

OUR VILLAGE



Higher Kinnerton
Community Council

Your Monthly Higher Kinnerton Community Newsletter



2023 Higher Kinnerton Tallest Sunflower Competition

The results are in for this year's colourful village tallest sunflower competition. Judges went round the village in the middle of August with a pair of steps and a long tape measure to take official measurements of each of the registered entries. A huge thank you to everyone who grew sunflowers, whether they entered or not. Your flowers will have been very popular with birds, bees and other insects, and if you save the seeds you should be able to have some fun growing them again next year. There was a huge range of sunflowers, even the smaller ones were pretty tall! But in the end there were three stand-out sunflowers (no pun intended) which were declared the winners.

In first place and the Higher Kinnerton 2023 champion sunflower grower with an official sunflower height measured at a massive 3 metres 68 centimetres, was Jackie Williams. Jackie wins a £40 Grosvenor Garden Centre voucher

In second place, with an official sunflower height measured at 3 metres 11 centimetres, was Julie Faulkner. Julie's great niece Ruby provides some perspective. Julie wins a £25 Grosvenor Garden Centre voucher



Jackie Williams proudly shows off her winning sunflower

And in third place, with an official sunflower height measured at 2 metres 97 centimetres was Sam Carson. Sam wins a £15 Grosvenor Garden Centre voucher



Julie Faulkner's sunflower

Well done to everyone who entered and especially to our winners.



Sam Carson's sunflower



All Saints Church News

Church Services

The Rev. Hana is now trailing an All Age Service on the first Sunday of each month where tea/coffee will be served at the end. Adults and children of all ages are very welcome at this service on the 3rd September.

Rev. Hana's theme for the month, starting on the 10th September, is "The Value of Vision" when we explore key questions as a church around who we are, why we exist and what direction we are being called to go in order to see that our churches and their communities flourish further. The Rev Hana writes "We know that we exist at a time where committing to church every Sunday isn't always realistic, parents take children to extra curricular activities that can coincide with a Sunday morning when people can go away and cannot commit to regular church attendance. Others may have felt let down by church or don't see its benefit to culture today. The sermon series is going to allow us to dream, ask big questions and explore what direction we need to take in order to be a church that thrives today for all people. Join us as we go along on this adventure together!"

Sunday, 3rd September at 9.30am An All Age Service

Sunday, 10th September at 9.30am Holy Communion. Theme - Who we are

Sunday, 17th September at 9.30am Holy Communion. Theme - Who isn't here?

Sunday, 24th September at 9.30am Holy Communion. Theme - Inside out

Sunday 1st October at 9.30am Holy Communion. Theme - Harvest Sunday

Sunday, 8th October at 9.30am Holy Communion. Theme - Let the dreamers dream

Saturday 14th October. Theme - Vision Saturday

Sunday, 15th October at 9.30am Holy Communion. Theme - Blessed to be a blessing

Sunday, 22nd October at 9.30am Holy Communion. Theme - Life in all its fullness

Coffee Morning

Wednesday, 20th September 10.30 am – 12.00 noon.. Everyone is welcome.

Seniors Lunch

21st September at 11.45am. Invitations will be sent out

All Saints 100 club

Another reminder that subscriptions for lots of members are now due. Please get in touch with Helen Francis (tel 01244 660588) for further details

Church BBQ

Owing to the holiday season and the lack of numbers, unfortunately the BBQ had to be cancelled this year.

Higher Kinnerton Walking Group

For our August walk of the month we walked across the fields to the Red Lion in Dodleston and then back again, a total distance of 8.9km. I've put the route of the walk on the Higher Kinnerton Facebook page and it is to be recommended. If it's too far then leave a car at the Red Lion and take either route .



Creating a Wildlife Pond in Your Garden

Did you know that in the last 50 years about one third of UK ponds have disappeared, having a big impact on wildlife particularly amphibians. Higher Kinnerton is historically in an area with a large number of Great Crested newt breeding sites but these have declined over recent years.

Frogs, toads and newts need ponds to breed but spend much of their life in the areas surrounding the ponds. There are 3 types of newts in the UK, the Smooth Newt, the Palmate Newt and the Great Crested Newt (known as the warty newt!). The smooth newt is the UK's most common newt. They can grow to 10cms and are generally brown in colour. Males develop a continuous wavy crest along their back in the breeding season. The belly of both sexes is yellow/orange with small black spots. The spots on the throat identify the smooth newt from the palmate newt (which lack spots on their throat). Our biggest newt, growing up to 17cm, is the great crested newt which is almost black in colour, with spotted flanks and a striking, orange belly. It has warty skin and males have a long, wavy crest along the body and tail during the breeding season. They live for 6-15 years.



Smooth newt

Adults are found in ponds in the breeding season and into summer (February to June). The spawn is laid as individual eggs, each wrapped in a leaf of pond weed. Unlike the tadpoles of frogs or toads, newt larvae develop their front legs before their back legs. They breathe through feathery external gills sprouting from the back of their heads. They leave water in late summer after losing their gills. They eat invertebrates either on land or in water even eating frog tadpoles. Outside the breeding season they are found on land in damp places, such as under logs, stones or leaf matter.



Azure Damsel Fly

Dragonflies and damselflies also use water throughout their lifecycle. Dragonfly larvae (nymphs) can spend months or even years living in water. Once the nymph is fully grown, and the weather is right, it will complete the metamorphosis into a dragonfly by crawling out of the water up the stem of a plant. The nymph will shed its skin onto the stem of the plant and will then be a young dragonfly. The skin that the nymph left behind is called the exuvia and you can find it stuck to the stem. The adult only lives for 2 months.

Consider creating a wildlife pond in your garden! Once built the wildlife will come! It is best to leave out fish though as they outcompete amphibians and also prey on their eggs and larvae. The ponds do not need to be large and can even be made using a small container such as a washing up bowl. **However, TAKE CARE where these are sited and consider mesh covers to prevent young children falling in.** Please research properly on how to make a **SAFE** wildlife pond. There are numerous websites such as www.froglife.org or www.rspb.org.uk or www.wildlifetrusts.org.uk which provide advice and guidance on building a wildlife pond covering construction through to which plants to use and common mistakes. For example, **don't use tap water** to fill your pond as it contains chlorine or chloramines used to clean the water to make it potable for us (drinkable) but both of which are harmful to amphibians. Collect and use rainwater.

Our next Higher Kinnerton Environmental Group meeting will be on September 6 at 6.30pm. If you'd like to join us please email helen101a@hotmail.co.uk for details

Higher Kinnerton Village Day 2023

This year's Village Day was held on the afternoon of Saturday July 29th and what a glorious sun-filled afternoon it turned out to be. Fears of rain disappeared under blue skies as the village turned out en masse to enjoy themselves. With live entertainment in the form of music from the vibrant Random Start and a colourful display by the Kinnerton Morris team, all brilliantly choreographed by the ever-reliable Jordan Barnes, plenty of stalls and sideshows, all manner of activities for children of all ages, not to mention the spectacle of the traditional races and tug-o-war there was certainly plenty to entertain. It was wonderful to see so many smiles as villagers relaxed and chatted in the warm afternoon sunshine. We would like to thank the Scouts for hosting the barbecue at such short notice and completely smashing it with arguably the best barbecue in the history of Village Day! And to everyone who helped to make this such a memorable event – organisers, helpers, stall-holders, entertainers and most especially all of you who turned out – a huge heartfelt thank you. We have included a few photos taken on the day which we hope you enjoy revisiting.





Butterfly Garden Art Competition

You will recall that, as part of the Village Day, we asked youngsters to enter our Butterfly Garden art competition by drawing or painting their impression of a garden for attracting butterflies and other wildlife. We had some very impressive entries and needed some assistance from Margie Edwards and the village craft group in judging the winning entries.

In the end we have three very worthy winners. In third place was Freya, aged 6, with a lovely drawing of butterflies and bees in her garden. In second place was Ffion, aged 7, with a colourful layered montage of trees, flowers and bees. The winner was 11 year old Ava with a beautifully crafted picture of a butterfly visiting flowers in the garden. Congratulations to all our winners.



Kinnerton Baby & Toddlers Family Funday

Kinnerton Baby and Toddlers held their family fun day for what is becoming an annual event and thankfully the prayers worked and we had a fine day. Dotty the pony visited us and enjoyed being groomed and pampered. We had bean bag, egg and spoon and running races with a twist – they didn't all start at the same time and not everyone ran in the same direction!!

Our wonderful "tea ladies" provided lunch for everybody and our afternoon came to a delightful end with a visit from Mrs Whippy who handed ice creams and lollies to all the children.

Let's do it again next year!!



New Bus Service in Higher Kinnerton

We have received a message from Sarah Blake, Regional Transport Officer at Flintshire County Council who tells us that, following requests from residents of Higher Kinnerton, Cheshire West and Cheshire Council have conducted a timetable review of the 61, 61X and 62 bus services between Chester and Higher Kinnerton.

As of Sunday the 3rd of September, the new timetable will be introduced on a trial basis which includes some additional journeys that will terminate at Higher Kinnerton. Sarah has asked us to circulate this information with local residents through local publications and notices to ensure passenger patronage of the service and future sustainability of the revised timetable. It should be noted that there is no service on Sundays.

HKCC have uploaded the new timetable to our website and this can be found via the following link.

[Chester Bus Service 61/62 Sep 23](#)

As mentioned, this revised service is on a trial basis and will very much depend on people using it to ensure its continued provision.

Kinnerton Cricket Club

We had two matches remaining which we had to win to avoid relegation. Unfortunately both games were cancelled due to waterlogged grounds and consequently we have been relegated having finished one point behind Abergele CC. I will leave you with this message I had from a player who we persuaded to start playing again 'I didn't think I would enjoy playing cricket again but being around you guys this year has been amazing...the banter is incredible the atmosphere on the field is next to none and I've never laughed so much whilst playing and can't wait for next year to do it all again'



Charity Quiz night

There will be a charity quiz night in the Village Hall on Saturday October 14th with all profits being donated to the **Wales Air Ambulance**. Plenty of fun questions, including a music round, "heads and tails" and Rock 'n Roll Bingo. Please bring your own food and drink. There is a maximum of 6 people per table, the cost is £5 per person with a maximum of 90 people allowed. Booking is essential with payment required at the time of booking. Doors open on the night at 7.30pm for an 8.00pm start. Tickets are available from Mike W on 01244 660777 or Mike C on 07977 119179.

Remembering Barry Williams

The Family of the late Barry Williams would like to thank friends and neighbours for the support and condolences at the loss of Barry. A generous total of £537 was donated to the ICU nurses at the Countess of Chester. Barry would have been delighted to support these wonderful nurses and doctors. Val, Paul, Leanne & Jasmyn.

1st Kinnerton Scout Group

The whole Scout Group is saddened to hear of the death of June Worthington on Tuesday 15th August 2023 at the Countess of Chester hospital. June's involvement with the Group spanned more than 40 years, a magnificent achievement, and she was the Group Secretary from 1979 to 2016. The twice-yearly Jumble Sales were June's "baby", and she loved the organising before and after the event, but especially the sale day.

We have lost a great supporter and friend of the Group. The Board of Trustees, the Leaders and all the young people of the Group would all like to extend our sincerest condolences to Neil and Ian and their families at this time.

June has been a hard act to follow, I hope we do her proud. R.I.P. June



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