

Kingswood Grapevine

Issue No. 298

December 2025

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DECEMBER Dates For Your Diary (unless otherwise stated)

Tuesdays	KiK Drop in Café (incl. KiK Squad)	2 - 4.30pm
Fridays	KiK Drop in Café (incl. Crafty Corner)	10am - 1pm
Sunday 7th	KVA Children's Parties, Village Hall	See below
Friday 12th	Playgroup Cinema Evening, Village Hall	6pm
Wednesday 3rd & 10th	Jubilee Club, Village Hall	2 - 4pm
Sunday 21st	Christmas Carol Service, St. Marys	6pm
Wednesday 31st	Senior Citizens NYE Lunch, Village Hall	Mid-day
Wednesday 7th & 21st January	Jubilee Club, Village Hall	2 - 4pm
Thursday 15th January	KSRF AGM, Village Hall (small hall)	8pm
Friday 23rd January	FEBRUARY Grapevine Deadline	6pm

Editors' Note – Most of the organisations included in this issue have wanted to pass on their thanks & best wishes for a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Please accept this wish is from all of them and from your Grapevine Team.

KINGSWOOD VILLAGE ASSOCIATION (KVA)

www.thekva.co.uk

Kingswood Children's Christmas Party - These free parties are on **Sunday 7th December** in the Village Hall. There will be 2 separate parties, the first for Reception to Year 2, from 1-3pm and the second for Year 3 to 6, from 3.30-5.30pm. These are open to all children who live in Kingswood regardless of their school, and those who attend Kingswood Primary School regardless of where they live. Forms can be downloaded from the Website: <https://www.thekva.co.uk/index.html>. Deadline for online replies is **3rd December**. **Senior Citizens New Years Eve Lunch** - This free NYE event of a delicious lunch with wine and entertainment is available for up to 100 villagers aged 65 and over. You should by now have received an invitation through your door. Reserve your place quickly as numbers are limited and on a first come first served basis. Please complete your form and return to the Spar shop before **8th December**. If you have not had an invitation, but feel you are eligible, please call Angela on 07896032202 ASAP. **Christmas Tree** - The Village Christmas tree will be arriving very soon. KVA would like to thank Rob Bateman for collecting, installing and decorating the tree once again. The tree is a wonderful centrepiece for Village Christmas celebrations.

KINGSWOOD VILLAGE PLAYGROUP & TODDLERS

Contact: playgroupkingswood@gmail.com

Kingswood Village Playgroup (preschool) runs **Monday & Friday 9.15am - 1pm, Tuesday & Thursday extended sessions 9.15am - 2.45pm** (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 spaces available for playgroup, please contact us. At Playgroup we raised money for Children In Need with spotty fun decorating bear biscuits and making Pudsey ears. We have now started some Christmas activities. **Cinema evening fundraiser:** On **12th December 6pm** showing *The Polar Express* with hot chocolate, popcorn available (mulled wine & cider for the grown ups). Free entry, donations welcome.

KINGSWOOD DEFIB AWARENESS GROUP

Contact: David Owen drddowen@gmail.com or 01453 844463

I had one response to my request for help with ongoing funding. Once again it is a local business which has stepped up. This time it is Soils (HS) Ltd with a magnificent donation of £1200. Sincere thanks Wayne! With this enormous help toward the annual operating costs, together with the similar fantastic support from the Parish Council, by way of a grant, we are covered in the short-term. One solution for the longer-term would be to hold an annual village event fund-raiser. Please think about this and let me know if you have any ideas. The initial target would be to raise £1250 p.a. Blackwell's Gardens & Landscapes has made the suggestion of getting 100 homes in the village to sign up to a £1 (one!) monthly donation. Excellent thought, but would it get your support?

COMMUNITY LIBRARY FOR KINGSWOOD?

We are trying to set up a community library for the village - people would donate, borrow and return/swap books from a bookcase in a central location (probably the out of service bus shelter on The Chipping). If you are interested in being involved, have any ideas for how to set it up and run it, can offer DIY skills, or just want to hear more - please contact Stella: stellagreen80@btinternet.com. FYI, there is a similar thing in Hawkesbury Upton. We look forward to hearing your views.

KINGSWOOD JUBILEE CLUB

Contact: Jenny email: jenny.a.robins@gmail.com

Our programme for December and January is as follows: 3rd Dec - Bingo and poetry; 10th Dec - Accord Singers; 17th Dec - members Xmas meal at the Masonic Hall, Wotton. 7th January 2026 - New Year party with entertainment by The Nightingales; 21st January - talk by Philip Ashford. We would like to send everyone best wishes for the festive season and look forward to welcoming people to our meetings at the Village Hall, commencing at 2.00 pm.

KINGSWOOD ABBEY W.I.

The Kingswood Abbey WI Craft Group would like to thank everyone who supported the coffee, cakes and Christmas Craft morning on Saturday 8th November. It was a very busy few hours and it raised £936.63 for the Big Space Cancer Appeal. Thank you to everyone involved for their time and fantastic skills. **The Kingswood Abbey WI** are an active, friendly group who meet every second Tuesday of the month at Kingswood Village Hall, 7.30pm. Ladies, if you are thinking of joining us then please come along to our first meeting of the new year on Tuesday 13th January 2026. We have an interesting and entertaining programme organised for the coming year.

KINGSWOOD SPORTS AND RECREATION FUND

The AGM of KSRF will be held on Thursday 15th January 2026 at 8pm in the small hall at Kingswood Village Hall. Please come along for our annual update and meeting.

ST MARYS CHURCH

St Mary's Parish Church services and events for Christmas - We are looking forward to the Christmas season with a number of special services in the church to celebrate the birth of Jesus. *Following the success of last year's event, do come along to the **Christmas Carol Service on Sunday 21st December at 6:00pm**. The choir will again be singing a range of specially selected Christmas music and there will be several of the usual time honoured favourites for all to join in with. Hot drinks, wine and mince pies will be available after the service. Everyone is welcome.* Christmas Eve **Crib Service** at 6pm for younger children to welcome the baby Jesus. **Christmas day family service** 10.30am – a short, informal celebration in worship and song for all the family. **Epiphany Crib Service** to celebrate the arrival of the three kings on Sunday 4th January 6pm with hot chocolate served from 5.40pm. **Candlemas** candlelit service Sunday 4th February 6pm. Everyone, especially children, is very welcome at all our seasonal services and don't forget to watch out for Mary and Joseph as they travel down the High Street on their way to 'Bethlehem'.

THE KEEPERS IN KINGSWOOD (KiK)

Contact: keepersinkingswood@gmail.com

The revised Tuesday schedule for November is underway and Chair Exercises have proved popular. Due to its popularity, we're hoping to put on an extra session in December on Tuesday 2nd as well as one on Tuesday 16th from 2-2:45pm. Why not try it? Get some gentle exercise followed by a hot drink and a chat in the café. Other activities will also be starting soon – check local publicity for details. If there's an activity you'd like us to include or if you have something to offer, please get in touch by calling Nikki on 07471 603216, message us via Facebook or send an email. If you could do with a little help with your IT e.g. internet use, email, social media, online shopping, avoiding scams or anything else "computer" related, come to one of our Digital Drop-in sessions from 3-4:30pm every 3rd Tuesday of the month for guidance – no booking required. Soup lunches are popular on Friday's and are served between 12-12:30. No need to book: pay-as-you-feel. If you need transport within Kingswood, call 07767 947549 to request a lift. Especially in the run up to Christmas, please continue to remember those in need of a little help with household costs by donating non-perishable food items, toiletries and household goods for the Community Pantry via the Spar shop or the box in St Mary's porch. The Pantry supplies are available for anyone in need. Feel free to help yourself. The church is open for collections and donations from 10am-4:30pm daily except Sundays. **Please note, our last drop-in café session before Christmas is Friday 19th December and we open again on Friday 2nd January 2026.** Thank you everyone for your support during 2025.

KINGSWOOD CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH (CHAPEL)

Contact: timandvick@gmail.com

Our 10.30am morning services leading up to Christmas include a Children's Gift Service on Sunday 14th December, this is family friendly with an opportunity to donate gifts for charity, unwrapped toys for children welcome. A Lessons & Carols service on Sunday 21st December, which will consist of various readings and Carols on the theme 'Love Came Down at Christmas'. On Christmas Day we will have a 30 minute service at 10.00am. January will see our services continue weekly on Sunday's at 10.30am with various home and visiting speakers. We will be hosting the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 18-25th January. More info can be found at www.kingswoodcongregational.org.uk or use the above email.

KINGSWOOD PARISH COUNCIL

Contact: clerk@kingswoodparishcouncil.gov.uk Tel: 01453 844659

Kingswood Neighbourhood Development Plan (KNDP) There is still time to complete the NDP Survey. **Closing date 8th December.** It is important we hear from you on how you want Kingswood to look in the future <https://forms.gle/qLmcapbCAX4AcU9h9>. **Bloor Homes** have advised that they will be submitting a planning application for 100 homes on Walkmill Lane. A link for full details can be found on KPC website. We will advise you when the application is submitted. **Kingswood Clean Up** – Please can all homeowners check for weeds outside their property particularly if they are blocking the street drains. Please work safely whilst doing this. Likewise please check that hedges and shrubs are not obstructing the footpath causing a hazard for pedestrians. **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. **Travel Survey** - KPC has joined with KLB and Gloucestershire County Council and have compiled a school travel survey for all KLB pupils. This will be circulated by KLB. Please can you ensure that you complete it for all your children who attend KLB. This will give KPC and GCC important information and will help us with providing evidence for vital highway safety improvements. **Allotment Plots**- If you would like an allotment plot please contact the Clerk to the council. **KPC meetings** - The next KPC meeting is **12/01/2026 at 7.15pm at Kingswood Village Hall**. KPC do live stream our 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 meeting. Meeting links are 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 the parish council on the **Kingswood Parish Council Facebook Page**. *The Clerk Mary Leonard, PO Box 113 Wotton under Edge GL11 9BP.*



LONGFIELD COMMUNITY HOSPICE – you can now sign up to dispose of your Christmas Tree in the most eco-friendly way. In return for a voluntary donation, Longfield will collect your trees from your home. For collection go to: www.just-helping.org.uk/register-tree Bookings can be made from 14th November until 6th January 2025



FEBRUARY GRAPEVINE ISSUE DEADLINE:

FRIDAY 23rd JANUARY 2026