

Kingswood Grapevine

Issue No. 290

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March 2025

March Dates For Your Diary (unless otherwise stated)

Tuesdays	KiK Drop in Café (incl. KiK Squad)	2 - 5pm
Fridays	KiK Drop in Café (incl. Crafty Corner)	10am - 1pm
Saturday 15th	Kingswood Village Beer Festival, Village Hall	7pm
Tuesday 18th	KVA AGM, Village Hall	8pm
Monday 24th	APRIL Grapevine Deadline	6pm

KINGSWOOD VILLAGE ASSOCIATION (KVA)

www.thekva.co.uk

The KVA AGM will be held in the Village Hall on **Tuesday 18th March** at 8pm. Please do come along if you would like to get involved in any capacity. KVA are always happy to welcome new members. The ever popular Come Dine with me will be on 7th June, invitations will be on their way through your door soon. The duck race was so popular last year that it returns on Friday 13th June, after school. This is a KSA event, supported by the KVA. Anyone interested in helping out (selling ducks or getting in the river), do please get in touch with either KSA (ksa@kingswoodgloucs.sch.uk) or KVA (secretary@kva.co.uk). Planning for Show Day (6th September 2025) is already underway. If anyone would like to come along and help out for an hour or more, please do get in touch with secretary@kva.co.uk

THE KEEPERS IN KINGSWOOD (KiK)

Contact: keepersinkingswood@gmail.com

Following our appeal for cake-bakers in the last Grapevine, we are happy to have welcomed some new members to our brilliant team of volunteers; thank you and welcome! We have recently started up a 'Working From Home Social Hub'. There's free and reliable internet access so for a change of scene and to break up the day with tea, coffee and cake look out for news of the next session which will be announced soon. We are proud to have launched our first children's Art Club, where the children made Valentine's Day decorations and had lots of fun. Next Men Shed & Art Club will be 11th March (3.15pm-4.15pm). Children must be accompanied by an adult. A massive thank you to the W.I. craft group who have made the most beautiful story bag with knitted characters and scenery for our visiting children to use in our 'Read With Me' sessions. The next Read With Me session is on 25th March. The crafters upcoming Friday activities for March include: Make a spring flower vase (7th), candle decorating (14th), fun with Fimo modelling clay (21st) and Easter hanging decorations (28th). You are also welcome to bring your own craft! KiK Squad will also be taking place as usual every Tuesday. **Note, we have moved temporarily to St Mary's Room in the church.** Café and other activities will take place there at the usual times.

KINGSWOOD ABBEY W.I.

The Kingswood Abbey WI would like to thank the defib awareness group and everyone who attended this very successful March Defibrillator evening. The evening definitely helped to spread awareness throughout the village. We are an active, friendly group who meet every second Tuesday of the month at the Village Hall at 7.30pm. Ladies, if you are thinking of joining please come along on **Tuesday March 11th** when we will welcome Rachel Howgego presenting 'My Life in Music'. This year the Kingswood Abbey WI are supporting **The BIG SPACE APPEAL**. This appeal has been set up to help fund a state of the art refurbishment of the Oncology Unit at Cheltenham hospital. As many of you will know someone who has needed to use this facility you will appreciate how very dated and overcrowded the present unit is. **The WI craft group** have decided not to yarn bomb the village this year but instead to hold a **Coffee and Craft morning** in St. Mary's Room on **Saturday 5th April** 10 am until 12 noon with all proceeds going to the Big Space Appeal. We are very fortunate that the Cotswold Rotarians have also kindly offered to match the amount we make for the Appeal. **Please come and support this wonderful appeal.** Our usual Tuesday meeting in April (8th) will also include a talk from Gillian Hayward about the Big Space Appeal, so please feel you can come along and join us.

KINGSWOOD BEER FESTIVAL

This year's beer festival will again take place at the Village Hall and will be raising money for local groups. The main event will be on the Saturday evening of **15th March** from 7pm and tickets for the evening session are available from the organisers and from the Spar shop at £10 each. We will be opening on Saturday 15th March from 1pm until 6.30pm. Super Saturday Six Nations Rugby matches will be shown on TV. On the Saturday evening there will be entertainment by the excellent local band 'The Rosellys' and the ticket price also includes a bread and cheese supper. Tickets available from Patrick Devine 07831281992, Ian Beswick 07968158899, Rod Alexander 07743398136, or Kingswood Spar Shop.

KINGSWOOD SCARECROW TRAIL 2025 (KSA)

Contact: ksa@kingswood.gloucs.sch.uk

Each Easter, the Kingswood School Association organise a scarecrow trail to help raise funds for our village school. The trail encourages families from the local area to visit Kingswood and explore our village. If you would like to create a scarecrow to be included in this family friendly trail, please email the ksa@kingswood.gloucs.sch.uk by the 1st April for an entry form – it costs a mere £3 to enter a scarecrow into the trail, with prizes awarded to the best scarecrow. The scarecrow trail runs from 12th April - 27th April, please don't forget to buy a map from the Kingswood Spar shop for only £2 per entry.

KINGSWOOD CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH (CHAPEL)

Contact: www.kingswoodcongregational.org.uk

Chapel Morning 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 (this month will be a special Mothering Sunday service). The Chapel is also open for prayer on Wednesdays 12pm - 1pm. **Lower Schoolroom activities:** **Monthly Bible Study** - 7.00pm Monday 24th March. Various topics with open discussion and fellowship with refreshments. Age 15 and over welcome to join. **Wednesday 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 in the Upper Room.

KINGSWOOD WILDLIFE AREA

Contact: Simon.jolyon501@gmail.com

If you have been walking through Tyndale View to the wildlife area you may have spotted a grid of canes "planted" with clear guards around them. These contain hazel whips which will eventually become a hazel copse. As they grow they will provide another habitat for wildlife and in time can be coppiced and the wood used for various projects around the area. A start has been made on the next section of hedge laying which will hopefully be finished in the next few weeks. Do take a look and if you are interested in finding out more, or even joining the volunteers, come along on Monday mornings and have a chat.

KINGSWOOD DEFIB AWARENESS GROUP

Contact: David Owen owen@kingswoodgl12.plus.com or 01453 844463

Huge thanks to the WI for hosting the recent defib awareness evening and for providing refreshments. It proved an extremely well attended and sociable event. If there are any follow-up questions, please do email me. Remember the mantra:- don't be afraid of using a defib...you can't harm the patient.

ST MARY'S CHURCH

Upcoming events at St Mary's Parish Church - **Please join us for several special events in March.**

A belated Holocaust Memorial Day talk 'Remembering Srebrenica' 30 years after the genocide at Srebrenica, Sheila Osmanovic will tell her story. **Saturday 8th March** 7pm St Mary's, refreshments from 6.30pm

Lent Lunches - Thursday 27th March, Wednesday 9th April 12 – 2.00pm. Join us for homemade soup, bread, cheese and fruit. In aid of the Food bank. **World day of prayer - 7th March** 7pm Congregational church. **Messy Church Saturday 15th March** 10.00am Lower School Room. **Mothering Sunday - 30th March** 4pm St Mary's. Do join us for an informal family service with flowers, refreshments and an egg to decorate for the Village Easter Tree. Everyone is very welcome at our **weekly Sunday services** at 11.00 at St Mary's followed by refreshments.

Village Fete June 2025- request for bottles and cans I am collecting items for the Bottle Stall at the annual Village Fete - any (full!) bottle will be gratefully received, as well as cans etc. including wine, spirits, condiments such as tomato sauce, mineral water, soft drinks, toiletries, scent etc... Please contact Stella for collection on 01453 842497, or drop off at Little Zoar Cottage, 1 The Chipping, anytime. Thank you very much in advance

KINGSWOOD VILLAGE CRICKET CLUB

Contact: kvcteamsec@gmail.com

The start of the new season is approaching and we are up-and-running with winter nets for juniors (Monday evenings, 6-8 at KLB) and adults (Sunday mornings 11-12 at KLB). These will run up to the Easter break. If you fancy having a bat or bowl, just come along and join in! Allstars and Dynamos for primary school age cricketers will begin again in May, so lookout for the sign-up information at the primary school and from the cricket club facebook page. For those who don't know, we hold 8 sessions on Friday evenings at the playing fields throughout the early summer – apologies in advance for the noise! We also have 5 youth teams entered for various competitions and leagues in 2025 so are looking forward to an exciting year of youth cricket. Any support that can be given to our current team of coaches, activators and helpers is most welcome and indeed vital to allow us to continue to offer summer cricket to the children of the local area. Our Sunday fixtures card is coming together and will be published soon and includes our annual tour to Devon in June – if you are interested in joining us, please get in contact and we'll definitely be able to get you a game during the season. More updates and information can be found on our facebook page – search 'Kingswood Village Cricket Club' to see the latest.

KINGSWOOD PARISH COUNCIL

Contact: clerk@kingswoodparishcouncil.gov.uk Tel: 01453844659

Kingswood Playing Field – We are pleased to advise that both toilets are now fully functioning after a fault with the flush of one toilet. We are also pleased to announce that work has started on The Changing Places Unit. This is a toilet for people who have severe mobility issues. People who are severely disabled are often isolated as they are restricted by lack of access to fully accessible toilet facilities. The Changing Places Unit will have an adjustable sink, a hoist and an adult sized changing bed and modesty screens. This will ensure that the playing field, Village Hall and surrounding area are fully accessible to all. **Annual Parish Meeting** – This is an annual meeting of the community and not a parish council meeting. This is scheduled to take place on **24/03/2025** at 7pm at Kingswood Village Hall. KPC have some very exciting projects to announce to the community. KPC also wishes to carry out surveys on what the community would like to see in respect of youth provision. We have invited GCC Highway's to the meeting to update the community on the important Highway safety issues raised last year in respect of Wotton Road. The SDC District Councillor has been invited and can update the community on the Local Plan that has been stalled by The Planning Inspector and what this means for Kingswood. We will also hope to have an update and a presentation on the implications for Kingswood of the government's plan to scrap 2 tier authorities. This means that SDC and GCC will cease to exist and will be replaced by one authority. **Kingswood**

Neighbourhood Plan. The time has come for this to be reviewed. This is now even more important since the stalling of the SDC Local Plan. KPC will be carrying out a review on the NDP in April. We will need help from the community on this. If you would like to help with this process, please contact the clerk to the council. **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 to the council. **KPC meetings** - The next KPC meeting is **14/04/2025** at 7.15pm at Kingswood Village Hall. KPC are intending to live stream all meetings in the future. This will mean you can view the meeting but not take part. To ask questions or raise issues you will still need to attend the actual meeting. To view the meeting please click on 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

APRIL GRAPEVINE ISSUE DEADLINE:

MONDAY 24th MARCH 2025