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A Note from the Newsletter Team:

Entries to the newsletter can be made by emailing newsletter@higherkinnerton.org.uk by the last Friday of the month. The newsletter is produced by Higher Kinnerton Community Council (HKCC) on behalf of the community. HKCC reserves the right to amend submissions to ensure best fit. All content provided in this newsletter is for informational purposes only and HKCC makes no representations as to the accuracy of any information contained herein.





February 2021

Your Monthly Higher Kinnerton Community Newsletter



The Higher Kinnerton Community Council would like to begin by saying that we hope all of our residents are keeping safe and well.

Starting off the year in another lockdown is not what anyone wanted, however—this is Higher Kinnerton, and as always, even in lockdown the village has remained a friendly and positive place to be. There have been plenty of walkers 'out and about' and even with social distancing in place, our villagers never fail to greet one another and smile when passing.

Sadly our village was affected by flooding in January which caused chaos for a number of residents. Now that the nights are drawing in and our days are longer, we hope that some of the worst weather is now behind us.

Now that we are in February, we are delighted that Walter's, our brand new village coffee shop is open for takeaway drinks and cakes. We are thrilled to welcome a coffee shop to Higher Kinnerton and trust that it is going to be a very popular addition to the village!

So, please continue to stay safe this month, and hopefully soon we can get back to a little normality. In the meantime, lets continue our daily exercise where we can, and eat plenty of cake!

January Floods

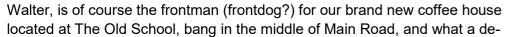
Thank you to all residents who pulled together last month and assisted one another during the flooding. A number of properties were badly affected and we just want to make residents aware that the Community Council have spoken with Street Scene on a number of occasions about the blocked drains, and we are raising the issue in February's Council meeting as well. We plan to continue working with Street Scene to mitigate any potential flooding issues in the future.





Welcome to Walter's! By Kat Griffiths

In the midst of a lockdown, our village has felt rather quiet for the past few months. With our two pubs temporarily closed and activity at an all time low, the village has been in need of some excitement, and who would have thought that this excitement would come in the form of a Schnauzer named Walter?!



light it is! What better timing for a coffee shop to open on our doorstep to cheer us all up with hot drinks and enormous slices of brownie? For those of you that are familiar with the Higher Kinnerton village plan, you may recall that villagers expressed a desire to have a 'café' in the village, and now we have one!

Shelley Mears and her husband Stuart own this quirky little coffee shop. They have ran an events business from The Old School for the past few years, and after having sold off various parts of the business and with events currently on-hold, Shelley and Stuart were left with plenty of time on their hands, as well as a large unutilised space. It had always been an ambition of Shelley's to open her own coffee shop one day and so, they took the plunge and turned the space into a coffee house; lucky us!

Walter's coffee shop has a definite quirky vibe! There are purple sheep outside to greet you as you walk in (not real, obviously), and the inside décor sits somewhere between 'vintage' and 'modern'. With the likes of the timeless fairground airplane suspended from the ceiling, an orange tree in the middle of the room, and two 'laptop ready' workstations set up for those of us working from home, this coffee shop is not your run of the mill; it is full of character!

The staff at Walter's are a friendly bunch, and the owner Shelley is enthusiastic and really keen to make Walter's a success. She is a big dog lover, owning two Miniature Schnauzers (the eldest being Walter!) and she was keen to create a space where well-behaved dogs were also welcome too.

Walter's has a varied selection of hot and cold drinks and, if you have a bit of a sweet tooth, prepare to be impressed by the selection of cookies, brownies, pastries and brookies (half cookie/brownie) that are available. I can personally vouch for the salted caramel brownie, and fear that by the time this newsletter goes to print I may be able to vouch for a lot more!

Although currently just open for takeaways, Walter's is a welcoming, friendly and (most importantly) safe place to be. There is hand sanitiser

on the way in, distanced floor markers, and the staff are masked and stand behind perspex screens.

Shelley says, "Our goal is to create a warm and welcoming, first-name-terms meeting place for everyone in the village to use and enjoy. Also a hub for anyone feeling isolated or lonely; either due to lack of physical contact with families living further afield, or working from home away from colleagues, anyone can pop in and have some company ..and coffee, cake and conversation!"

On behalf of the Community Council, I would like to wish Shelley, Stuart and the team the best of luck in this new venture. Please find on the right a voucher from Walter's offering £1 off a takeaway coffee. Just cut it out and hand it in on your next visit before the 31st March...enjoy!

Walters, The Old School, CH4 9AJ www.walterscoffeeshouse.co.uk shelley@walterscoffeehouse.co.uk





All Saints Church

A big **thank you** to Revd Hazel Clarke who has continued to lead Morning Worship (where possible) over the last ten months and to Revd. Robin Mosley who has led the Zoom services.

Thanks also to Elaine Davies, Church Warden, who has looked after the church with stringent sanitising and cleaning; and, with her faithful band of volunteers, has maintained the churchyard. Not forgetting Mike Allport, Church treasurer, who has continued to pay bills for heating, lighting, insurance, Parish Share etc, despite the church not being open for fundraising events and normal services. If you would like to support the church with a single or regular donation please contact Mike

Kinnerton Church is closed for Sunday services until mid-February as a precaution against Covid infections. The situation will be reviewed in Mid-February. Until then, **Sunday services continue on Zoom at 11:30am every Sunday.** Everyone is welcome! For details or for copies of the Morning Prayer leaflet and 'thought for the day', contact Revd Robin Mosley on 01244 660341 or rev.robinmosley@gmail.com

If you have eaten all your pancakes on Shrove Tuesday and want to find out more about Lent, why not **join us on Ash Wednesday, 17th February** when we will begin our Lent Bible Story Sessions which will be held weekly in the evening on Zoom for 5 weeks in Lent.





You donated **1,805.8** kilos of Food/Goods in <u>2020</u> to local families and people who would otherwise go hungry without the generosity of kind people like you

Please show others how it's done by sharing your good deed and mention us on <u>Excebool</u> @flintshirefoodbank or Twitter @Flintshirefoodb. We'll do our best share/retweet your message so that others are encouraged to follow your kind example.



For enquiries about funerals or pastoral needs, please contact the Rector Revd Hazel Clarke on 01244

1st Kinnerton Scout Group

Like so many other organisations we have been unable to have any fundraising events for nearly a year, however there is a way that the people of Kinnerton can help us raise funds, at no cost at all to you.

660257 or hazelclarke@jcscomputers.co.uk (if unavailable contact Revd Mosley on the details above).

We know that not everyone likes big business, but if you do use Amazon, they will donate 0.5% of your spending to charities, without you having to pay anything extra.

When you make a purchase, log on via Amazon Smile rather than the standard website route. You make your purchase in the usual way, then just select 1st Kinnerton Scout Group as your chosen charity. It's as easy as that. Thank you very much from all the young people and Leaders in the Group.

Could you be our Treasurer??

The Scout Group is looking for a Treasurer. Will you be the person to take on that role? It is not just the Leaders who keep our Scout Group going, but the people behind the scenes, who are equally as important.

The Treasurer does not have to be an Accountant, as we are simplifying all our financial systems, you just need to be organised and numerate, and able to use a spreadsheet. You don't have to have been a Scout or be a Scout parent. Being part of the Scouting family can be every bit as rewarding for you as it is for the young people.

If you would like to help keep our HQ warm, our mini-bus rolling and our Group running, please email **kinnertonscout@gmail.com** to find out more.

Meet the Community Council

The Higher Kinnerton Community Council is made up of a group of individuals who care very much about our village and community. We have meetings once a month (virtually at the moment), and there are plenty of emails and phone calls in between!

We have one goal in mind—to make the village a better place to live, and all in accordance with the Village Plan which can be found on our website www.higherkinnerton.org.uk If you are interested in the content of our meetings, all of our meeting minutes and agendas can be found on the website too.

There have been some member changes on the Council over the past 12 months and so we wanted to introduce you to our members, some of who you will be familiar with already! So... meet the Higher Kinnerton Community Council...

Mike Allport—Chair

Why did you join the Community Council? My wife Mel was previously a Councillor. I thought this was a chance to have my say!

What is your day job? I am retired from the aerospace industry.

What do you like most about being on the Council? When we achieve something which makes the village a better place to live in.

What are your current tasks on the Community Council? To complete Bennetts Lane improvement project and build the council back up to full strength.

What are your hobbies? I enjoy working on my allotment, touring caravan holidays and fishing. Interesting fact about yourself? I used to keep pigs on a friend's farm as a hobby and had a Large White/Welsh sow called Pinky who won 1st. prize at the Newport show. During my working life I have ran two businesses with over 100 employees.

What are you most looking forward to in 2021? Giving my grandchildren a big hug when Covid

allows and seeing the village get back to normal with groups and societies meeting again and a Christmas show??



Liz Corner—Clerk

Why did you join the Community Council? I applied for the position as I had a lot of relevant experience having worked for a local authority and thought it would be an ideal opportunity to get really involved with and contribute to the community.

What is your day job? I also work for Cheshire West and Chester Legal Department as the Law Society Lexcel Co-ordinator and as a member of the Planning and Environment Team. I have also recently been offered a training contract - its been a long held ambition to qualify as a solicitor so its a golden opportunity for me!

What do you like most about being on the Council? The wide variety of the work means that two days are never the same. The work can also be particularly challenging which makes the role really interesting. I especially enjoy helping to plan community events such as the Village Day,

Christmas Event and the Summer Dragon Sports camp. I could write paragraphs about what I like most about my work as I'm fortunate enough to love my job although the work load can sometimes be a challenge as I have my Chester Council job too! What are your current tasks on the Community Council? I am responsible for the administration and effective internal management

and organisation of the council. My tasks range from ensuring compliance with audit, financial and legal requirements, liaising with FCC regarding planning matters, Street Scene issues etc, event planning - its a long list of tasks!!

What are your hobbies? I love to bake and cook - tapas and all things Spanish are a favourite. I also enjoy reading and have nearly finished the latest of Hilary Mantel's books which has been a challenge as its 822 pages long!

Interesting fact about yourself? I have two children - Emily, 22 who lives in London and Sam 14. I'm immensely proud of them both. I'm from Essex and moved to Chester in 1992 to study at the College of Law in Christleton. I was born on 22nd January 1971 as Elizabeth Ariel Crittall (yes just turned the big 50!) - the Crittall family pioneered the manufacture of windows. My grandfather on my Mum's side of the family was an M16 officer and I met Garbo through Grandpa. As a child and teenager, I spent most of my summers in Spain with my grandparents and would love to move there one day.

What are you most looking forward to in 2021? I hope we will be able to arrange some events and activities that everyone in the village can enjoy whilst making sure we all stay safe and well. In my normal life - I just feel incredibly lucky to live in our lovely village and I look forward to the schools re-opening, to the pubs being open and thriving again, and popping to Walters with friends for coffee and cake!

Carroll Nugent

Why did you join the Community Council? To support and help the community - give something back where I can.

What is your day job? Civil Servant

What do you like most about being on the Council? I enjoy being part of the decision making body which supports and improves village life for the benefit of all, not just the few.

What are your current tasks on the Community Council? Outdoor Gym equipment monitor What are your hobbies? Collecting (hoarding) anything I think could come in useful, Films and Liverpool Football Club.

Interesting fact about vourself? Pretty adept at the Yo Yo

What are you most looking forward to in 2021? Hugging my dad. Meeting my fellow councillors in the flesh.



Adam Flannigan

Why did you join the Community Council? I personally had some valued help from the Community Council when our local Councillor helped me arrange a meeting with Flintshire County Council. Experiencing the value first hand. I wanted to put something back.

What is your day job? Commercial underwriter

What do you like most about being on the Council? When the community posts positive comments online about things the Community Council have done, it makes you happy you put the time and effort in when it's appreciated by our village residents.

What are your current tasks on the Community Council? Generally assisting the volunteer group. It is my first year assisting with many other tasks, building up my experience.

What are your hobbies? Golf, football and dog walking.

Interesting fact about yourself? Me and my fiancé Rachael are about to start our self-build barn con-

What are you most looking forward to in 2021? Getting married, although the pubs reopening is a close second. I also look forward to when the village day can return



Martin King

Why did you join the Community Council? I answered the impassioned call to arms from then chair Gareth Evans for some new blood on the council at a time when there were several vacan-

What is your day job? I retired 2 years ago, having spent the previous 15 years as a dispensing optician (the one that sells the glasses) in my own practice up in Cumbria. That's when my wife Helen and I moved into the village.

What do you like most about being on the Council? It's an opportunity to contribute to our village community and get involved in a number of hopefully worthwhile projects

What are your current tasks on the Community Council? For my sins I have been tasked with implementing a village heritage trail, something which will celebrate the village history and a sense of place in Higher Kinnerton.

What are your hobbies? I am passionate about cycling, walking and photography. I was a professional landscape photographer for 15 years before moving into the optics profession.

Interesting fact about yourself? In 1999 I and my family embarked on a 10 week round the world trip, visiting Bali, Australia, New Zealand, the Cook Islands, and finally the USA, a real trip of a lifetime in so many ways

What are you most looking forward to in 2021? Like so many people, I yearn for the day when I can hug my grandchildren again, as well as spending time with friends and family after such a tough 12 months since Covid changed our lives. It will be nice, too, to meet in person some of the new council members - many of us joined in the last 12 months and have never met!

Kat Griffiths

Why did you join the Community Council? I wanted to meet new people, and contribute something to the

What is your day job? I am the Marketing Manager at Porsche Centre Chester.

What do you like most about being on the Council? I like organising the newsletter, and in particular enjoy the moment they are all printed and ready to be delivered, as it feels like a 'job well done'. I also enjoy when residents are positive about what we do on the Council - for instance in December when everyone loved the Christmas bauble gift and posted pictures on the Facebook group. Ultimately though, I love how much being on the Council has enabled me to meet so many nice people in the village, who I otherwise probably would have never met.

What are your current tasks on the Community Council? Anything to do with our 'communication'. I take it in turns with Josh to put the monthly newsletter together. I maintain the Higher Kinnerton website and Facebook group, and liaise with our advertisers.

What are your hobbies? I enjoy going out for food and drink, reading books, and going on long walks with my husband Mike and our (almost 11 year old!) Labrador called Fred.

Interesting fact about yourself? Word for word, I know every line from every episode of Fawlty Towers.

What are you most looking forward to in 2021? So much! I am excited to be able to go to the pub for a roast dinner at the end of a long walk. I want to see my mum and take her for a meal and a catchup, and finally see my dad so that I can give him his Christmas present! I also look forward to being able to plan exciting events in my day job again. In terms of the Council, I can't wait to see other Council members in person, and not through a laptop screen! I also hope that we can plan the Village Day event for later in the year.



Why did you join the Community Council? The main reason I joined the council was to help in any way I can to protect the fantastic rural village that we live in, not least from large property developers who rarely have any interest in the communities that they build in.

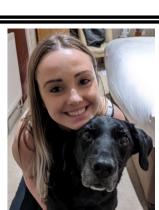
What is your day job? I work in the NHS and as of this month, in the Medical Examiner system which is being phased in across the NHS following recommendation in the Shipman Inquiry, amongst others. What do you like most about being on the Council? I've met some great people - predominantly virtually due to the pandemic!

What are your current tasks on the Community Council? I help to maintain the Higher Kinnerton Community Facebook group and help to produce the monthly village newsletters. We also have a new website which I will be helping to keep up to date.

What are your hobbies? I enjoy sport, reading and film. I can't wait to walk down the aisle in the cinema again! Interesting fact about yourself? My claim to fame was singing on a song for the 2002 FIFA World Cup in Japan and South Korea with my team-mates from the local football club I played for. I think it's still floating around on YouTube somewhere!

What are you most looking forward to in 2021? Nothing too extravagant - I'm mostly looking forward to life, hopefully, returning to something like normal in 2021 - just being able to go out for a drink or some food with family or friends. On the council, I am looking forward to continuing to work towards the aims and ambitions set out in the Village Plan.





Transport to Vaccination Centres

Welsh Border Community Transport are offering transport for residents who need help with attending vaccination appointments. The cost is £5 return regardless of where the centre is located. They are working during the week and at weekends. To book, please call Brian on 01244 544474).

Sugar and Spice and all things nice



I've been asked to share how I started making cakes for North Clwyd Animal Rescue. So, six years ago I adopted my little dog from NCAR and became a volunteer, helping to develop the dogs' sensory garden and help with the mountains of bedding washed daily. I baked for cake stalls at their open days and realising their need for funds I started holding coffee mornings in my house and garden to sell cakes to friends and neighbours. These little gatherings became so popular that I expanded them to fill a whole day every few months. They became 'Cake and Chatter' days. Soon I was joined by friends who helped with refreshments and a tombola. We had a lot of fun.

Last March I came back from my annual trip visiting family in Australia ready to bake and plan for the Easter Cake and Chatter day. Then Covid struck and gloom descended. I managed to fit in a few days up at NCAR tidying the dogs' garden after Winter when they went into lockdown. Staff were furloughed and went from 30 people down to 8. The kennels and cattery were full with about 100 dogs and 90 cats. Their charity shops and cafe closed, open days were cancelled and adoptions suspended. They were desperate as all sources of fundraising were cut off.

I posted flyers through neighbours' letterboxes and included a cake menu. If they wanted to order I would bake and leave their cake on a table in my carport with everything sanitised and a box for the payment/donation. Neighbours rallied but friends from afar were unable to travel so numbers were down and funds were needed badly. So, I took the bold step of describing our plight on the village Facebook group. Offering to 'bake to order' was a bit scary. Would my cakes be good enough? Was I being too ambitious? I had a few sleepless nights.

Then something lovely happened. Complete strangers started to get in touch to order cakes and offer pet food donations. All of a sudden NCAR had a new network of generous and kind supporters. This help and support has grown and carried on all through this dreadful time. My carport now has a row of bins which are constantly being filled with pet food and toys. The cake table works well, one order at a time is placed out there and collected without contact. I never meet many of the people who call. Surprise parcels appear on my doorstep, donations of money come through my door, often with pretty cards and messages, sometimes anonymous envelopes. I have been overwhelmed by the kindness in our village.

What next? Well I will continue to offer cakes for sale to order. I have revised and developed the cake menu and enjoy tinkering with recipes to suit individual tastes and needs such as gluten free and celebration cakes for special events.

Around North Wales other volunteers are doing their bit to raise funds by running marathons, holding auctions etc. We are trying desperately to keep NCAR going. The young staff are tired and volunteers can't go and help them in practical ways but they know we are supporting them and they remain cheerful and shower the animals with love as usual. Higher Kinnerton pet lovers who eat cake can be proud of their efforts. Cake won't cure covid but it sweetens isolation and the money raised keeps a lot of dogs and cats warm and well fed. **So far in 10 months we have raised £5000** which is beyond my wildest dreams. I assure you it is well spent as NCAR has some demanding overheads.



Bonni's Pizza



We are at the village hall every Tuesday evening from 5-8pm with our takeaway wood-fired pizzas.

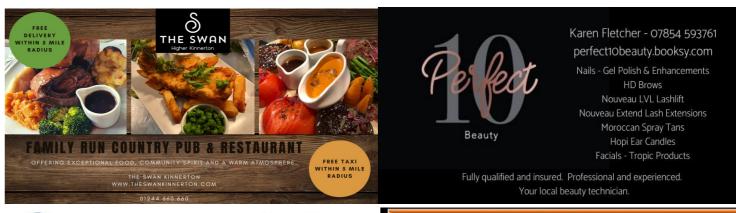
We offer handmade Neapolitan pizzas from our vintage horse box. We love coming to Higher Kinnerton as the people in the village are so welcoming. We've got fantastic regulars who've been coming every week since we started.

We are also available to take private hire bookings for your parties and weddings.

Menus and pre-ordering are available via:

Website: www.bonnispizza.com Facebook/Instagram: @bonnispizza

Email: hello@bonnispizza.com Tel: 07771 747411





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Stay safe and well. Thank you. Maureen Ball