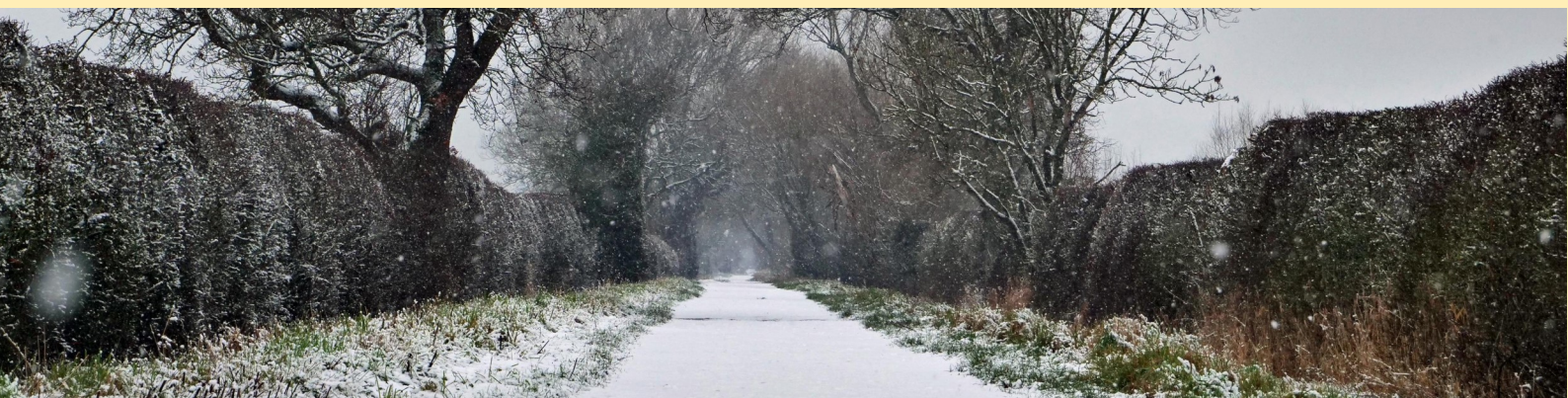


OURVILLAGE



Higher Kinnerton
Community Council

Your Monthly Higher Kinnerton Community Newsletter



Higher Kinnerton scoops Silver Award in 2022 Best Kept Village Competition

Flintshire held their presentation awards ceremony at the beginning of December for the prestigious Best Kept Communities Awards for 2022. Councillor Mike Allport attended on behalf of the Community Council where we learnt that the village has been rewarded with TWO Silver Awards. The first award was for the Best Kept Senior Citizens Social Housing Estate on Bennetts Lane. The second award was for the Best Kept Community Village (over 1000) and is given for those villages who demonstrate very good aspects of community involvement, biodiversity and environmental enhancements. The judges' comments regarding our entry read as follows:

"Very good first impression when driving through the village and at the Village Hall. The substantial hanging baskets were a great feature. Planters were lovely and well cared for. Main noticeboard/signage was excellent. It was good to see the Church wildflower area under development and the extensive planting of wildflowers in the main park. The allotment area was well kept and the

willow tunnel another noteworthy feature. The judges

were impressed by the orchard pruning. Overall, a very good entry and a good example of community involvement."

The Council were very proud to accept the awards on behalf of the Higher Kinnerton Community in recognition of all the hard work by everyone involved as part of our entry. 2022 saw a change of direction in the awards as Flintshire looked to promote the provision of biodiversity and environmental enhancements in community entries. The Silver Awards are something that every one of us can be proud of and look to build on as the Higher Kinnerton community continues to develop for the benefit of all our residents.



All Saints Church news

A big thank you to all who supported the church over the Christmas period, whether by entering a tree in the Christmas Tree Festival, attending events or buy buying raffle tickets. Thank you also for Rev. Robin Mosley, Elaine Davies and Mike Allport for their continued hard work.

The Christmas Tree Festival was a successful event which was well attended, and all the trees looked beautiful. We had excellent donations for Flintshire Foodbank and the church, the lovely Christingle Service at the close of the event raised £90.00 for the Children's Society.

Dates for your diary:

Sunday 1st January – No service

Sunday 8th - 9.30am. Epiphany – Rev. Robin Mosley

Sunday 15th - 9.30. Holy Communion -Rev. Canon Chris Samuels

Sunday 22nd – 9.30 am. H.C. – Rev. Canon Chris Samuels

Sunday 29th – 9.30 am- Rev. Robin Mosley

Sunday 29th – 4.00pm – Family Service to celebrate Candlemas (Rev. Robin Mosley)

Wednesday 18th – Coffee Morning -10.30-12.00noon.

Thursday 26th – Seniors Lunch – 12.00noon

Everyone is very welcome! Happy new Year to you all!

Higher Kinnerton Walking Group by Michael Collins

This month, thanks to Geoff, we had a private tour of the historic Liverpool Queensway Tunnel which was built in 1934 and opened by King George V. It's an amazing feat of engineering and an extremely interesting tour which takes about two hours.

Prior to the tour we had brunch in The Captain Alexander pub and popped into the Three Graces, namely the Royal Liver Building, Cunard Building and the Port of Liverpool Building. Then a few photos on the waterfront by the memorial to the 32 heroic Engineers who lost their lives when the Titanic sank in 1912, the famous Beatles statues and the statue of the legendary Billy Fury. Another great day out !



Kinnerton WI News

Kinnerton WI hold a meeting the first Thursday of every month. We are open to ladies from 18 years of age. Every month we try to have a speaker to educate or entertain. We also have open events which will be promoted later in the year, why not come and give us a go.



January - No meeting

February - Martin King is going to tell us about his epic 1000 mile charity bike ride from Lands End to John O'Groats last summer, raising money for Dial West Cheshire.

March - Mervyn Saunders. A brief history of entertainment.

RSPB 2023 Big Garden Bird Watch

This annual event will take place over the weekend of 27-29 January and we would encourage everyone to spend an hour enjoying the birdlife in your gardens whilst, at the same time, helping the RSPB monitor the state of our nation's garden birds. If you've never done it before it really couldn't be easier. Just settle down for one hour with a cuppa and a pen and paper by a window overlooking part of your garden and count what you see. The RSPB can provide information on how to recognise your birds and the best ways to attract them into your garden. Last year over 700,000 people took part provided invaluable data for the RSPB. You can find more information about how to register and what to do at <https://www.rspb.org.uk/get-involved/activities/birdwatch/>



Photography © 2022 Martin King

Ysgol Derwen News

We would like to invite members of the local community who have some time to spare to come into school to share with the pupils the hobbies they enjoy. Can you play chess, whist or board games, or do you crochet, knit or enjoy any other crafts? If you have retired and have time to spare, we should be delighted if you would contact us about coming in for the few hours during the term. We are not asking for a weekly commitment, just a few group sessions during the term where our children and our older residents can enjoy new pastimes together.

In addition to this, we would like to offer older adults the chance to come into school to ask any questions they have about using IT. We can show you how to use your keyboard, have a video call with a distant friend, navigate Facebook or the internet, download an app to your iPad or mobile phone so that you can book a bus or check your bank account or maybe book a GP appointment on line. Whatever you would like to know, the school community will be there to help.

For both of the above please call the main school office on 01244 660291.

We are really looking forward to hearing from you!

1st Kinnerton Scout Group by Lesley Holden

The whole Scout Group wants to thank Sally Palet for her many years as Cub Leader in the village, as she retired from the role in December. Sally has been an inspiring Leader for both Beavers and Cubs and we are really sad that she is leaving, due to work pressure. The Cubs gave her a rousing send off, and we know that her influence, humour and knowledge will be remembered and will have a positive impact on them as they grow up.

Wishing everyone all the best for 2023 from all in the Kinnerton Scout Group



2022: A Review of the Higher Kinnerton year

As we slip into 2023 it is perhaps a poignant moment to cast our eyes back on 2022 and some events which have shaped the village year here in Higher Kinnerton.



The Queen's Platinum Jubilee (June)

Perhaps the most significant event was the occasion of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in June and the celebrations which heralded an unprecedented reign, all the more so with the passing of Queen Elizabeth just 3 months later. Higher Kinnerton certainly



joined the rest of the UK in raising a collective glass to celebrate, with street parties and other events



bringing many in the village together, young and old alike.

The fact that the sun shone for much of the weekend may have helped!

Remembrance Sunday (November)

Another village event which always draws a crowd is the Remembrance Sunday parade through the village. The guide leaders proudly led the village youngsters through the streets as many gathered



together to remember British and Commonwealth servicemen and women who have given in service to their country, with perhaps an extra significance given the events this year in Ukraine. Always colourful, the youngsters were a credit to the community, looking splendid in their uniforms. Thank you.

Village Pollinator Garden competition (Summer)



With an increasing awareness of environmental damage due to various factors, not least climate change, we launched a competition to encourage villagers to attract pollinators to their gardens by growing flowers and other plants to attract, bees, insects and butterflies. This approach to gardening benefits everyone, not least the gardeners themselves and any of us wandering round the village who could see first hand the variety of colour on display.



Spring Bulb Planting (October)

Higher Kinnerton received a grant to help with adding nature enhancements to the village. With the help of Flintshire's bio-diversity team who provided some 3500 spring bulbs, we planted a mix of tulips, bluebells and snowdrops and others. On a thankfully dry afternoon at the end of October members of the Council



were joined by Sophie Roberts, Flintshire's bio-diversity officer and some of her team, along with members of the village junior football teams and a number of other residents, young and not so young. We spent a couple of hours digging holes and planting bulbs which will, hopefully, brighten the village up come the spring. Given the smiles it would seem that everyone enjoyed themselves. Again, a huge thank you to everyone who helped.

Tree Planting (February)

Another environmental project took place way back in February when a hardy group of volunteers from across the village helped Anjela Jones to plant and stake a number of tree saplings in the park in Park Avenue. Despite some typically wet and miserable February weather the volunteers quickly planted a variety of native species which will hopefully soon get established and grow away to enhance our park for many years to come.



We hope that 2023 continues to provide opportunities for members of the Higher Kinnerton family to come together and contribute to our village as it continues to develop and enhance all our lives. We will, of course, keep you posted.

Fflecsi Bus Services, Higher Kinnerton

A reminder that the new Fflecsi bus service is up and running in our area. The service is available Monday to Saturday, during the day. Full details are found on the Fflecsi website at <https://www.fflecsi.wales/locations/buckley/>



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Buses also run between Higher Kinnerton and Chester, a limited service is available Monday to Friday

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Buses to Chester	
<u>Service 61, Stagecoach, Mon to Fri</u>	
0745:	arrives Chester Bus Interchange at 0817
1617:	arrives Chester Bus Interchange at 1647
1737:	arrives Chester Bus Interchange at 1807
<i>Note that this service does not operate from Higher Kinnerton on Saturday or Sunday</i>	
Buses from Chester Bus Interchange	
<u>Service 61, Stagecoach, Mon to Fri</u>	
1540:	arrives Higher Kinnerton at 1610
1705:	arrives Higher Kinnerton at 1735
1815:	arrives Higher Kinnerton at 1844
<i>Note that this service does not operate to Higher Kinnerton on Saturday or Sunday</i>	

Maggie/NCAR Bistro Fundraiser by Glenys Roston

Following our recent fundraiser event in the Village Hall on November 26th I would like to say a massive thank you to the full team of helpers, without which, it would not have been the huge success it was.

Inspiration - Maureen Ball & Maggie/NCAR

Walter's - Ticket Sales & Walter's Gift Card prize draw (No. 22 won)

Donations for raffle which included a voucher from & for The Swan

Preparation of hall - Jan & Lyn (Helsby), amazing work

Catering staff - Bacon butty Barry & his lovely wife Jan (from Cambridge)

Lyn - yummy Orange & Almond cake with strawberries & creme fraiche

Maggie/NCAR Raffle - Lyn (brilliant sales technique) & Gabbie on the draw

Village Hall/Jason (Bookings) - for the use of the Village Hall

Random Start - excellent performance

Dancers, diners & audience - for making it feel like a warming family party

The staff volunteers, as above, who also purchased tickets for the event

Last but not least - to everyone who helped clear the hall. I reckon I had even more helpers than Santa Claus!!

Best of all, after expenses, the event raised an amazing £350. Thank you one and all



Single-Use Plastics Ban

Following recent approval by the Senedd of The Environmental Protection (Single-use Plastic Products) (Wales) Bill to ban selling unnecessary, disposable products to consumers, Wales is to become the first part of the UK to legislate against a list of single-use plastics. The legislation will take effect in autumn 2023, and it will give local authorities the power to enforce the offence of supplying or offering to supply commonly littered items, which have non-plastic or reusable alternatives.

The new law is being introduced, following a consultation with the public and other stakeholders, to help reduce the flow of single-use plastic waste into the environment. Wales is currently ranked as the world's third best domestic recycler and the Welsh Government hopes to take further steps to tackle the climate and nature emergencies.

The single-use plastics that are to be banned or restricted from sale in Wales from autumn 2023, include:

- Cutlery
- Plates
- Stirrers
- Drinking straws
- Plastic-stemmed cotton buds
- Balloon sticks
- Expanded and foamed extruded polystyrene fast-food containers
- Expanded and foamed extruded polystyrene cups
- Polystyrene lids for all cups and fast-food containers
- Thin plastic single-use carrier bags
- All products made of oxo-degradable plastic



The Welsh Government said all these items had non-plastic or reusable alternatives and the legislation allows for current list to be amended to ban other types of environmentally harmful single-use plastic products in future. You can read more about the new legislation at

<https://gov.wales/ground-breaking-bill-ban-single-use-plastics-wales-and-avoid-leaving-toxic-legacy-future>



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