

Kingswood Grapevine

Issue No. 302

May 2026

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MAY 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
Thursday 7th	Kingswood Abbey talk in St. Marys (see below)	5.30pm
Wed 13th & 27th	Jubilee Club, Village Hall	2 - 4pm
Wed 13th	Rags2Riches, Kingswood School – info below	
15th – 17th	Heaven of the South Event, Village Hall (& road closure)	see below
Tuesday 19th	Village Hall AGM, small meeting room, Village Hall	7.30pm
Thursday 21st May	JUNE Grapevine Deadline	6pm

KINGSWOOD VILLAGE ASSOCIATION (KVA)

Website: www.thekva.co.uk

OPEN GARDENS - Saturday 4th July. More detail in the next issue but a chance for you to set off from Tubbs Turf and wander through some of the beautiful gardens of Kingswood. There will be a free quiz for the children too, then head back for the tennis finals and to enjoy a BBQ & refreshments. It's not too late if you would like to open your own garden whether it be large or small, please email chair@thekva.co.uk to express your interest, closing date for entries is **8th June**. SHOWDAY - Saturday 5th September. The Produce & Handicraft schedules will arrive on your doormat at the beginning of July. Plans are coming together for an exciting afternoon. We will be joined this year by Anton Macman, a professional juggler who will be performing in the arena and run a drop-in workshop with a variety of circus skills. We are delighted to announce that 'The Rosellys' are confirmed as our live Band for 2026. Craft & sales stalls are filling fast, so if you are interested in having a pitch yourself, or would like to help out on the day, please contact secretary@kva.co.uk. 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 full member of the committee or as a friend of the KVA. If you are interested please email chair@thekva.co.uk

KINGSWOOD DEFIB AWARENESS GROUP

Contact: David Owen Email: drddowen@gmail.com, 07885 745 235/01453 844463

Although we have a good network of public access defibs in the Parish, several families have expressed an interest in owning one privately. The main reasons for this include the ability to take the defib out and about for holidays, work trips and the like; or having a family member with a high-risk health condition. I carry an external defib in the car, even if I'm just popping up to Wotton. Remember, cardiac arrests can happen anytime, anywhere, and to anyone of any age. If you'd like to discuss the options, please do contact me.

KINGSWOOD JUBILEE CLUB

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

We meet every other Wednesday from 2 - 4pm in the Village Hall. We welcome people over 60 from Kingswood and the surrounding areas. On 13th May - John Tribe will entertain us with his ukulele, harmonica and songs. On the 27th May we welcome back the Accord Singers. On **Monday 25th May** we will be hosting Town Hall Teas in Wotton-Under-Edge. This is our only fund raising event so please come along and support us by enjoying a cuppa and slice of homemade cake etc. Any offers of a cake would be greatly appreciated.

KINGSWOOD ABBEY W.I. CRAFT GROUP

We need your help please.....We will be bringing the village together in a community project for November 2026, by decorating the village with respectful yarn bombing displays for Remembrance Day. Although still eight months away it will take time to make and gather enough items. The idea is to create knitted or crocheted poppies, fabric bunting, wraps, or other thoughtful pieces that can be displayed around the village. We would dearly like as many village organisations and individuals to get involved, so, whether you knit, crochet, sew, have a skill with wood/metal or just want to help with planning or installation, we'd love you to be involved. You don't need to be an expert, and you don't need lots of time — 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). **A huge thank-you to the KVA for their generous funds. This will allow us to provide anyone interested in helping with the materials to do so.** Please join in and help us create something special together to honour Remembrance Day and have the best display around!

THE HEAVEN OF THE SOUTH (HOTS)

The Heaven of the South mountain bike event is taking place on the 15th to 17th May. On Saturday 16th, as in previous years, please note there will be a temporary road closure to all vehicles from the Village Hall to the pedestrian traffic lights beyond KLB, with no access available from any side roads leading onto this route, This is because the 'roll-out' of 400 mountain bikes that will take place. The closure will take place from 9.30am to 10.15am. In addition to this 'roll-out' spectacle, on Friday evening we will have 'Blues Triad' band playing from 7-9pm and on Saturday in the afternoon we have 'Dead Dog Cider' playing from 4-6pm and to finish the evening in style, we have 'Harry Round' playing. All are welcome to come along and enjoy the weekend at the Village Hall.

KINGSWOOD WILDLIFE AREA

Contact: Simon : jolyon501@gmail.com

Newt Surveys for 2026. Each year the newts in our wildlife ponds are surveyed to enable us to keep a record of the different types and their numbers. We are so lucky to have all three native species - Smooth, Palmate and the protected Great Crested Newt. This is a wonderful opportunity to get a really close look at these delightful creatures. Children are always really interested to learn to ID the different newts. Traps are set on the Friday evenings, and on Saturday mornings the newts are counted, identified and their numbers recorded before they are released back into the ponds. You are welcome to come and join us on 1st/2nd May, 8th/9th May or 22nd/23rd May. We will be at the ponds in the Wildlife Area from 7.30pm on the Friday evenings for about an hour, and from 7.30am until about 9am on the Saturday mornings. We look forward to seeing you there.

KINGSWOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

Telephone: 01453 842197

As we begin the summer term, it is good to look back over the past term's successes and think about what else we want to achieve by the end of the year. The Arts have always held a high priority in our school and we continue to ensure that every pupil in Key Stage 1 & 2 has the opportunity to learn an instrument every year. Last term our Year 3/4 pupils held a lovely violin recital for their parents at the end of their ten lessons. This term, our Year 1/2 pupils are learning to play samba. We love it when the corridors are echoing to the sound of drums, clapping and whistles! At school, we want to ensure that all of our pupils have the best opportunities for personal development. Last term our Year 5/6 children went to visit the Bristol Synagogue and were described by the guide as 'the most involved, most informed and most pleasant to host'. This term we have a boat trip on The Matthew planned for Reception, Year 1 & Year 2, along with our Year 5 & 6 residential stay with Bushcraft - three nights under canvas, in the woods! We have been privileged to welcome a number of new children across all age groups to our school this year, as families move into the village. Our commitment to provide school places for the children of Kingswood remains strong and we are looking forward to our new Reception cohort joining us in September. We still have spaces for our 2026 Reception Class, so get in touch for more information.

KINGSWOOD COMMUNITY LIBRARY

We are UP AND RUNNING!..You may have noticed that the redundant bus shelter by The Chipping is now fitted out with bookshelves and a mixture of books, including a good sized children's section. Please feel free to borrow any books, which can then either be returned when you're ready or replaced with something else. Please also feel free to donate books you feel may be of interest! This wouldn't have happened without the wonderful support of the Parish Council, the KVA, and a small but enthusiastic group of volunteers - thank you so much to everyone who has contributed.

KINGSWOOD SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

KSA Rags 2 Riches: 13th May 2026 - We are holding a Rags2Riches for Schools collection on Wednesday 13th May. So, if you're thinking about clearing out your wardrobe, your kids have outgrown their clothes, and you want to support Kingswood Primary School in raising some money, please consider donating your old clothes, shoes, bags, belts etc. (for full list see: rags2riches4schools.co.uk/what-we-collect/). You can leave your clothes in a bag (labelled: Rags2Riches for Kingswood School Association) in the Abbey Gateway before 08:30 on the day. Thank you for your support.

ST MARYS PARISH CHURCH

This month we are looking forward to the Festival of Pentecost which marks the coming of the Holy Spirit to Jesus' disciples. May is also Christian Aid Week **10-16 May**. On **Saturday 16th May** from 2.00 – 4.00pm there will be teas and cakes on the Abbey Green with a craft stall and books to raise money for those less well off than ourselves. As always, a warm welcome awaits everyone each Sunday for our service at 11 am. Do join us! There is also a short online service of Morning Prayer at 9am each Wednesday morning and in person Morning Prayer at Wickwar church room at 9am on Thursday morning.

KINGSWOOD CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH (CHAPEL)Contact: timandvick@gmail.com

Our Sunday Morning Services continue throughout May at 10.30am every week. Everyone is welcome to join us with our Sunday School open following the worship time each week. And at the end of the month we will have a family friendly service on the 31st. Our **Lighthouse Youth Group** for 10-15 year olds continues weekly every Thursday 7- 8.00pm in the LSR. Pool, badminton, table tennis, games and other activities. Chill out time in the Upper Room from 8- 8.30pm. **Bible Study** will be slightly earlier this month on Monday 18th due to the Bank Holidays, from 7- 9.00pm in the LSR. We will continue to read and discuss the parables of Jesus with prayer and fellowship. Refreshments are served and welcome to everyone over 16.

TUBBS TURFContact: membership@tubbsturf.co.uk

After a long, wet winter, it's good to have some tennis weather and we are ready for the new season. Membership remains incredible value at £40 (adults), £10 (juniors) and from £75 for a family. Full details are on our revamped website, www.tubbsturf.co.uk or by emailing us. Anyone wanting a quick overview of what we offer, we have a short YouTube video at www.youtube.com/watch?v=ICCaPiVV0. For those who would like to use the top court for other sports, we have a basketball hoop, netball posts, a table tennis table and small football goals. A quick reminder - out of consideration to our neighbours, please use only size 3 footballs, and leave the music at home! Please be aware that there is priority for Kingswood Primary on certain afternoons, and we reserve both courts for members' tennis on Sunday mornings and Thursday evenings. Our Finals Day & Garden Party will be held on **Saturday 4th July** and we are delighted to be hosting the start of the KVA's Open Gardens event, so please put the date in your diary for a special afternoon of sport and garden delights. Finally, we are grateful as always to our stewards who open and close the courts each day. If you would like to help us with this, we would be delighted to hear from you - the commitment is small but vital to keeping the courts open.

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. On Tuesday 14th April we were pleased to welcome Fabric Conservation - Constance Zimmer, a very interesting evening indeed. Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday **12th May** at 7.30pm - there is no speaker as we will be discussing and voting on the Organisations's Resolutions. We welcome prospective members or visitors at a cost of £5 a meeting.

A GLOUCESTERSHIRE TINTERN? NEW PERSPECTIVES ON KINGSWOOD ABBEY

A special opportunity to learn more about Kingswood Abbey in the context of the Cistercians in Gloucestershire. Recent archaeological research has revealed new evidence, so come and find out with well known archeologist and TV personality, Professor Mark Horton who will give a lecture entitled '**A Gloucestershire Tintern? New perspectives on Kingswood Abbey**' in St Mary's Church, at 5.30 on **Thursday May 7th** followed by a wine reception. **Tickets in aid Gloucestershire Historic Churches Trust are available online from <https://ghct.org.uk/> £10 in advance and £12 on the door.**

JUNE GRAPEVINE DEADLINE:**THURSDAY 21st MAY 2026**