

Kingswood Grapevine

Issue No. 289

February 2025

Editors: Lesley Beswick (07813908875) & Julie Devine (07709655381)

Dates For Your Diary

Tuesdays	Keepers in Kingswood Drop in Café	2 - 5pm
Fridays	Keepers in Kingswood Drop in Café	10am - 1pm
Friday 7th Feb	Community Health Checks, Lower School Room	10.30am – 12.30
Tues 11th Feb	'Demystifying Defibrillators' Talk, Village Hall	7pm
Tues 11th Feb	KiK Squad Art Club, Lower School Room	3.15pm – 4.15pm
Fri 21st Feb	March Grapevine Deadline	6pm
Sat 15th March	Kingswood Village Beer Festival, Village Hall	7pm

Editors' Note:

We have been asked several times about announcing 'births, deaths, marriages' etc on the Grapevine. We would like to know if you would like to see this option available on our website?

We don't think this is viable on the paper copy, but could work on the website in a specified area – do let us know what you think via our email address (or indeed any other suggestions)

KINGSWOOD VILLAGE ASSOCIATION (KVA)

www.thekva.co.uk

New Years Eve Lunch - Thank you to everyone who attended our free Over 65's New Year's Eve Lunch. We love organising it every year and took great pleasure in seeing you all enjoying the afternoon. The raffle raised £332 in support of Kingswood Playgroup. Save the Dates - These are the events that KVA will be putting on in 2025 so please add them to your diaries now. More details about events will be forthcoming over the year: 18 March - KVA AGM. 7 June - Come Dine With Me. 13 June - Duck Race (with the KSA). 6 September - Village Showday. 29 November - Wine Festival. 7 December - Children's Christmas Parties. 31 December - Over 65's NYE Lunch.

THE KEEPERS IN KINGSWOOD (KiK)

Contact: keepersinkingswood@gmail.com

We are happy to have welcomed three new volunteers to KiK over the last couple of months. Welcome to the team! We could still do with a few extra people, especially cake-bakers, so please get in touch if you fancy doing some baking for KiK. In other news, we are pleased to announce that we now have free Internet access for visitors coming into the café. Other things to look out for: The Reading Den ('Read With Me' session for children) dates to be published soon and KiK Squad Art Club will be starting on 11th February (3.15 - 4.15pm). On 7th February 10.30am - 12.30, we are hosting Community Health Checks (get a blood pressure check and find out about local services) and Men's Shed will be visiting as normal on 11th February, 2 – 4pm. The Community Pantry in St Mary's continues to provide for anyone in need of a bit of support with household supplies. The latest 6-month data shows that 442 items (136kg) were donated and 340 items (106kg) were distributed. Please continue to support this vital resource by donating non-perishable food stuffs, toiletries and household supplies either at the drop-off point in the Spar shop or in the box in St Mary's porch. And remember, if you need a bit of help or know someone who would benefit, the Pantry is for anyone from the village to pop in and take what's needed.

KINGSWOOD ABBEY W.I.

The Kingswood Abbey WI meet every second Tuesday of the month at Kingswood Village Hall, 7.30pm. Ladies, if you are looking for an active, social, fun loving group then why not come along and join us on **Tuesday 11th March 2025** for 'My Life is Music' talk by Rachel Howgego. Remember on **Tuesday February 11th 2025** we are hosting 'Demystifying Defibrillators' training open to **EVERYONE**, join us at 7pm for a prompt 7.30pm start. The session will be followed by refreshments. We look forward to welcoming you all.

KINGSWOOD BEER FESTIVAL

Back by popular demand. **Saturday 15th March 7 - 11pm** The popular Kingswood Beer Festival returns this year raising funds for village groups. Last year over £2000 was raised towards vital work at the village hall with the raffle proceeds going to Kingswood Village School. Tickets at £10 per head will be available from the Spar and members of the team, details on posters around the village soon. There will be live music and a bread & cheese supper. We welcome any sponsors donating the cost of a barrel at £100. Contact Patrick Devine 07831281992 pj.devine7@gmail.com Ian Beswick 07968158899 or Rod Alexander 07743398136

KINGSWOOD VILLAGE PLAYGROUP & TODDLERS

Contact: playgroupkingswood@gmail.com

Kingswood Village Playgroup (preschool) runs **Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday 9.15 - 1pm, Tuesday & Thursday extended sessions 1pm – 2.45pm** (bookable early arrival from 8.45am). Baby Toddler group runs **Wednesday 9.30 - 11.30am**. Both run at Kingswood Village Hall, term time only. We have a couple of spaces available for playgroup, please contact us. Thank you to everyone in the village who has helped us with fundraising over Christmas: If you took part in the pub quiz, bought cocktails, bought a raffle ticket at the Spar or did the elf hunt. We are grateful to you all especially the Spar and Village Inn for their support. At Playgroup this term we are learning about winter, including what to wear to keep warm and looking after garden birds. We will also be exploring Chinese New Year celebrations. At Toddlers our theme this term is space. Check out the Facebook pages Kingswood Baby and Toddler Group and Kingswood Village Playgroup as well as our website (www.kingswoodvillageplaygroup.org.uk) to find out more about us!

KINGSWOOD CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH (CHAPEL)Contact: www.kingswoodcongregational.org.uk

Church Services: 10.30am every Sunday. Everyone is welcome. Sunday School open following worship time each week except Family All Age Service on last Sunday of the month. The Chapel is also open for prayer on Wednesday's 12pm-1pm. **Lower Schoolroom activities: Monthly Bible Study** - 7.00pm Monday 24th February. Discussion & fellowship with refreshments. **Coffee Morning** - postponed until further notice. Apologies for any inconvenience. **Lighthouse Youth Group** - for 10-15 year olds every Thursday. 7.00-8.00pm. Pool, badminton, table tennis, games and other activities. Chill out time from 8.00-8.30pm. The Chapel members wish everyone a very Happy New Year.

KINGSWOOD WILDLIFE AREA

Contact: Simon jolyon501@gmail.com

Over the past few weeks we have been planting a new hedge around the allotments. You will see double lines of canes and tree guards to support and protect the new saplings. This will be a mixed hedge selected to attract and provide habitat for wildlife. Two rows have been planted to enable the hedge to be laid in future years. If the weather holds out, we hope to start to lay the hedge alongside the tarmac path before we have to stop to allow birds to nest undisturbed. If you are interested in helping or seeing how we do this, please come on Monday mornings from 10am. We are there every week (not in awful weather). New volunteers are always most welcome.

KINGSWOOD VILLAGE HALL

The Village Hall Management Committee AGM is on **Thursday 10th April** at 7.30pm in the small meeting room. We would like and welcome some new members on the committee to help manage this village asset which is used by clubs and organisations every week day. The hall is available at weekends for birthday parties, other celebrations and events at good prices for villagers.

KINGSWOOD DEFIB AWARENESS GROUPContact: David Owen owen@kingswoodgl12.plus.com or 01453 844463

An event relevant to everyone in the Parish. The “**Demystifying Defibrillators**” information session will take place on Tuesday 11th February in the Village Hall. 7pm for a 7.30pm start. The WI is hosting the evening and will be providing refreshments. So it is hoped that this will be a very sociable and relaxed event. Everyone should know where the local defibs are, how to access them and how to use them. The session will cover these points, plus how essential it is to know how to do CPR chest compressions, when helping someone in cardiac arrest. The main messages, as always, are:- don't be afraid of using a defib...you can't harm the patient; and the defib will make all the main decisions for you.

ST MARY'S CHURCH

Many thanks to everyone who supported Carols on the Chipping and the Reverse Advent Calendar, together both village Churches collected an amazing £350 and over 30 boxes of groceries for the Stroud District Foodbank. Our Christmas Services conclude on 2nd Feb with Candlemas at 6pm (Hot Chocolate served from 5:40). There are no services at St Mary's on 9th and 16th. Sunday 23rd Parish Communion 11am. Our usual Holocaust Memorial Day Event has been delayed until 8th March - more details in the next edition.

KINGSWOOD AND WOTTON SOCIALIST BOOK CLUBContact: robertcopeland8rs@gmail.com

Our next book is **The Lie of the Land: Who Really Cares for the Countryside?** By Guy Shrubsole. If you would like to read, or have already read this very popular book and would like to join our discussion, email for details of our next meeting.

KINGSWOOD PARISH COUNCILContact: clerk@kingswoodparishcouncil.gov.uk Tel: 01453844659

Kingswood Playing Field – We are pleased that the bridge and access is now back in place from Boundary Close to the Playing field. We have passed on concerns in relation to the access ramp to Crest Nicholson for them to consider and hopefully take action. **Annual Parish Meeting** – This is an annual meeting of the community and not a parish council meeting. This will take place on **24th March** at the Village Hall. We try to invite people to present at this meeting on matters of interest to the community. If you have any suggestions on who you'd like to hear from, please let the Clerk know. **Highway Safety** – It is important that all incidents are reported to the Police. Unless incidents are recorded the Police and Glos Highways will remain convinced that the roads in Kingswood are safe. This will not help when we ask for improvements such as speed reductions and a vehicle activated sign. Please report all incidents on 101@gloucestershire.police.uk **Allotment Plots-** If you would like an allotment plot please contact the Clerk. **KPC meetings-** The next KPC meeting is **10/02/25 at 7.15pm at Kingswood Village Hall**. KPC are intending to live stream future meetings. This will mean you can view the meeting but not take part. To ask questions/raise issues you will still need to attend the actual meeting. To view the meeting click the link which will be available on the KPC website along with the agenda. **Communication** – Report Dog fouling, Litter or Fly Tipping or Over-flowing bins to: www.stroud.gov.uk where you will find the relevant links. Report problems at the playing field/community areas to the Clerk at the above email. Please visit the KPC web site on www.kingswoodparishcouncil.gov.uk and follow and like us on the Kingswood Parish Council Facebook Page. *The Clerk Mary Leonard, PO Box 113 Wotton under Edge GL11 9BP*

MARCH GRAPEVINE ISSUE DEADLINE:**FRIDAY 21st FEBRUARY 2025**For an entry please email : admin@kingswoodgrapevine.co.uk Visit our Website: www.kingswoodgrapevine.co.uk