interregnum.

Margaret, John's wife, was a great support in his ministry, especially because of they first met, 66 years of mutual love and care resulted. Their family numbers collective contribution to society was illustrated at the funeral, ranging from the the physically challenged grandson, Oliver. At the morning Eucharist on the importance of friendship and how he had appreciated it in many years of service

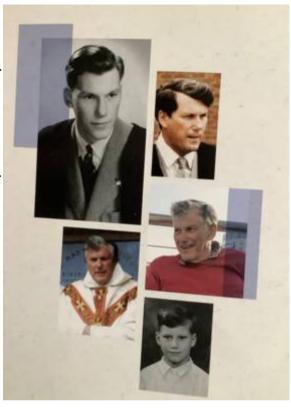
JOHN GOULDING

th November 1929 - 4th March 2021

est highly regarded spiritual leader, ag insight. During his studies for a ey, who later became Archbishop of followed by ordination as a Deacon f Kemsing was blessed initially with

ng gardening to transform the barren ted for guiding it through a record of and he took a personal interest in the . Such interest clearly facilitated the Club into the St Mary's community

enced a person who went out of his interest in exploring the relationship tell. As well as preaching, marrying ks—on the Psalms and on Ruth. He is of his thoughtful ministry was a cheir New Year's Eve Ring out/in so y some might otherwise miss. More at to listen to and entertain the regulars.



me one of Her Majesty's Inspectors of Schools. He served the church as the bean parish to allow the Incumbent some leave. St Luke's, Sevenoaks benefited

of her caring, social attainments. Discovering a mutual awareness of God when 24, including three sons, grand and great grandchildren. The diversity of their address given by professorial and ordained son, Nicolas to the guitar playing of day of John's retirement from active ministry, his message to us was on the within this community of faith.

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KEMSING SCHOOL—LIGHT AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL REPORT BY HEADTEACHER, ANDREW KILBRIDE

Whilst we still operate in bubbles, sit in rows, wash our hands every 5 minutes and operate one way systems, life goes on at Kemsing Primary School and the thing that has not changed during the pandemic is that we are a creative school community with a talented and dedicated staff team and a group of happy and engaged pupils. English and maths leaders recently visited classrooms for the first time in over a year and were struck by how enthused the children were with their learning in all classes.

We have been super excited to resume curriculum swimming for the first time since summer 2019. Several children have been overheard discussing how they could not sleep the previous night due to the excitement of resuming swimming the next day. The presence of swimming again in the timetable has offered a fantastic wellbeing boost for the children – cementing their sense of belonging to Kemsing, where they will receive 10 weeks of swimming tuition in each of the 7 years they are with us.

In addition to classes pursuing their Summer Term topics (visit the Class pages on our new website - https://www.kemsing.kent.sch.uk/), our curriculum has begun to return to normal since Easter. Forest School has resumed for two days per week, with Year 4 and Year 1 currently enjoying their turn to reshape the woodland environment. Recent additions involve a treehouse made entirely by the children hoisting logs into a tree and a tool station constructed to enable a safe area for the children to learn sawing and carving skills.

French lessons have resumed with our specialist French teacher delivering weekly lessons to key stage 2 children and Sport4schools have returned for two afternoons per week to teach PE lessons to every class. In addition, the daily mile continues across the school – every day in some classes – a couple of times per week in others. Our peripatetic music teacher has returned as well to teach piano to a number of children over two days of the week. Extra-curricular clubs have returned this term too. Science club, cycling club, netball club and multi sports club are all up and running, giving pupils a chance to explore an interest in more depth after school.

(continued on page 30)





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KEMSING SINGERS SAY—

WHY SHOULD WE HAVE ALL THE FUN

Kemsing Singers will shortly be having fun and singing again in rehearsals. Then we are at the **Otford Fete on August 30th**. Do come along.

Our new season starts in September. Our Musical Director Sara is brilliant and keeps us all smiling.

We would be very happy if you could come and sing with us for a few weeks to discover how much fun we have before deciding to join.

Find out more from Sara's short video "Who are the Kemsing Singers?" which you'll find at *www.kemsingsingers.com*. Do tell others about it and have a wander round our website to learn more about us. You can also follow us and share our posts on Facebook and Twitter.

Please do call one of us for a chat if you have any questions.

Kemsing Gardeners Society will be at Seal Village Allotments Open Day, on 17 July from 12noon to 4pm fundraising in aid of Hospice in the Weald. Joe Kortum, Chairman of Kemsing Gardeners, will give a floral arrangement demonstration at 2.30pm.

Don't miss it!

On behalf of everyone, the Editors have been asked to say a public "Thank you" to all the Scout and Guide Group Leaders who have provided consistent contact and activities for those young people in their charge over the last year. They have really gone above and beyond during this most testing time.

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KEMSING CRICKET CLUB

emsing cricketers played a reduced season in 2020, glad to be able to get out and about between lockdowns! The junior section in 2020 was bolstered by an unexpected influx of eager youngsters, all of whom were keen to play cricket. The Under 11s won their rearranged league with a narrow victory in the final match! However, the junior numbers last year were nothing compared to this year, as we



now have over 100 youngsters on our books!!! The All Stars, 5-8 year-olds, who do their stuff on a Sunday morning, comprises 48 children, all in their bespoke shirts and caps. A fabulous sight to see.

On a Thursday evening, we have around seventy 9-15 year-olds spread around the Common Field with a dozen or so coaches. For the first time ever, we have two Under 9 teams, two Under 11 teams an Under 13s and Under 15s! Our Colts Section received a very generous sponsorship deal from Korkers and the new junior playing kit looks fantastic with their logo.

Woman's cricket is on the rise and a top priority for Kent Cricket. We would love to have a dedicated ladies' section, but just don't have the numbers. If we can attract some more ladies of any age, we can enjoy some social cricket or compete against other local clubs in softball cricket. We have entered the Sevenoaks Smash this year, a new midweek cup based on the professional franchise 100-ball competition due to start later this Summer. When we receive our new, specially designed coloured kit for this white ball competition, we will look fabulous! Our new team for this prestigious local competition is named the Kemsing Cobras.

The Saturday league team are again in Division 3 of the Kent County Village League, which is very competitive. As we only have a small player base for Saturdays, getting 11 players can sometimes be difficult, but we have a few dads who came with their kids, who may be able to help us out sometimes. We won our pre-season friendly and the first league game, so keep your fingers crossed that the run continues!

The Sunday side have quite a few new players, more dads, and will be playing their usual social, but competitive and enjoyable brand of cricket. If there is anyone out there who has played some cricket and fancies playing in the league team, or wants to play socially, please get in touch. This also applies to any ladies who might be interested in starting our ladies' section! No previous experience is necessary...

Contact **Roger** on **kemsingcc@gmail.com** You can find fixtures, results and statistics on the club website: **kemsing.play-cricket.com** In addition, if you want to help out with anything, please let me know. If you would like a chat, I will be the decrepit groundsman in the maroon Kemsing CC polo shirt on the cricket square...Thanks for reading this.

Roger Shaddock, Club Secretary and Head Groundsman!

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IVY IRENE JONES (née Skinner)

16th November 1941—10th May 2021



The following tribute to Ivy was written by her son, Adrian:

I vy was one of five siblings born to Ivy and Albert Skinner after moving to Kemsing in the 1920's. The family have remained in the village ever since; becoming part of the fabric of everyday life over the decades; being involved with the many clubs, societies together with the church and making many friends along the way.

As the youngest, Ivy worked as a GPO telephonist. She married Douglas in 1960 before raising her two boys Adrian and Evan; returning work Sevenoaks at Brickworks and Frv's Garage - retiring after the passing beloved of her

Douglas in 2003.

Ivy brought a sense of fun and joy to so many; generous, kind hearted and always with a story to tell and a unique sense of humour; taking people under her wing and helping where she could.

Sadly passing away unexpectedly on the 10th May after a short illness, Ivy will be greatly missed but will always be remembered and loved; so we say to her one final time.

Goodnight. God Bless x

KEMSING SCOUTS EASTER TRAIL



Remsing Scouts organised a walking trail for families and friends to enjoy over the Easter break. The route was 4 miles in length, starting at the top of Childsbridge Lane, heading over to the Rising Sun at Cotmans Ash and finishing at St. Edith's Well.

Of course, this is Kemsing Scouts and we always look for an opportunity to develop some *Skills for Life*. The trail was marked out by a number of hand-crafted wooden decorations, made by our young people and members. These included some discs and 2 figures, named Sid and Bert. In order to find each decoration and keep everyone

on the correct path the location app what3words was used.

We promoted the trail on our Facebook page https://www.facebook.com/kemsingscouts and via Kemsing Village Community Facebook.

We received some lovely responses, and was great to see it wasn't just Kemsing residents enjoying our beautiful countryside......

"We did this today and really enjoyed it. Thanks to those who organised it. Visited some footpaths and fields we hadn't before"

"We walked this trail today. We saw Sid but not Bert. Thanks from some Scouts of Dartford"

"Fantastic walk, thank you! We saw Sid"

"We loved the walk - thank you"

If you haven't heard of it before, it's an easy way to communicate and find exact locations. what3words gives every 3m square in the world a unique 3 word address - so for example 'The Well' would be ///trying.hints.pirate. It's ease of use means people can meet up or describe a location to the emergency services.





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FAMILY MILESTONES

Deaths

Joseph CONNOLLY (27) on 20th Dec Dick WILLIAMS (82) on 14th March David REBURN (88) on 21st April Rose WEBBER (101) on 5th May Ivy Irene JONES (79) on 10th May Peter Maurice KENDALL (87) on 3rd June

Weddings

Daniel LYONS and Natalie DOYLE on 22nd May

From "The Well" Summer 1971

One of the tombstones affixed to the East Wall of the Church is of John Wigzell who was member of the Worshipful Company of Wax Chandlers in the 18th Century. John Fielden (also a member) contributed an article an article about the Company.

Preparations were being made for the <u>Kemsing Festival</u> to be held from 6-19 September. A Festival Queen had already been chosen (Penny Covington).

The <u>Players</u> presented Maria Marten, a Victorian melodrama, featuring Shirley Pennells and Tony Dew. Kevin Crawley attended to the electrics and Eileen Hutt performed valiantly on the piano (sometimes in the dark).

From "The Well" Summer 1996

<u>Kemsing School</u> were looking forward to their Summer Fete on 22 June. Neil Taylor from Kent County Cricket Club had run a coaching session of Kwik Cricket. There were also coaching sessions of Basket ball, Volleyball, and Lacrosse.

Vic Bowden wrote about the walk of Charles Bassettt from <u>Seal to St. Clere in 1882</u>. He was looking for a job as a carpenter but on being accepted he returned to Seal for his tools so that he could start in the afternoon. The net result was that he walked 12 miles that day as it is 3 miles to St. Clere.

Janet Eaton (as District Commissioner) wrote about the activities of <u>Guides</u>, <u>Brownies and Rainbows</u>. All these groups were thriving but there was a need for a helper for the 24 girls in the pack of Brownies which would otherwise have to close.

Mary Cursons reported on her family's visit to Israel.





Kemsing School - Report by Headteacher (see page 19)



ur twice weekly Zoom assemblies evolved this week, with the warmer weather, to socially distant bubbles gathering on the playground to celebrate the pupils who had shown the best teamwork this term since Easter – with one winner taking home the Values Cup for the term.

Above Years 4 and 1 enjoying making a treehouse, and below 'measuring a whale.'

This lovely occasion enabled the whole school be together in the same space once again. We will repeat this model across the summer term.

In amongst the บรบลโ curriculum demands and extra tuition via the government's Covid Catch-Up funding, our teachers delicately create the space for pupils to reflect through and circle time. yoga ensuring our children are well-positioned to continue to flourish, despite the many



challenges this year has presented.

If you are interested in your child joining our school, please contact the school office by email: office@kemsing.kent.sch.uk or ring 01732 761236.

Village Diary 2021

July

- WI Garden Meeting at 2.30pm at The Keep for tea and cake! Members only.
- 17 Seal Village Allotments Open Day. 12noon to 4pm. Floral demonstration by Joe Kortum at 2.30pm

August

WI Meeting, talk by Anna Astin on "Women in Motoring". A humorous talk with slides in the Small Hall, St Edith Hall, starting at 7.30pm. New members very welcome, and first Meeting is free.

September

WI Meeting, talk on "The YMCA" in the Small Hall, St Edith Hall at 7.30pm. New members very welcome, and first meeting is Free.



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