

Kingswood Grapevine

Issue No. 299

February 2026

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FEBRUARY 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
Wed 4th & 18th	Jubilee Club, Village Hall	2 - 4.00pm
Fri 27th & Sat 28th	KADS Panto, Village Hall (details below)	7.30pm
Friday 20th	MARCH Grapevine Deadline	6pm
Fri 13th & Sat 14th March	Beer & Bands, Village Hall (details below)	tbc
Tues 17th March	KVA Annual General Meeting, Village Hall	7.30pm
Sat 22nd March	Spring Craft Fair, Village Hall	11am - 3.30pm
Fri 24th April	Fashion Show, Village Hall	7pm

KINGSWOOD VILLAGE ASSOCIATION (KVA)

www.thekva.co.uk

OPEN GARDENS. KVA are thrilled to announce the return of Open Gardens in Kingswood on **Saturday 4th July**. The event will be in collaboration with the Tubbs Turf Finals Day. To make it work we will need plenty of gardens to look at, so if you would like to open your garden whether it be large or small, please email chair@thekva.co.uk to express your interest.

Annual General Meeting. The KVA AGM will be held at 7.30pm in the Village Hall on Tuesday 17th March. All are welcome to come and see what we do and what we've contributed to the Village over the past year. New members are always welcome and this will be a great opportunity to meet the current members.

SPRING CRAFT FAIR. Sunday 22nd March between 11am and 3.30pm in the Village Hall. Come along and view all the wonderful artisan and handcrafted items on sale. Entry is free and refreshments available. We still have a couple of tables available if any local crafters are interested in taking part. Please message sallyharries@hotmail.com for more information.

SENIOR'S NYE LUNCH. A big thanks to all that attended this event. We hope you had as much fun as we did. We are very pleased to have received many letters and emails of thanks which proves to us that this remains a popular event and one we are very pleased to continue this year at what will be the 25th anniversary.

KVA WEBSITE – The current KVA website is becoming increasingly time consuming to maintain due to the old software and technical capabilities of the committee! If you have an interest or knowledge of website design and feel you would be able to assist us in producing a new website with e-commerce and digital event booking capabilities please get in touch with us. KVA welcomes applications for funding from organisations within Kingswood. Please download the application form from the website. The KVA are always looking for willing volunteers to help either as a member of the committee or as a friend of the KVA. If you are interested please email chair@thekva.co.uk

COTSWOLD VALE TALKING NEWSPAPER

Having difficulty reading the local paper? Why not **listen** to the local news instead? Did you know that more than two million people live with sight loss in the UK? Cotswold Vale Talking Newspaper (CVTN) provides a service for anyone who is visually impaired or unable to read newspapers/magazines due to a disability. They can register for this free weekly service and enjoy interesting news and magazine articles, keeping up to date with what is happening locally. Listeners receive the recordings on a USB stick which they can listen to on a simple 'Soundbox' device provided free of charge. If you think that you, a relative, or someone you know would benefit from using the CVTN service, you can contact us on 07538 424354 or visit our website www.cvtv.org.uk where you will also find more information about this unique and valuable FREE resource.

KINGSWOOD JUBILEE CLUB

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

Welcome to 2026 everyone. Jubilee club is back for our fortnightly meetings on Wednesdays 2 to 4pm. We enjoyed an afternoon singing along with the Nightingales at our first meeting of the year and then a talk by Philip Ashford on 21st. On 4th February we will be entertained by John Tribe on his ukulele and on 18th February, Tony Bryant is going to speak to us about birds of prey. Do come and join us as we are always looking for new members and would love to see you.

KINGSWOOD ABBEY WI CRAFT GROUP

We are hoping to bring the village together in a community project for November 2026, by decorating our streets with respectful yarn bombing displays for Remembrance Day. That's 10 months away we know, but it will take time to gather enough items. The idea is to create knitted/crocheted poppies, fabric bunting, wraps, or other pieces to display around the village as a collective act of remembrance. We would dearly like as many village organisations and individuals to get involved so, whether you knit, crochet, sew, have a skill with wood or metal or just want to help with planning or installation, we'd love you to be involved. Every contribution, big or small, will help make something meaningful that reflects our community. If you'd like to take part or find out more, please get in touch with Sally (sal.reynolds@hotmail.co.uk). Let's create something special together to honour Remembrance Day and have the best display around!

KINGSWOOD VILLAGE HALL

Save the Date! - Ladies Fun Fashion Show and Pop Up Shop - Friday 24th April 7pm in the Village Hall – limited tickets £6.00 each or £15 for 3. A fun evening with High Street Fashion and bar followed by an opportunity to buy at up to 70% off High Street prices. Tickets from the Village Shop or Issy 07810 567294 isobelkelly60@btinternet.com.

KINGSWOOD BEER & BANDS

"Beer and Bands" - **Friday 13th March** sees the revamped Kingswood Beer Festival as "Beer & Bands". This event will raise money for multiple village groups and all proceeds from the raffle will go to Kingswood School Association. Headlining are The Easy Riders supported by The Loan Sea Riders. Full details to follow on local Facebook pages and posters around the village. Tickets at £10 each will be available from the SPAR or any member of the team. We also welcome any sponsors who wish to donate the cost of a barrel @ £100 - Contact Pat Devine 07831281992, Pete Skuse 07958745126 or Guy Lendon 07940398976. This event will be followed on Saturday 14th March with the 6 Nations Super Saturday and another chance to try some of our magnificent beers.

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KINGSWOOD & WOTTON SOCIALIST BOOK CLUB

Our next book is very much a lighter read '**STALIN ATE MY HOMEWORK**' by **Alexi Sayle** if you would like to read it and join our discussion, email robertcopeland8rs@gmail.com for details of our next meeting.

KINGSWOOD AMATEUR DRAMATICS SOCIETY

Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves by Adrian Barradell: A family friendly Panto for all to enjoy. Kingswood Village Hall **February 27th and 28th**. There is also a matinee performance on Saturday. Please come and support our annual panto. Tickets (£10) are available from the Spar or online through Ticket Source.

KINGSWOOD ABBEY W.I.

We are an active, friendly group who meet every second Tuesday of the month at Kingswood Village Hall at 7.30pm. We have an interesting and entertaining programme organised for the coming year. The first meeting of the year we were pleased to welcome Mr Chris Mapp who talked about 'The British Home Children-Britains lost children'. Thank you Chris for a very interesting and informative evening. Our next meeting is **Tuesday 10th February**, 7.30pm, when Gemma Fletcher will be talking to us about Tropic Skincare. We welcome prospective members or visitors at a cost of £5 a meeting.

ST MARYS CHURCH

We were delighted to welcome many villagers to our Christmas services. The crib remains in place until the official end of Christmas at **Candlemass** when we will have a **family service on Sunday 1st February at 6pm** at St Mary's. Join us first for hot chocolate at 5.40pm. Our regular Sunday services continue every week at 11am. There is also a weekly opportunity to join us **online** for a short service of Morning Prayer every Wednesday from 9.00- 9.30am led by Revd Rick Williams. St Mary's is open Monday to Friday from 10am to 4pm. Donations to the Food Bank or to the Keepers in Kingswood can be left in the porch. Details of all events and services can be found on our website <https://www.stmaryskingswood.org.uk>. **Holocaust Memorial Day** - This year to mark Holocaust Memorial Day, St Mary's Church has invited Khalid Sidahmed to talk on **The Darfur Genocide of 2003-5 and the continuing violence in Sudan** at 7pm Saturday 21st February in St Mary's. This is a rare opportunity to hear from and ask questions of an individual whose life has been shaped by this conflict, helping to provide to a wider understanding of a genocide and war that has been largely ignored by the media. This is first time St Mary's has invited a speaker to talk about a genocide that took place this century. A light supper will also be available between 18:00-18:30. Details and how to book can be found at - hmd-stmarys-kingswood-wue.eventbrite.com.

THE KEEPERS IN KINGSWOOD (KiK)

Contact: keepersinkingswood@gmail.com

We're making a special appeal this month for volunteers to come forward to support our food offering at the drop-in sessions. We're currently offering soup lunches between 12-12:30 every Friday. These have proved very popular but we could really do with some extra help with preparing, cooking and serving these meals. If you think you might be able to help in this or any other way, please get in touch via the email address above or better still, come down to the Lower School Room on a Tuesday (2-4:30) or Friday (10-1) to meet our staff & volunteers for a chat. Please also 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 which is open for collections and donations from 10am to 4:30 daily except Sundays. If you feel you could do with a bit of help yourself, feel free to take what you need from the pantry or if you know someone who could benefit, please pass on the word. Thank you to everyone who supports Keepers in Kingswood.

KINGSWOOD CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH (CHAPEL)

Contact: timandvick@gmail.com

Wishing everyone a Happy New Year, we are continuing 2026 with our usual Sunday Morning Services at 10.30am every week. Everyone is welcome to hear a variety of visiting and home Speakers with our Sunday School open following worship time each week. Our all age service will be on **Sunday 22nd** where you are welcome to share with us in a fun open style family friendly service. Lower Schoolroom activities: **Monthly Bible Study** 7.00-9.00pm **Monday 23rd**. Various topics openly discussed with prayer and fellowship. Refreshments are served and welcome to everyone aged 16 and over. **Lighthouse Youth Group** for 10-15 year olds, weekly every Thursday 7.00-8.00pm. Pool, badminton, table tennis, games and other activities. Chill out time in the Upper Room from 8.00-8.30pm.

KINGSWOOD PARISH COUNCIL

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

Bloor Homes have advised that they will be submitting a planning application for 90 homes on Walkmill Lane in February. KPC would like to hold a **public meeting on 02/02/2026** at Kingswood Village Hall at 7.15pm to discuss Stroud District Council's Local Plan and 5-year Housing supply, the NDP and the Bloor proposal. **Youth Forum** – Thank you to everyone who completed the youth survey. **NDP Review** – Please see the draft summary of the consultation on the KPC website. **KLB Travel Survey** – Please see the results of the survey on the KPC website. **Budget and precept** Please see the KPC website for the agreed objectives for 2026/2027. KPC has set the precept for Kingswood at £155,334.71 this is increase for band D of £18.69 per annum. **Highway Safety** – It is important that all incidents are reported to the Police. Unless incidents are recorded the Police & Glos Highways will remain convinced that the roads in Kingswood are safe and this will not help when we ask for improvements like speed reductions and vehicle activated sign. Please report on 101@gloucestershire.police.uk **Allotment Plots**- If you would like an allotment plot please contact the Clerk. **KPC meetings** - The next meeting is **09/02/2026 at 7.15pm at Kingswood 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 the parish council on the **Kingswood Parish Council Facebook Page**. *The Clerk Mary Leonard, PO Box 113 Wotton under Edge GL11 9BP.*

MARCH GRAPEVINE DEADLINE:

FRIDAY 20th FEBRUARY 2026

For an entry please email : admin@kingswoodgrapevine.co.uk Visit our Website: www.kingswoodgrapevine.co.uk