

# OUR VILLAGE



Higher Kinnerton  
Community Council

Your Monthly Higher Kinnerton Community Newsletter



## It's a busy time of year for the Higher Kinnerton Volunteer Group!

Anyone walking along the embankment bridle path will now be able to rest and admire the view, as the bench has now been refurbished by Kerry and Iain Jones at no cost to the community. A very kind gesture, as I'm sure you'll agree.



*Kerry and Iain Jones, Cheshire View Dog Park on Barracks Lane*

Also, the chairs and community library cabinet have been refurbished and are looking good in the centre of the village. Many thanks to the volunteer group for this improvement to our community.



*Ian, Rosey and Jim working hard to tidy up the borders*



*Library and chairs as good as new thanks to Gill and Richard Cannon*

Finally, the volunteer group were out and about again tidying up the borders by the village notice board. It's all looking much tidier now!

Anyone interested in helping with the community volunteers, please contact Ian Fleming on 07734 218738. Many hands...

## Propagating to Protect!

I confess, I am addicted, not to alcohol or drugs but to propagating plants! Consequently, ever since Covid times, I have been selling the results of my habit outside my house on Bramley Lane and/or at the village fete. The proceeds, (not profits - compost, pots, time and energy cost too much!), I have always donated to wildlife conservation.

Last year and this, I have been supporting the Great Bustard Group (GBG) based in Wiltshire. I used to live in the area and my sister now does, so I have been to see the project and am extremely impressed both with what is being done and with the birds themselves.

The great bustard (*Otis tarda*) is classed as Endangered on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species and is the only British bird to hold this status. In this country, hunting was the main cause of the species' decline, with the last individual in the UK being shot and eaten in 1832. Habitat destruction, as ever, was, and is, also a major threat. The great bustard is thought to be the world's heaviest flying bird, with the largest recorded specimen weighing 21 kg. Adults do vary greatly in weight (averaging from 3-18 kg), with males being considerably bigger than females. Their wingspan is up to 2.7 m.

GBG was created in 1998 to attempt to bring back the great bustard to the UK. Chicks were initially sourced from eggs hatched in Russia and hand-reared in a quarantine unit on Salisbury Plain. The first release took place in 2004. Survival rate was low but a small wild population was established. Later, after genetic studies showed that the original English birds were most closely related to those in Spain, eggs were imported from there and hatched in the UK. Better rearing conditions, without the restrictions of quarantine, meant survival rate increased considerably.



After many years of very hard work, there are around 100 wild birds back in this country and they are a splendid sight indeed. Information about visiting and more about what the group has done and will continue to do is on the website - <https://greatbustard.org>. I thoroughly recommend going to see the birds lekking – the males leaping around in a spectacular fashion trying to impress the females!

By Caroline Harcourt

## HIGHER KINNERTON VILLAGE HALL CIO – CHARITY No. 1183214

Trustees' Annual Report to the Charity Commission | Reporting Period: 01/04/2025 – 31/03/2026

### Principal Activities

- The 2025–2026 financial year has been an extremely successful period for Higher Kinnerton Village Hall, reflecting the hard work and commitment of the current Board of Trustees.
- Bookings remain strong and continue to provide a reliable income stream, with many regular user groups hiring the Hall on a weekly basis. All bookings are now completed online with automated invoicing.
- Health & Safety and Safeguarding remain high priorities. Improvements have been made to accident reporting, and the Safeguarding Policy has been reviewed and updated.
- A risk assessment of the main hall stage identified the need for urgent work. The stage was closed to public use, fully upgraded, and is now fit for many more years of safe use.
- A major focus this year was the refurbishment of all toilet facilities. The Treasurer successfully secured a £7,500 Welsh Government grant towards the project. Trustees unanimously agreed to allocate reserve funds to refurbish the Ladies, Gents, Disabled and Unisex toilets. Work was completed in March 2026 and the facilities are now in use.
- Following the refurbishment, the Trustees further improved service provision by contracting Initial Hygiene Group for sanitary waste disposal. The Hall has also been approved under the Flintshire County Council scheme to supply free sanitary products.
- Licensed cinema nights continue to be popular with residents and provide an important community activity.
- Building on the successful installation of InPost lockers in the previous year, the Trustees approved the installation of Royal Mail lockers. Both services are well used and provide a regular income for the Hall.
- The solar panel system and storage battery became operational during this financial year. To maximise financial benefit, the Hall converted from three electricity meters to a single meter and upgraded the supply to 3-phase. This investment now allows the Hall to feed surplus solar energy back to the grid and enabled the installation of two 7kW EV charging units. These are the first public chargers in the village and usage continues to grow. Charging costs are set and controlled by the Trustees.
- Through these initiatives, the Hall continues to reduce its carbon footprint, with energy consumption falling from 23,885 kWh in 2024 to 17,934 kWh in 2025.
- In 2025, the Hall successfully applied for free charity use of Google Cloud, giving Trustees access to a suite of digital tools and secure electronic document storage.
- Two quiz nights were held during the year, raising £700 for the local charity KidsBank and £553 for Village Hall improvements.
- The Trustees supported the delivery of a Flintshire First Aid course by providing free use of the Hall. The course offered first aid and CPR training to local residents.

### Governance / Trustees

- The Trustees welcomed Leona Walker in 2025, further strengthening the range of skills supporting the stewardship and management of the Hall.
- The Trustees recognised the need for a Vice Chair, and Gareth Jones has agreed to assume this responsibility.

### Financial Summary

The attached Financial Statement shows healthy financials with a deposit account balance of £7035.11 and current account balance of £666.86.

The reduction in reserve funds in our deposit account reflects the planned refurbishment projects undertaken during the year. The Trustees expect to rebuild reserves over the next three years.

### Summary

The CIO continues to fulfil its obligations, as set out in its governing document, by providing the Hall for the benefit of the residents of Higher Kinnerton and the surrounding districts.

All Trustees remain fully aware of the activities taking place at the Hall and ensure that these continue to deliver public benefit in line with Charity Commission guidance.

**Signed:** P. Elson (Chairman)



# News from Higher Kinnerton WI

The ladies from the Higher Kinnerton WI went on a walk about the village on Saturday 16th May. They stopped at the new bench on the corner of Bennetts Lane and rested for a while before heading back to the village hall for some well deserved tea and cake!

Our next meeting will be on **Thursday, 4th June 2026 at 7.30 pm** at **Higher Kinnerton Village Hall** when **John Roberts** will be back again to tell us more interesting things about Wales. His last talk was very interesting and enlightening. Our June meeting will be an open evening so non-members are welcome to come along (there is a £3 charge for non-members). For more information, please contact Marion on 01244 660915.



## ALL SAINTS CHURCH NEWS – June 2026

- **Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> June at 9.30 am** – All Age Service with a Lego challenge for the children and their parents, followed by refreshments.
- **Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> June at 9.30 am** – Holy Communion
- **Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> June at 10.30 am** – Coffee Morning. Come and join us for a coffee and a chat. Everyone is very welcome.
- **Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> June at 11.45 am** – Seniors Church Lunch. Invitations will be sent out.
- **Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> June at 9.30 am** – Holy Communion
- **Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June at 7.00 pm** – Cathedral Safeguarding Service at Chester Cathedral. Everyone very welcome
- **Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> June at 9.30 am** – Holy Communion

### Keep these Dates

- **Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> July – Strawberry Tea** at All Saints Church. Details to follow.
- **Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> July – Parish Picnic and Pet Blessing** at Dodleston. Details to follow.
- **Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> August – Summer Lunch** at All Saints Church. Details to follow.

**EVERYONE IS VERY WELCOME!**

**ALL SAINTS  
ALL AGE  
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Join us for All Age Worship, where we delve into the Bible through the fun of Lego play!

**THE FIRST SUNDAY OF EVERY MONTH**

**9.30AM**

ALL SAINTS CHURCH HIGHER KINNERTON

Refreshments and homemade cakes after the service

**St Mary's  
Dodleston  
All Saints  
Higher Kinnerton**

### An Emergency Foodbank Collection

Owing to the shortage of donations of food at the Foodbank in Mold, we're having an **Emergency Collection outside All Saints Church on May 31<sup>st</sup> from 10.30- 12.00 noon.**

**Please support this very worthy cause. Thank you.**



## A Great Big Thank You

To everyone in Higher Kinnerton, and beyond, who have supported us recently

# THANK YOU

With your help and support for our recent Jumble Sale and Bedding Plant Sale we have raised approximately £1500.

This money will go towards providing more exciting events, equipment and experiences for all our youngsters – activities that broaden their horizons, give them confidence and of course, are great fun. We cannot do this without your generosity.

A big THANK YOU also to our Leaders, Helpers, Support Group and Trustees for all their commitment, enthusiasm and help.



### Higher Kinnerton Community Council

Your Community Councillors are:

- Martin King - Chair
- Vice chair - vacancy
- Dewi Jones - Clerk
- Mike Allport
- Josh Swash
- Carroll Nugent
- Joe Cooper
- Fallon Turrisi
- Peter Cottam
- Klaus Armstrong-Braun

If you would like to contact the Community Council, please email [contact@higherkinnerton.org.uk](mailto:contact@higherkinnerton.org.uk)

### OPEN JAM SESSION EVERY MONDAY

(Bank Holidays excluded)

**THE ROYAL OAK**, Higher Kinnerton between 7pm & 10pm

If you love singing, playing an instrument or just enjoy listening, The Jammers will be there to welcome you. Not necessarily the same people each week



## Kinnerton Craft Group News

Craft Group are continuing with various individual projects, we recently decorated glasses and bottles with decoupage. A way to re purpose ordinary or unusual shaped glassware.

However, we are embarking on a new project to support Kidsbank in Mold. They support children from age 0 to 12 years. They would like knitted blankets suitable for a single bed and jumpers for boys or girls aged 6 to 12 years. Therefore as an ongoing project we have started and are looking forward to helping in our community.

If you would like to make anything, pass it to me – I can deliver. Or maybe join us at craft club – you don't need to come to every session. If anyone has wool we can use we will be grateful, call into craft anytime. Our next craft club dates are 5th and 19th June. For further information, contact Margie Edwards on 07929369259.



 **Kids Bank**  
Flintshire / Sir y Fflint

<https://kidsbankflintshire.com/>

## Kinnerton Cricket Club News

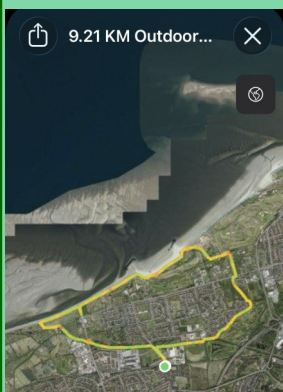
Not the start of the season we wanted but plenty of cricket to go. Our first match of the season was at our home ground of Northop CC against West Cheshire College. WCC batted first and scored 156/5 and in reply we could only manage 119/4. Next was an away fixture at Tattenhall CC. We batted first and scored 115/7 and the hosts replied with 119/2.

Our next match is a home game against Llay CC. Onwards and upwards. If you would like to join us, please contact Mike on 07977 119179 .



## Higher Kinnerton Walking Group News

On 7 May we walked a 9 km circular route from Leasowe railway station through the North Wirral Coastal Park. On route we passed the oldest brick lighthouse in the UK build in 1763 and had a fish and chip lunch at the Green Hut which is a few metres from the beach.



On 4 June we will be walking a circular route from Colwyn Bay station visiting the new statue of Terry Jones and proceeding along the Rhos-on-Sea promenade to the tiny church of St Trillo. If you would like to join us, then get in touch. Ring Brian 07983 494235.



# Higher Kinnerton Cinema June Screening

Our monthly film screening this month will be **'Mother's Pride' [15]** and will be shown on **Wednesday 24th June 2026** in the Village Hall.

Grieving landlord Mick (*Martin Clunes*) and his sons Cal (*Jonno Davies*) and Jake (*James Buckley*) hatch a plan to revive their ailing village pub: start a microbrewery and try and win a beer competition.



Doors open at 6.30 p.m. with the film starting at 7.00 p.m.

Tickets are available for £3 (cash or card accepted) on the door.



## Ysgol Derwen Eco Schools News

### Donate Clothes 4 Sammy:

The Eco Council want to say a big thank you to everyone who donated clothes for the 'Donate Clothes 4 Sammy' project. We have recently been informed that the donations raised £124 for the school!

### Earth Day Activities:

A huge thank you to everyone who supported the Eco Council with their Earth Day fundraiser. You helped raise an incredible £220!

***Funds raised by both events will be used towards our project to build a school pond!***

## Eco-Schools



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