

OURVILLAGE



Higher Kinnerton
Community Council

Your Monthly Higher Kinnerton Community Newsletter



A Fitting Tribute



In a fitting tribute to those who have sacrificed their lives during conflicts across the world All Saints Church in the village was illuminated in red over Remembrance weekend, November 11th and 12th, last month. It provided an image of hope as well as expressing our gratitude to those fallen heroes. And an opportunity to pause and reflect.

HAPPY CHRISTMAS!

As the festive holiday approaches Higher Kinnerton Community Council would like to take this opportunity to wish each and every one of our village community a very happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.





All Saints Church News

All Saints Church Christmas Raffle 2023

With your December newsletter you will have received a book of raffle tickets, on behalf of All Saints Church. We would ask all residents to please support our village church by purchasing these tickets. Please can you return the counterfoils to 29 Llys Derwen or 63 Main Road by 18th December ahead of the prize draw. **Thank you**

Services for December

Sunday, 3rd December at 9.30am. All Age Service

Sunday, 10th December at 3.00pm (please note **NO** Morning Service). **All Age Christingle Service.** The service is a special occasion when we recognise Jesus Christ as the Light of the World with stories, songs, oranges and sweets! Lots of fun for all ages PLEASE JOIN US FOR THIS SPECIAL SERVICE. Donations to the Children's Society.

Sunday, 17th December at 3.00pm (please note **NO** morning Service). **Angel Service** (to close the Angel Festival. See later notice.

Sunday, 17th December at 6.30pm. Carol Service

Sunday, 24th December at 3.00pm (please note **NO** morning service). **Crib Service**
and at **11.00pm Midnight mass**

Christmas Day at 10.00am. All Age Christmas Communion

Sunday, 31st December at 9.30am. Holy Communion

Dates for your Diary

Wednesday, 13th December. Christmas Dinner, invitations will be sent out.

Saturday 16th December, 10.30am – 4.00pm & Sunday, 17th December, 10.30 until the Festival's closing service at 3.00pm. Angel Festival. This year we're holding an Angel Festival in the church. We would like to invite individuals and/or groups to decorate All Saints with Angels of all shapes and sizes. These can be craft items, poems, stories, paintings or even personal accounts of meeting "an angel". We will be setting up the display on Friday, 15th December from 11.00am. If you would like to enter an angel please contact **Pam Andrews on 01244 726743**. The church will be open on Saturday and Sunday for viewing and refreshments, or just come and place an angel on our Christmas tree to remember a loved one. Please check posters for details.

Wednesday, 20th December at 10.30am. A special Coffee Morning when the draw of the **Christmas Raffle** will take place. **MAKE SURE YOU BUY YOUR TICKETS IN TIME. Super Prizes**

Wishing you all a very Happy Christmas time

Flintshire Foodbank Harvest donation

Following our recent harvest donation of 126.5kg to the Flintshire Foodbank Stacy Adams has written to say "Thank you all for your hard work and donations this Harvest. I am very pleased and grateful to let you know that you were the largest Church donation that we received this Harvest."

Although All Saints Church organised the collection, donations came from people village wide, not only churchgoers – so the thanks should be to everyone. Thank you one and all.

MINCE PIE & FOOD BANK PLEA!

Donations of mince pies and for the Higher Kinnerton Christmas Celebration on 22nd December and for the food bank collection would be greatly appreciated.

Please contact Liz Corner on 01244 660277 if you would like to donate or bring your donations along on the night





Christmas Celebrations 2023!

Hosted by Higher Kinnerton Community Council

FRIDAY DECEMBER 22nd

from 6.00pm to 8.00pm in Higher Kinnerton Village Hall

Come along at 6.00pm for a warm welcome and a complimentary glass of mulled wine or a soft drink & mince pie and enjoy an evening of festivities including:

- Bar with wine and soft drinks on sale plus free festive nibbles
- Christmas 50/50 raffle tickets on sale at £1.00 per ticket
- Ysgol Derwen school choir Christmas performance
- Royal Buckley Brass Band with a Christmas theme
- And not forgetting a surprise visit from Father Christmas!



Proceeds will go towards helping the hungry and homeless at Christmas.

Free Entry! Please bring cash for the bar

Please note the Village Hall can accommodate a limited number of people so entry will be restricted to 130

Donations of mince pies for the event would be greatly appreciated. There will also be a foodbank collection.

Please contact Liz on 01244 660277 to arrange a donation or bring along on the night.

Eco-friendly Christmas wrapping ideas

by Katie Smith, (Higher Kinnerton Environment Group)

As the festive season approaches many of us will be thinking about decorating the house and ensuring that we have enough wrapping paper (in the UK, on average, we get through a staggering 227,000 miles of it over the festive season!). Some of the paper, and other festive wrapping, can be recycled however not all can. There are some things that we can do to ensure a more sustainable Christmas.

- Where possible reuse wrapping paper or use paper/fabric gift bags.
- Buy paper that doesn't contain glitter, or metallic effects, as these can't be recycled.
- Recycle paper in the kerbside recycling remembering to remove any sticky tape first.
- Estimates indicate that the UK uses 40 million rolls of Sellotape each Christmas so consider using the new plastic free Sellotape. Other tape alternatives include Washi (paper based) and other paper parcel tapes. Look for those with natural rubber adhesives.
- Brown paper/newspaper can be an alternative to wrapping paper and can be customized with ribbon, string, natural jute twine or recycled cotton ribbon which can be reused afterwards.
- If you are feeling particularly creative you could try the Japanese inspired art of wrapping gifts, known as Furoshiki, using fabric which can be washed and reused.
- Before considering your wrapping options this Christmas, maybe first consider your gift purchases. Of all the gift purchases made here in the UK, a mere 1% will still be used 6 months after the big day!



<https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/blog/2023/10/10-eco-friendly-christmas-wrapping-ideas/>

<https://furoshikiwrapcompany.co.uk/>

Rewilding the UK – Lessons from Knepp Estate

This summer, I spent five days in one of the most inspiring and biodiverse places that I have ever visited in the UK – Knepp Estate. Situated in the heart of Sussex, only a short train journey from London and just 16 miles from Gatwick airport, it is not a place where one would expect to find one of the pioneering rewilding projects in the country. Yet this 1,400-hectare site is becoming a sanctuary for wildlife, a small stronghold in a nature-depleted landscape.



As recent as two decades ago, Knepp Estate was under intensive agriculture. After many years of ploughing, fertilisers, and pesticides, the soil was in a dire state, and the land had become a hostile place for nature. Yet agriculture here was not sustainable, due to the fact that it was extremely difficult to farm on the clay soils. So as profits began to stall, owners Charlie Burrell and Isabella Tree took the brave decision to transform their farmland into “a biodiverse wilderness area”. The rewilding project had begun.

In summary, their strategy was to reintroduce missing species to the ecosystem so that it could function with minimal human intervention. Grazing animals play the crucial role of controlling the growth of vegetation, maintaining some areas as open grassland while other areas become scrub and woodland, creating a rich mosaic of habitats. In the UK, there used to be elk, bison, boars, and now-extinct aurochs (giant cattle) and tarpan (ancient horses); but now the habitat-shaping function of these animals has been lost from our landscape. At Knepp, modern equivalents of these animals have been reintroduced and now roam free. They are known as the “Knepp Big Five”: red and fallow deer, Tamworth pigs, longhorn cattle, and Exmoor ponies.

In a surprisingly short space of time, the landscape at Knepp has undergone an incredible transformation. There is an astounding diversity of habitats in such close proximity. Fields are now scattered with wildflowers, thickets and shrub, humming with insects and filled with birdsong. Wetlands have formed following the reintroduction of European beavers and the re-naturalisation of waterways running through the estate. White storks nest in majestic open-growth oak trees, which tower over the emerging scrubland. As I explored this wonderful place, it was hard to believe that only a few years ago what I was standing on would have been a monoculture farm no different to those across the country. It is unlike anything I have seen before in the UK.

What makes Knepp unique is its approach to conservation: rather than setting out with targets or goals in mind, a low-intervention approach is taken which lets nature lead the way. This has meant that a habitat has been produced which is the preference of nature, rather than what we humans assume is best for it. Species have come together like pieces in a jigsaw, interacting to create a functioning ecosystem, completing the full picture.



This has made Knepp a hotspot for biodiversity, as rare and endangered wildlife species have homed in on this scrubland refuge. The rewilding project is now home to thriving populations of red-listed birds including turtle doves, nightingales and green woodpeckers, as well as all five of the UK’s owl species. With the absence of agricultural chemicals, insects are thriving, with a staggering 1,800 invertebrate species recorded on site – for example, it has by far the largest population of rare purple emperor butterflies in the country. Knepp has 13 out of the 17 UK breeding bat species, and the numbers of small mammals like hedgehogs and harvest mice are booming... The list goes on. I probably saw more species within the five days here than I have during the entirety of the past year! Knepp is surpassing all expectations, demonstrating the success rewilding schemes can have.

Rewilding not only benefits nature, but people too. It has the potential to play a large role in mitigating and adapting to climate change. The rewilded land acts as a massive carbon store. Healthier and more biodiverse soils are not only richer in natural nutrients but store more carbon – increasing the quantity organic matter in the world’s soils by as little as 0.4% each year would absorb the same amount of carbon

dioxide that we emit globally! In addition, the land now holds more water, protecting downstream areas from floods and providing resilience to droughts. The Knepp Wildlands eco-tourism scheme now provides the estate with double the profits than farming had done before, showing that nature has a strong economical and recreational value too.



Knepp should act as a beacon of hope for nature recovery. It has demonstrated how quickly nature can bounce back and thrive when given the opportunity to express itself. Rewilding can help us to tackle the climate crisis and the sixth mass extinction, to create more sustainable agricultural systems, and to improve our environment. In the light of the 2023 State of Nature Report, which highlights

that 1 in 6 UK species are threatened with extinction, it is now clearer than ever that we need to take urgent action to conserve biodiversity. Rewilding should undoubtedly be a key part of our strategy on the journey to restore the natural world.

By Cole Brautigam

Interested to find out more about rewilding at Knepp? I would highly recommend reading *Wilding* by Isabella Tree; it gives a detailed account of the story of Knepp Estate, supported by ecological theory, set against the backdrop of the country's biodiversity crisis. You can also find lots of information on Knepp's website <https://knepp.co.uk/rewilding/>

I completed Operation Wallacea's "Field Skills for Wildlife Management Careers" five-day course, camping within Knepp Estate for the duration. I learned how to survey for a variety of taxa, while collecting data to monitor biodiversity on the site. This is supplemented by lectures from ecologists and professionals from Knepp, giving participants a deeper understanding of the rewilding movement. This course is open to anyone from all age groups.



Wales Air Ambulance Quiz Winners

The Quiz in a packed out Village Hall raised £820 for the WAA. A big thank you to everyone who attended and to everyone who donated bottles and also the A320/Boeing 737 and Helicopter simulator auctions.

Bit of trivia: the WAA was formed on St David's Day in 2001 and currently costs £11.2m to run. Last year it flew 3,500 missions, 19% in North Wales from its 4 bases in Caernarfon, Llanelli, Welshpool and Cardiff. It's busiest day is Saturday, the busiest time is 1pm. The 4 helicopters (Airbus H145) have registrations which signify the service in Welsh G-WENU (smile) G-WROL (courageous) G-WOBR (prize) and the latest G-LOYW (shinning). For any further info have a look at their website. Let's all hope we never need them.



Kinnerton Oaks FC

With the season well underway the Kinnerton Oaks Under 8's football team is still looking for new players.

The team is also looking for sponsors for jackets for the boys, especially important now the nights are drawing in and the weather is getting colder.

If you are interested or can help with either of the above then please message on the club Facebook page for further information. Many thanks.

Friends of Ysgol Derwen

We have recently re-launched FODS (Friends of Derwen School) and are really looking forward to helping fundraise for the school going forward. We recently held our first event, a spooky disco which raised £221.78 for the school, and has helped pay for the reception class to receive a book bag each free of charge.

We are very soon to be holding a Christmas fair at the school on Thursday the 30th of November at 3:30, where we will have local stalls, second hand items, a grotto, games, a raffle and a tombola, with lovely festive refreshments available. Please contact fodspta@gmail.com for further information or to get involved.

The team currently are:

Carolyn Caughter (Chair)
Kelly Harding and Cara Coventry (Vice Chairs)
Louise Esser (Treasurer)
Ellie Tidey (Secretary)

Higher Kinnerton Walking Group

Our "Out of the Village" walk for October was to West Kirby on the Wirral, taking the train from Penyffordd. Firstly we headed for a 3.6km walk around the Marine Lake which has been completely overhauled and is very popular, then we enjoyed lunch in the beer garden at The Dee Hotel and finished with a 2.3km walk through the park and the start of the Wirral Way. Absolutely fantastic weather ensured a great day out .



Higher Kinnerton Village Hall news



A big thank you to the Higher Kinnerton Village Hall Committee for purchasing some much needed sandbags for our residents during the recent floods caused during Storm Babet back in October.

The committee were able to help 12 families who came to collect the sandbags on the Saturday morning following the heavy rain, all were extremely grateful and will use the sandbags again if needed.

Mike Neilson, Mike Williams & Gareth Jones are pictured.



Stay Safe

Now that the clocks have gone back for winter, it is well worth remembering when out walking round the unlit lanes of the village to wear suitable high vis clothing (eg reflective band, light coloured coat or jacket) and to carry a bright torch. The same applies for our four legged friends. It can be difficult for vehicle drivers to see people out walking and it is helpful to be as visible as possible for all concerned. Being seen is very important for your safety. Many serious accidents happen because drivers simply do not see other road users until it is too late. Drivers will happily give you space and slow down if they see you. Be seen, stay safe!

Kinnerton WI Birthday celebrations

Kinnerton WI was established in 1951. even though we have lost many of our founding members we are still going strong.

The principal of the WI are. Fellowship Truth Tolerance and Justice. Principles we should all try to strive towards.

On Thursday 5th October we celebrated our 72nd birthday with an evening of magic presented by Peter Turner and cheese and wine. Our birthday cake was made by the very talented Shiela in the shape of two rounds of cheese with a mouse on top.

The cake is being cut by one of our members Mary Scofield.



Kinnerton Bowls Club

Higher Kinnerton Indoor Bowls Club are changing their Evenings from Wednesday to Monday starting from 30th October to 18th December then 8th January to 25th March. It's £1 Membership, For just £1 an Evening and you can learn how to play Bowls.

There is also a league team who play on a Tuesday and costs £1. For any further information please contact Geoff on 0783 0114937

Kinnerton Little Acorns

We currently have spaces in our Playgroup sessions which run Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 9am – 11:25am in our purpose built building around the back of Ysgol Derwen. We have a lovely group of children and we always love to welcome new friends to our sessions.

We are currently preparing for January 2024 when we will be welcoming current and new children into our Early Entitlement sessions (which blend together with our Playgroup sessions). Please see our Facebook page for further information about how to apply for Early Entitlement funding and Childcare Offer funding. From January 2024 we will be open 5 mornings a week.

Please email Kayleigh Ho on office@kinnertonlittleacorns.co.uk if you have any questions on applying for a space with Little Acorns.



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A Note from the Newsletter Team:

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.

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