

OUR VILLAGE



Higher Kinnerton
Community Council

Your Monthly Higher Kinnerton Community Newsletter

KING CHARLES III CORONATION SPECIAL EDITION

Queen Lily takes the prize!

The 2023 Higher Kinnerton Scarecrow Trail and competition has now drawn to a close and what a great show it proved to be. Everyone who took part in this should feel very proud of their efforts as no fewer than 22 scarecrows went on display round the village last month. We produced a village trail map and encouraged you all to head out and explore and enjoy the show. The feedback suggests that it struck a chord and there were certainly some splendid scarecrows, seemingly at every turn.

In the end the votes were cast (Eurovision style) and the points totted up and it was a clear winner. In third place, with 19 points, was a ferocious looking Hungry Caterpillar eating the King's Coronation Quiche. In second place with 20 points, was Ma'am-alade Sandwich, serving a fine afternoon tea. But the runaway winner, with 36 points, was the elegant Queen Lily of the Lane, who became a real tourist attraction as word got round local cycling groups. Congratulations to our three prize winners.

It must be said that the Community Council are extremely grateful to all who took part and no-one went away empty handed as every scarecrow earned a small prize for taking part. Time to start planning your entry for the next competition!



First prize winner: Queen Lily of the Lane



Second prize: Ma'am-alade Sandwich



Third prize: The Hungry Caterpillar who ate the Coronation Quiche

Higher Kinnerton Walking Group

In May we completed a circular walk of Wepre Woods from Stanford Way Fisheries Cafe. The walk which took us through Northop Hall and down to Wepre Park along the disused tramline, which ran from Buckley to Connah's Quay, through Broadoak Wood and the Gathering Grounds. There is a Visitor Centre in the Park with a cafe and information about the Park. The walk continues upward through sandstone rock faces to a small stream and across a wooden bridge to the Castle. The castle was built in 1257 by Llywelyn ap Gruffydd, Prince of Wales. It fell into the hands of the English following Edward I first Welsh war and was abandoned after his conquest of Wales in 1284. You can also just drive to Wepre Park and visit the Castle from there. Well worth it.

Later in the month we also took a walk round the village following the Scarecrow Trail, amazingly avoiding the torrential rain later in the day.



1st Kinnerton Scout Group

Just an update on the items remaining from our recent Jumble Sale. We have donated five very large bags of soft toys along with jigsaws, puzzles and toddler toys, as well as baby baths and buggies... and a commode, to PISC (the Polish Integration Support Centre) who are sending them to help Ukrainian refugees who have been displaced from their homes by the fighting, often with the absolute minimum of belongings. You can see more about PISC on their website.

We have also donated items to the Roy Castle Lung Foundation and several other charities around the area. Your donations are definitely helping others .

At this time of the year, the Scout Group holds its Annual General Meeting. This is an opportunity to find out more about the Group. If you feel you can help us with

- Fundraising,
- Doing minor DIY jobs on the Headquarters building,
- by joining our Board of Trustees (previously known as the Scout Group Committee), or becoming more involved with the Beavers, Cubs or Scout sections,

and want to know more, then please come along to the Scout HQ on Tuesday 13th June at 6-00pm. The meeting does not take too long, giving us time to watch the youngsters in some outdoor activities (you can join in too). Light refreshments will be provided. As always, if you have any queries, please email them to kinnertonscouts@gmail.com

Thank you for your support of the Scout Group, your local charity. Your help enables the youngsters to have exciting experiences and challenges that will remain with them for years, building skills for their future.

Higher Kinnerton Environmental Group

Our next Higher Kinnerton Environmental Group meeting will be held on Wednesday, 7th June at 6.30pm at The Swan. If you would like to join us please come along! Further details please email Helen at helen101a@hotmail.co.uk

Biodiversity Blog: June

Hedgehogs – what you can do to help

We don't know how many hedgehogs there used to be in the UK, we don't even know how many there are now. However, we do know that their numbers have plummeted, probably halved, in the last 20 years. Shockingly, Britain is one of the most nature-depleted countries in the world, with only half of its natural biodiversity left. Our hedgehogs are one of the many casualties of this country's impoverished landscape. Loss of hedgerows (hedgehogs are, indeed, hoppers of hedges), road casualties, gardeners with their mowers, trimmers and bonfires, increase in badger numbers, intensification of agriculture and urban expansion probably all play a part in the decline of hedgehogs. However, as a 2023 book by Tom Moorhouse explains, it is "death by a thousand cuts" rather than just one cause.

The good news for the village, though, is that you can help. In 2011, Hedgehog Street (<https://www.hedgehogstreet.org/>) was set up by the British Hedgehog Preservation Society and the People's Trust for Endangered Species to raise awareness and build community action to support hedgehog populations. The site gives many tips as to what you should and shouldn't be doing in your area. One of the main actions you are encouraged to take is to make a hole in your garden fences, or under them, so that hedgehogs can move freely from one area to the next – they frequently travel around a mile in a night. As stated on the Hedgehog Street site: "No one garden is enough. Hedgehogs need neighbourhoods of linked up gardens to survive". A



Hedgehog Highway. Photo courtesy Joanne Davenport

13 by 13 cm hole cut in your fence will be enough to let the hedgehogs roam (see <https://www.hedgehogstreet.org/help-hedgehogs/link-your-garden/>).

There are, of course, many other things to do too (see the tips on this video from Hedgehog Street <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gx-RJ5VrJPI&t=158s>) : don't use chemicals, including slug pellets; don't light a bonfire before checking it for hedgehogs, particularly in winter when they may be hibernating in it; don't leave netting or litter in your garden that the hedgehogs can be caught up in; put a ramp in your pond so hedgehogs and other animals can climb out should they fall in; feed them cat and dog food (not bread); provide them with clean water (not milk); check long grass before trimming or mowing; build a hedgehog house; leave a wild corner in your garden to encourage invertebrates (such as slugs, snails, beetles, caterpillars and worms) that the hedgehogs can feed on; make log piles and leaf piles, they provide food and shelter for the prickly creatures and their prey.

More good news for urban dwellers, it seems our activities in towns and villages may well be helping – recent surveys suggest that though hedgehog populations continue to decline in rural area, the numbers in urban areas haven't fallen so drastically and may now be stabilising. So please, do help – put a hole in your fence – or even replace it with a hedge! Make your garden wildlife friendly - we all have to care for the nature that supports hedgehogs, it supports us humans too.

Brian Harris

I would like to extend a heartfelt 'Thank You' to all of you who sent messages, flowers, notes or spoke to me personally, following the passing of my husband, Brian.

Although I feel as if a 'light' has gone out inside of me, I know that I am so lucky to still have the warm glow of friendship from those in Kirkett Avenue and elsewhere in this wonderful village.

In addition, donations in lieu of flowers have raised £400 towards NCAR. Thank you again. Alison.

Higher Kinnerton celebrates the King's Coronation

Wow. What a weekend that was. The coronation of King Charles III took place on Saturday May 6th and across the land communities came together and joined in the celebrations. Here in Higher Kinnerton was no different with street parties, people glued to their televisions and even a few hardy souls making the long trek south to London to be there as history was made.



The following pages include photos kindly sent to us by people from around the village and they help give a flavour of a weekend to remember. We also have an article penned by Fiona Lee who, with her husband Martin, made that trip to the big smoke to enjoy the spectacle close up. We hope you enjoy it. They certainly did!

The King's Coronation: a ringside seat by Fiona Lee

Some years ago I decided that I'd like to be on The Mall at the King's Coronation, whenever that may be. I'd slept on the Victoria Monument to secure a front row space for Charles and Diana's wedding; I'd also been at Andrew and Fergie's wedding too. We'd been up at the crack of dawn with the kids to drive from Kinnerton to see the Queen in Bangor for the Golden Jubilee and I'd been in the Mall for the Diamond too, so I felt I knew what I was doing!! However I was stunned by the number of tents when Martin and I arrived in The Mall to do a recce on the Friday afternoon!

The atmosphere was calm but there was certainly a buzz of anticipation of something big, despite the dampness and thunder. We tried to work out where our best vantage point would be and gauge the time we needed to be back in the morning! I didn't fancy sleeping on the pavement really and I'm not sure I'd have persuaded Martin!

After chatting to a few campers about what they'd been told about timings, we headed back to a comfy bed for an early night with our alarms set for 4am.



Armed with a rucksack of food and flags we had a brisk walk through Soho in the dawn; we passed several folk obviously partying all night but now on their way home, street cleaners, deliveries and a few other early risers which made for an interesting walk! When we reached The Mall however the 'party' was already in full swing - we had been beaten to our planned spot by quite a few hundred even earlier risers and had to accept a back seat view despite arriving an hour before the viewing areas were supposed to have been opened! No queues, no searches but a quiet hum of talking as people tried to decide where to stand for the next five and a half hours!

The time did actually pass quite quickly as we started chatting to our fellow spectators, from Stockport, Bristol and Hamburg. We had chosen to stand on the corner of The Mall and Horseguard's Parade so we were entertained by the comings and goings of police, security, camera men, road sweepers and the occasional car that got the crowd excited as to who may be in it!

Cressida Dick (Commissioner of Met Police) came close during her walkabout to support the many officers lining the route! Mounted police and some of the mounted military started moving around and when sand was sprinkled on the wet road and the Coldstream Guards started to line the route, the frizzles of excitement really became palpable.



The internet signal was intermittent so it was impossible to keep track of unfolding events; we relied on ripples of information drifting through the crowd and when we heard 'they've set off'



we braced ourselves for successful tiptoeing to be able to see the coaches. We could hear cheers and horses hooves and then we saw the gilt of the Diamond Jubilee Coach and the bobbing horses and their wonderfully clad riders followed by a short procession of cars; all over way too quick!

We moved into St James' Park to hear the Coronation Service; so many people viewing the big screen! The rain didn't dampen the spirits and a resounding God Save the King was very moving.

We went back to Horseguard's to watch the preparations for the biggest parade; being so close to the Guards was amazing. Their uniforms are spectacular (do watch BBC 2 Tailoring for the Coronation on catch up!). Eventually we caught sight of the State Coach gleaming in the rain as it moved slowly through Admiralty Arch; we were far back but that didn't seem to matter we were there! The procession was incredible; the bands, the marching, the crowds cheering - all will be in our memories for many years!

And of course the fly past! The organisation of the crowd was phenomenal. We had decided not to move down The Mall but to watch the throngs of people surge quietly by before getting in a prime position to watch the aircraft that could make it through the low cloud. The noise of the various helicopters was incredible and of course the Red Arrows were perfect - a perfect end to a perfect day!

Coronation Weekend Village Celebrations

Higher Kinnerton celebrations were many and varied. What follows over the coming pages is a selection of photos we have received from readers which help to encapsulate the mood of the weekend and the nature of how people went about sharing in the occasion. Many thanks to everyone who sent us their pictures and were happy to share them.









The Big Help Out



This initiative took place across the UK on the Monday of Coronation weekend and was aimed at encouraging volunteering to bring local communities together and foster a volunteering legacy.

Here in Higher Kinnerton the village Volunteer Group coordinated an effort involving many members of the community, including members of the 1st Kinnerton Guides and

other youngsters, and they got to work on Monday morning with a village litter pick as well as working in the two parks. In addition a party set to tidying up the willow arch in Park Avenue whilst others helped to tidy the planted areas. It was an enjoyable morning for all concerned, with community spirit very much at the core of the effort, with the added extra that the village benefitted as a result. A huge thank you to everyone who took part, please keep an eye out for the next call to arms!



All Saints Church News

New Rector

We are delighted to announce that Revd Hana Amner has been appointed as Rector of the Parish of Dodleston with Kinnerton and Chaplain of Bishops High School in Chester. Many congratulations are due to Revd Hana and her husband Warren, who is in dairy farming.

Revd Hana will be installed by the Bishop of Chester at a special service at St Mary's Dodleston, provisionally on 28 June. Revd Hana's first service is likely to be on 9 July.

We know that Revd Hana and Warren will receive a warm Kinnerton welcome when she arrives.

Church Services

Sunday, 4th June at 9.30am -- Morning Service led by Jeanette Howe

Sunday, 11th June at 9.30am – Holy Communion led by Rev. Robin Mosley

Sunday, 18th June at 9.30am – Holy Communion led by Rev Elizabeth Innall

Sunday, 25th June at 9.30am—Holy Communion led by Rev Canon Roger Clarke

Coffee Morning

Wednesday, 21st June, 10.30 – 12.00 noon. Join us for a coffee and a chat.

Everyone is very welcome.

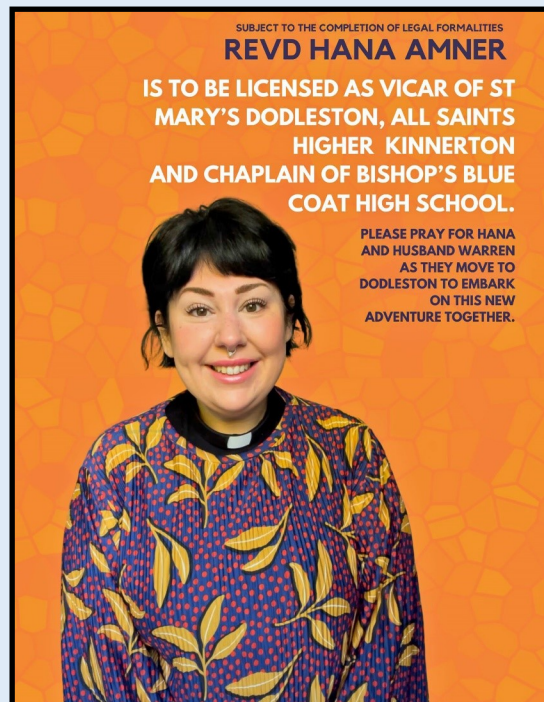
Seniors Lunch

Thursday 22nd June at 11.45am. Invitations will be sent out.

Keep the Date

The annual Church barbecue has been arranged for Sunday, August 20th at Chester Lakes.

Tickets will be on sale at the beginning of August. More details to follow.



A message from Pamela Andrews

A big thank you to all who have supported me, Jack and our family, during my recent operation and health issues. Your kind messages, prayers, cards and gifts, and also your offers of help have been greatly appreciated. It makes us glad to live in such a friendly village. Best wishes, Pam Andrews.

Kinnerton Cricket Club

We have had a mixed start to the season with some of it down to selection options.

Our first game was a home match against Oaktree Outlaws who are a Wrexham based team. This game coincided with the Wrexham FC Champions open top bus tour and as a consequence they lost some of their players. Unfortunately for us they replaced the missing players with those from Brymbo CC including their South African overseas player who scored 54 and took 4 wickets for 15 runs. Their score was 124 for 7 and in reply we scored 104 for 8.

Our second match was away to Wirral CC which we won by scoring 133 for 8 and Wirral finished on 128 for 7. It was the first time in two seasons that their opening batsmen had lost his wicket in this instance being bowled.

Our third game was a home defeat to HGWCC in which they scored 141 for 6. We replied with 126 for 6.

Our next game is against West Cheshire College at the King's School - onwards and upwards.



The 2023 Kinnerton Scarecrows Roll of Honour

Some of you have asked whether there are photos of the amazing scarecrows, so we thought it would be nice to showcase all 22 of the village scarecrows in the newsletter. The winning scarecrows are on the front page, the rest, in no particular order, are shown over the next two pages.



The 2023 Kinnerton Scarecrows Roll of Honour (cont)



It is worth repeating that we on the Community Council have very much enjoyed the 2023 Village Scarecrow Trail and appreciate the hard work and effort that has gone into making it such a success. We trust that you have enjoyed it too and feel inspired to perhaps join the village scarecrow crowd with your own creations next time.

Higher Kinnerton Village Day

Don't forget that the Higher Kinnerton Village day is being held on **Saturday July 29th** this year and all are very welcome to come and enjoy the festivities. The format will be similar to last year, and we would encourage you all to mark the date in your diaries. We look forward to seeing you there on the Main Road Recreation Ground on that day.



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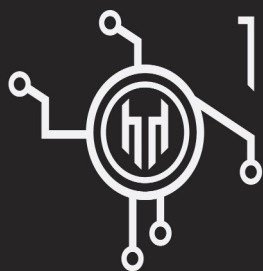
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A Note from the Newsletter Team:

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