

OURVILLAGE



Higher Kinnerton
Community Council

Your Monthly Higher Kinnerton Community Newsletter



Higher Kinnerton, a Winter Wonderland by Martin King

It is amazing how a place is transformed by a fresh snowfall. Whilst it can bring problems there can be few people who don't enjoy the spectacle of a landscape covered in a coat of the white stuff. Last month



Higher Kinnerton was transformed into a veritable Winter Wonderland, a real Christmas card scene, for a few days, and it really did look a picture. Fields and trees took on a whole new guise under the snow. A walk round the village

footpaths and lanes always rewards with some beautiful views, not

just locally but also out over the fields to Cheshire. There is always something to see, whether it be lambs in the fields in spring, maybe a buzzard soaring majestically above the hedgerows, lines of trees turning a golden colour as autumn deepens, or the sight of spring bulbs serving up a feast of colour along the roadside. It can bring peace and tranquillity back into our lives. For so many of us it did just that over the last three years, indeed for many it still does judging by the number of

people we pass when we take a stroll round the Green

or down the embankment. As a landscape photographer I am always grateful for the opportunity of taking a gentle walk round our lovely village and, following the recent snow, I did just that with the aim of taking a few photos of our village, seen here in its winter beauty. No matter what the season it is always a pleasure to be able to enjoy what



our village has to offer, but when the snow arrives it is truly a privilege.

Higher Kinnerton Walking Group by Michael Collins

In January, 27 of us completed a circular route alongside the River Dee between the two steel bridges before stopping at The Central Hotel for refreshments.

Bit of trivia - both bridges originally opened to allow ships to pass through.

The Jubilee Bridge which is the road bridge was opened in 1927. It is so called because it replaced the original bridge which was opened in 1897 which was the diamond jubilee of Queen Victoria. This bridge was originally a lifting bridge but now has a fixed roadway. It is a rare example of a Bascule bridge.

The rail bridge opened on 3 August 1889 and at the time was the largest swing bridge in the UK. The moving central section weighs 765 tons and is 85 metres long and took 40 seconds to open. It has now been welded closed and was last opened in 1960.



Kinnerton WI News

Kinnerton WI meet in the village hall on the first Thursday of every month at 7.30pm. We are open to all ladies over the age of 18. Every month we invite 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.

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

March. Next month Mervyn Saunders will regale us with a brief history of entertainment.

Beryl Joan Milner

Beryl Joan Milner, dear beloved wife of John, mum to Stephen and Katrina, nan to Ashley, Amy, Cameron and Jamie, great grandmother to Jensen and mother-in-law of Dee and Alistair, passed away peacefully on Wednesday 14th December 2022, aged 84, at Gwastad Hall Nursing Home. Beryl and John moved to the village in 1974, having purchased and restored the derelict village school, saving it from dereliction and for which they received a Prince of Wales' Award. Beryl was always active in village activities. She was on the Village Hall Committee for many years and was much involved with the bowling club from its concept, until dementia took hold and she was no longer able to play. Her great love was her garden, which was the centre-piece of the village and was always greatly admired and singled out each year by the Best Kept Village judges, but it is now sadly no more. She was a fighter and overcame diabetes, colitis, breast cancer and other illnesses but, unfortunately, try as she did, she could not beat dementia.

Beryl was cremated at Chester Crematorium on 4th January 2023.

John and the family wish to thank all those who have expressed their kind words of sympathy and/or who have made donations in her memory, all of which is much appreciated at this disturbing time. If desired, donations may be made in her memory in aid of Cancer Research UK and either left with a member of the family or through a dedicated page: <https://berylmilner.muchloved.com>



Higher Kinnerton Environmental Group News

Reading through the article “2022: A review of the Higher Kinnerton year” in last month’s newsletter, there were lots of exciting things happening in the village throughout the year including tree planting early on in February, the Village Pollinator Garden competition in the summer and Spring Blub Planting in October. Some of these events are a consequence of the Nature Wardens Project which was launched back in Summer 2019. The wildflower areas in the church and main park as well as the willow tunnel, community orchard and hedgerows were all developed and maintained through the Nature Wardens Project and separate initiatives with Flintshire County Council and featured in the judges’ comments for the Higher Kinnerton Silver Award for Best Kept Community Village, along with the well cared for planters and well-kept allotment area.

Following on from this success, we are hoping to continue to improve and enhance our village environment and would like to invite members of the community to join us. We are hoping to organise an event for the Higher Kinnerton Environmental Group in March to give people an opportunity to get involved and to have a say in the future direction of the group – details in the next Newsletter! In the meantime, the volunteer group task for February is to maintain the hedgerows in the park and on Bennetts Lane corner so please do look out for information on the Higher Kinnerton Community Facebook page or contact Helen Armstrong (helen101a@hotmail.co.uk) for more details.



Biodiversity Blog: February by Anjela Jones

It may not be the end of winter, but spring can still unofficially start in February. Changing weather patterns have seen some bursts of unseasonably warm weather in recent years which can play a trick on Mother Nature. Bees react to temperature changes so if we get a warm spell, you may find a few Queens out a bit too early. Consider having some early growing bulbs in your garden such as snowdrops, muscari and crocus to support any early risers. February is also a good time for planting trees and getting nest boxes up and ready for the nesting season from March onwards.



Remember the main nesting season for the UK is March – August so cut back any trees or hedges by the end of February. It is an offence under Section 1 of the Wildlife

and Countryside Act of 1981 to intentionally take, damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird while it is in use or being built, or to intentionally kill, injure or take chicks or adults, or intentionally take or destroy any eggs.

Higher Kinnerton Biodiversity Programme

Following on from the successful wildflower seeding in the main park, off park avenue, Flintshire County Council have agreed to continue the seed planting on the recreation ground, Main Road. The areas around the field will be seeded early this year, and be left to grow throughout the spring and summer. A single cut, collect and removal of the cuttings in Autumn is needed (it is recommended this cut take place any time between mid-August to mid-October). This timing of the cut allows all of the wildflowers to set seed.

The bulb planting outside the scout hut and along the hedgerow last Autumn was very popular, with many Higher Kinnerton residents helping out. Also the children of years 5 and 6 at Ysgol Derwen planted dozens of trees late last year around the school field. Along with all the magnificent flowers, trees, bushes and hedgerows that Higher Kinnerton home owners lovingly care for, our community is sending a positive message that biodiversity is close to all of our hearts.

We will keep you updated with even more areas being looked at to help reintroduce wildlife back into our community.

Natural Resources Wales: lose yourself in the Great Outdoors

More and more of us are looking for ways to destress as we try to cope with the modern day work-life balance. There are many ways to do this - exercise, sport, a good book, listening to music or enjoying the Great Outdoors. Natural Resources Wales (NRW) has a number of functions, including the management of over 550km of waymarked walking trails, 600km of waymarked mountain biking and cycling trails, some 100km of waymarked running trails and 30km of waymarked horse-riding trails.



The Welsh Government has launched 2023 as The Year of Trails and NRW are aiming to encourage people to get out and explore as part of a celebration of Wales' trails, hopefully discovering some new places along the way. Clare Pillman, NRW's Chief Executive said:

"There is a trail for each of us. Long or short; mountain, forest or coast; walking, riding, running or cycling – NRW managed trails have it all!

And for 2023 there is an open invitation for bikers, hikers and riders; and for ramblers, explorers, and commuters to discover everything our nation has to offer.

These trails are a place for reflection, relaxation and recreation, connecting us to each other as well as to the stories and histories of Wales. But they also deliver a host of benefits – for us, our children, our bodies and our souls."

Here in north-east Wales there are any number of such places with trails, nature reserves, woodlands and open access land - you probably know some already. Many of these are within easy reach of us here in Higher Kinnerton and can make a great day out, or a place to go for a couple of hours. They all have well waymarked routes and most are great for families and us older folk. Many of the trails provide easy access for everyone, though some demand a level of fitness which some might find harder. In turn this may well encourage you to explore even more, there are all manner of woodlands and countryside with open access.. The North Wales Wildlife Trust, for example, own a number of woodlands near us which provide a variety of walks and activities. Visit their website at <https://www.northwaleswildlifetrust.org.uk/habitats/woodland>



The Natural Resources Wales website has a number of guides to locations across the whole of Wales, including north-east Wales, and is well worth a visit. The website address is <https://naturalresources.wales/days-out/places-to-visit/?lang=en>. For each location there are maps which can be downloaded, along with details of walks, cycle trails, visitor amenities (including cafés!) and how to get there. There are also details of accessible walking trails suitable for all abilities

Locations are as follows:

Alwen & Llyn Brenig Reservoirs,
near Denbigh

Clocaenog Forest, near Ruthin

Coed Llangwyfan, near Mold

Coed Moel Famau, near Mold

Coed Nercwys, near Mold



If you have never really explored our local woodlands and hillsides they are well worth a visit, whether it be on foot or bike. It should be stressed that other outdoor facilities are available - such as Halkyn Mountain, Waun y Llyn on Hope Mountain, and Plas Power Woods (near Wrexham), to name but a few. With spring (hopefully) just around the corner and the days getting ever longer it is a good time to be getting out and about and enjoying our wonderful natural world and taking time off from our everyday lives to enjoy some quality personal and family time.

A message from Kidsbank Chester

Kidsbank Chester recently got in touch to say "A big thank you for the donation from the Higher Kinnerton Christmas Concert to Kidsbank Chester, we are extremely grateful for your generosity of £87.50, please pass on our sincere thanks."

If you couldn't make the concert and would like to make a donation, please go to the Kidsbank Chester website. Thank you.

Be Seen, Be Safe

Flintshire County Council has highlighted the importance of wearing good visibility clothing and carrying a torch whilst walking in villages at night. As the long cold winter continues it seems good advice! Please take care out there.

We have enjoyed some amazing sunrise colour in the village recently. This was sent to us by Maureen Ball and is well worth sharing



How can my child be seen more easily?

ON DULL DAYS...

- Children can wear bright or fluorescent colours
- High-visibility tabards and other clothing can be purchased from many retailers
- Fluorescent armbands can worn over coats and other clothes
- Use bags in bright colours or with high-visibility strips

AT NIGHT...

- Reflective clothing reflects light from car and bike headlamps
- Reflective armbands, clothes and accessories should be placed on bags and clothing, or over it
- Remember that fluorescent colours don't show up in the dark

HOW TO STAY COOL...

- For older children who may see fluorescent and reflective items as 'uncool', stickers for bags or coats can be purchased

Kinnerton 60+ news

The next get-together will be held at **The Royal Oak at 1.30 on Wednesday, 8th February**. We will be delighted to host John Ward who, with his wife, established the Pet Cemetery from a derelict farm near Holywell 30 years ago. It is now an award-winning pet funeral service and boasts a famous tea rooms.

John will be talking about the family's trusteeship of The National Military Working Dogs Memorial Fund as they raise money to build a memorial to commemorate military working dogs who have served their country in areas of conflict from WW1 to the present day.

There will be a £2 fee which will be donated to the NMWDM fund. Anybody is welcome to attend, no matter how old you are! Why not come earlier and have lunch?



All Saints Church

A big thank you to all who attended the church in December. It was lovely to see so many families attending our services.

If you have enjoyed these services, please join us on **Sunday 29th January at 4.00pm** for our Candlemas Service, when we celebrate Jesus being presented at the Temple for the first time.

Dates for your diary:

Sunday 5th February- 9.30am. – Morning Worship – Jeanette Howe

Sunday 12th - 9.30am. Holy Communion – Archdeacon Mike Gilbertson

Sunday 19th - 9.30am. Holy Communion -Rev. Canon Chris Samuels

Wednesday 22nd - 2.00pm - Ash Wednesday- Rev. Robin Mosley

Sunday 26th – 9.30 am- Lent. Holy Communion - Rev. Denise Williams

Wednesday 15th – Coffee Morning -10.30-12.00noon.

Thursday 16th – Seniors Lunch – 12.00noon (Invitations will be sent)

Please come and join us!

Ysgol Derwen News

We would like to repeat our invite to 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!

Kinnerton Baby & Toddler Group Invite

Kinnerton Baby and Toddler Group would like to invite our senior village residents to join our session in the village hall. Come along and see our little ones in action and enjoy coffee and cake!

Friday, 17 February at 10 am

If you have any questions or to confirm you're coming please call Jan on 07990 898068

January Newsletter Apology

Our distribution of the January newsletter was compromised as a result of supply issues with our printers who left us about 100 copies short of our normal print run. Due to time constraints it was not really feasible to reorder which meant we were unable to deliver to every household round the village. Sadly this meant that some of you will not have received a copy and for this we are truly very sorry. You will hopefully be aware that we always make the newsletter available to read via the HKCC website (<https://higherkinnerton.org.uk/community/monthly-newsletter/>) and try to post a link on the community Facebook page. We appreciate that not everyone can access the internet but perhaps for those of you who cannot you might know someone who can. Once again, apologies to all who didn't receive a copy, but hopefully the February edition will go some way to make up for it.

SADDLE UP AND COME ON OVER FOR A

BARN DANCE

DANCE ALONG TO THE EXPERT CALLING OF
JIGSMITH CEILIDH BAND
(NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED/CHAOS POSSIBLE!)

Saturday, 25 March 2023
from 7pm - 11pm

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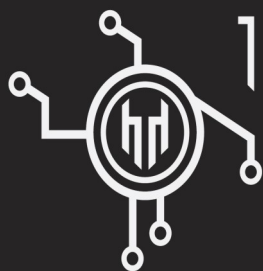
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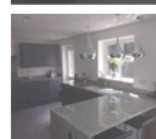


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