

OUR VILLAGE



Higher Kinnerton
Community Council

Your Monthly Higher Kinnerton Community Newsletter



Ysgol Derwen Swimming Success

Our very own Ysgol Derwen had a team of keen swimmers representing them in the Mold and Buckley Swimming Gala on Friday 31st March. Head Teacher Mr Jones was delighted to announce that the team had won, which was the first time in over 20 years since they had started competing in the event. With some 75 swimmers competing it's fair to say the team were excited at their achievement.



Mr Jones said 'The children were absolutely fantastic and we are all very proud of their achievements'.

Well done to all those who competed and demonstrated great teamwork.

HKCC Open Evening

Thank you for a great turnout for our community meeting. We welcomed local businesses, groups & volunteers for an evening of informal chat with residents offering their support for village projects in 2023, enjoying a glass of wine, some cheese also a beer and snacks. Given the positive feedback from everyone we hope to make this an annual event.

The volunteer and environmental groups have 'enrolled' new members who have offered a few hours when needed to help out, businesses too found new support from residents. If you have an hour or so every couple of months to help with planting, litter picking etc please drop us an email jason@higherkinnerton.org.uk and we'll make sure the volunteer group get your details.



With discussions around 2023 planned projects in our village include the following -

- Best Scarecrow Competition - Coronation themed
- Best kept community
- Biodiversity initiatives - introducing large planters into the village
- Our mini heritage trail
- Pollinator Garden & Sunflower competitions
- Summer Dragon Sports events

Also planned are works on improving St. David's Park and replacing the cricket nets.



Everyone is looking forward to Village Day '23, this year on 29th July. As usual we expect this to be well attended and enjoyed by all of us. This year attractions include stalls, band, music, children's amusements, food & drink. Time to get out the picnic blanket and suncream and head to the recreation ground!

We will finish the year off with our Christmas Carol Evening at the village hall. We've a lot going on in Higher Kinnerton this year.

Keep your eye on the newsletters throughout the year with

details of what's happening. Take care, HKCC

Higher Kinnerton Volunteer Group

Come and join us for The Big Help Out on the 8th May! We will be giving the village a Spring clean, tidying up the willow arch, the hedge on Bennetts Lane and the park too. We will be meeting at the Village Hall at 10am – all welcome!

Kinnerton WI Open Evening

Kinnerton WI are holding an open evening on Thursday June 1st 2023. Bernie Hollywood will be talking about his epic crossing of the Atlantic. Please note this event is open to non-WI members. Gentlemen are more than welcome. Entrance fee for non-WI is £2. Refreshments will be provided. Come and celebrate with us Bernie's heroic adventure.

On May 4th our speaker is Mr Sturgess, a local resident of Higher Kinnerton, who will be talking on how to get the best from our roses and clematis.

For further info contact Hazel on **01244 660751**



Biodiversity Blog: May

Hawthorn Blossom will be in abundance in May hence it sometimes being called the Mayflower and it's also peak season for bluebell carpets. In the garden please consider taking part in Plant Life's **No Mow May**.

Help bees and other pollinators this spring by leaving the mower in the shed for a little longer. **No Mow May** is a national campaign by Plantlife.org.uk which is encouraging people to resist the urge to have a neat and tidy lawn and instead to let it grow to support pollinators at the beginning of the season.

Weeds are just wildflowers' growing where you don't want them, with dandelions being the big bad wolves of gardening, misrepresented and given a bad reputation, but they are a rich early food source for our precious pollinators along with other 'weeds' such as clover and buttercups.

Plantlife are asking us to leave the mower in the shed and let our lawns go wild for a month then at the end, take part in their 'every flower counts survey' to see how many bees the UK's lawns can feed. Not only will you receive your very own "nectar score" (which will tell you how many bees your lawn can feed), you'll help them learn more about the health of the nation's wildflowers.

Download your **No Mow May** poster here

<https://www.plantlife.org.uk/campaigns/nomowmay/>

Do we really need perfect lawns? Lawns became a status symbol with its origins in the aristocracy, much like having bad teeth from eating sugary foods, having a lawn was a way of showing off how rich you were because you could afford to maintain grass that didn't need to be used for food production.

To maintain our perfect lawns to impress ourselves and our neighbours, we need to use fertilisers, and these can run off into our water systems via drains and cause harm to wildlife. Having a lawn is much better for the environment than paving it or using gravel as grass can sequester up to 3 tonnes of carbon per hectare a year but does it need to be perfect? We've changed our mindset on bad teeth so maybe now is the time to change our mindset on perfect lawns and let them go a bit wild and see what beauty they hold.



Kinnerton Cricket Club

The season starts on 2 May with a home match at Northop Cricket Club - we are still looking for villagers to get involved as players or spectators. Just get in touch.

For the first time in our history we have sponsorship and will be displaying the logo on our shirts. Optimal Performance and Health are a local company who give an experience, guiding you to live a better quality of life and helping you reach your optimal potential.

What they offer is

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Visit their Facebook page or contact them on **07946 008064**



My visit to Liberia by Caroline Harcourt

I've recently returned from a two week visit to Sue, a good friend and fellow primatologist, who is the Director of Libassa Wildlife Sanctuary in Liberia, West Africa. The sanctuary was opened in 2017 and is the only place in Liberia to rescue and care for all species of wild animal (except chimpanzees, which go to a place dedicated to their well-being). The vision of Libassa is *"to be a sanctuary with no animals – this would mean that all the awareness and education in the country has worked and nobody kills, eats, captures or keeps Liberian wildlife"*. Sadly, this vision is still a long way from being achieved. Although it is illegal to kill or keep wild animals in the country, it is very difficult to enforce the law and many of the rural people are not aware of the rules. Bushmeat (i.e. that from wild animals) is frequently sold on the roadside and, perhaps worse, young animals, particularly monkeys, are kept as pets, often in appalling conditions. Once



Map of Guinean Moist Forests. Wikimedia Commons/Mario1952

big enough, when they are not so appealing, they too may well end up in the pot.

Most of the creatures in the sanctuary are monkeys, but there are also pangolins, crocodiles, a variety of bird species, duikers (a type of antelope), civets, squirrels, tortoises, snakes and, indeed, anything else that needs rescuing. Recently, this has included a racoon from USA which was a stowaway on a ship! The idea is to release as many as possible back into the wild once they have been treated for any injuries or have grown up enough to survive. Some though, can never be let go, such as the blind dwarf crocodile and blind parrot that were in the sanctuary when I visited. Permanent residents like these, and the temporary ones, are used for educating visitors to the sanctuary about the importance of conserving the animals and their habitats.

Many of those that are rescued are, when fit, released into a protected area near the border with Sierra Leone. Probably the



Infant sooty mangabey clinging to his human carer

most charismatic of these, to me, is the pangolin or scaly anteater. I had the absolute thrill of feeding the tiny one that had been found and brought to Libassa weighing a mere 120g, probably just a day or two old. Her mother will have been killed and eaten, with her scales removed and likely sold to superstitious people in Asia who think they will gain some benefit from something that is made of exactly the same substance as our fingernails!

Pangolins, all eight species of them (four in Africa and four in Asia) are traded on an enormous scale. Probably over a million have been killed in the last decade. Indeed, they are the most trafficked animal in the world. What a tragedy.

Monkeys are very difficult to release, especially those caught as youngsters as they have no idea what to eat, where to go or what is dangerous. Most primates live in groups, so even an individual adult is unlikely to survive if released into an unknown area with no group mates. Soon after I left the sanctuary, the culmination of years of preparation, the release of some sooty mangabeys finally happened. A group of



A practice climb by the pangolin

over twenty of them were taken to a forested area and let go after some days in an enclosure there. A team of four people will live in the forest for a year and keep track of the monkeys, providing extra food until they have learned to find their own and ensuring that they are doing well. Fingers crossed that they thrive.

I spent most of my time at the sanctuary because Sue couldn't take time off from her work – it is more than a full-time job; a staff member has to be present 24 hours a day 365 days of the year. However, we did manage to slip away to two sites, one a pleasant area of waterfalls and the other was Sapo, the country's only National Park. The latter was about 220 miles from the sanctuary and took around 11 hours to reach because of the terrible road. I'll never complain about Kinnerton's potholes again! It was a huge adventure that I really enjoyed, but it certainly isn't a country for comfort-loving tourists or, sadly, for people wanting to see wildlife.



Feeding the infant pangolin



The road to Sapo

All Saints Church news

Church Services

Sunday 7th May , 10.00am. Morning Service to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III, led by Revd Robin Mosley.

Local Councillors and members of the Higher Kinnerton Scouts, Cubs, Guides and Brownies have been invited to attend.

Sunday, 14th May. There will be no Service at All Saints Church.

10.30am- There will be a joint service and the Annual Parochial Council Meeting (APCM) at St. Mary's Church, Dodleston. led by Revd Robin Mosley.

Sunday, 21st May, 9.30am. Holy Communion led by Rev Canon Chris Samuels

Sunday, 28th May, 9.30am. Whitsunday - Day of Pentecost.

Holy Communion led by Revd Robin Mosley.

Christian Aid Week

Christian Aid Week is 14th – 20th May.

Donation envelopes are available in the church or you can donate online at www.christianaid.org.uk. All donations very gratefully received.

Coffee Morning

Wednesday, 17th May. 10.30 - 12.00 noon. Everyone is very welcome to join us for a coffee and a chat.

Seniors Lunch

Thursday, 18th May. Invitations will be sent out.

You are very welcome to join us for one or all of our services.

Higher Kinnerton Walking Group

In April we headed to Alyn Waters Country Park and finished at the Cafe for coffee and cake. Bit of trivia - during the 16th century the park was part of a large country estate centred around Gwersyllt Hall. The owners sided with the Royalists during the Civil War and in 1645 the Hall was severely damaged by the Roundheads. The park was popular amongst the gentry as a venue for archery. The Hall was demolished in 1910 due to mining subsidence and in 1953 MacAlpines bought the land to quarry. Some of the sand and gravel removed from the site was used to build the giant Llyn Brenig Dam. In 1966 whilst digging for gravel part of a mammoth's huge tusk was uncovered which is now in Liverpool Museum. In 1988 Wrexham Council bought the land and converted it to a country park. Alyn Waters is now the largest Country Park in the Wrexham area and is situated either side of the beautiful River Alyn with its lovely riverside walks and is a Green Flag Award accredited site.



If you would like to join us on any of our walks, details can be found on the HKCC website at <https://higherkinnerton.org.uk/community/community-directory/higher-kinnerton-walking-group/>

1st Kinnerton Scout Group

Many thanks to all the people who kindly donated items to our Jumble Sale last month, and also to those who purchased from us.

Jumble Sales are a great way of recycling items no longer needed, while raising money for charity.

Items that were not sold have been passed on to other charities, in particular to a charity in Wrexham who sent items to Ukrainian refugees who are displaced by the war to Poland, and to North Clwyd Animal Rescue.

Our thanks also to those who have ordered bedding plants. Delivery Day is 14th May, and we look forward to seeing lots of tubs, baskets and gardens in full bloom.

Higher Kinnerton Environmental Group

We had our first meeting on the 5th April and officially launched the Higher Kinnerton Environmental Group. Our aim is to protect and improve the environment of Higher Kinnerton. Membership is open to anyone who lives within the boundaries of the village of Higher Kinnerton so if you would like to join, please email Helen Armstrong at helen101a@hotmail.co.uk, or come and join us at our next meeting: 18:30-19:30, Wednesday 3rd May 2023 at The Swan.

Useful contact information

Last month we published a list of useful contacts. It turns out that some of those listed were out of date, for which we do apologise. An updated list is given below.

Community Council Contact	Liz Corner	liz@higherkinnerton.org.uk
PCSO / SCCH	C3967 Helen Holden	Mobile Number : 07890 388786
Volunteer Group	Mike Allport	mike@higherkinnerton.org.uk
Village Hall Bookings	https://hallbookingonline.com/kinnerton/	jason@higherkinnerton.org.uk
All Saints Church	Revd Robin Mosley	rev.robinmosley@gmail.com
Defibrillator Locations	Ysgol Derwen School	Higher Kinnerton Village Hall



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Entries to the newsletter can be made by emailing newsletter@higherkinnerton.org.uk by the **third 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.