



KINGS LANGLEY

Village News

ISSUE 41
NOVEMBER/DECEMBER
2024

YOUR ONLY LOCAL Village NEWSPAPER



High drama...

Residents in Langley Lodge Lane were confronted by the remains of a light aircraft high up in the trees and a multitude of emergency vehicles blocking their access for more than three hours. Fortunately, despite the carnage and smouldering debris, there were no real injuries – the dramatic scenario was just a very realistic training exercise for Hertfordshire's fire, police and ambulance services.

Full story on centre pages...

Altar's 19th century ornamental screen restored at All Saints

Visitors to All Saints church often go to visit the tomb of Edmund of Langley and many are also drawn to the beautiful, carved reredos – the ornamental screen that covers the wall running along behind the altar.

However, wear and tear means the reredos were in need of some attention, and last month All Saints brought in David Britnell, a specialist in church and historic building restoration, to restore the 20 or more damaged pieces.

Over a week David took moulds and fitted the replacement pieces, ageing the new parts to ensure they blended in with the existing reredos.

Carved by Joseph Clarke in 1878, and sponsored by paper mill owner John Dickinson, the reredos are now back to their best, and visitors are challenged to try and spot where the repairs have been made!



David at work restoring the damaged reredos and some of the moulds used to make replacements



Cinnamon Lounge
Bangladeshi & Indian Cuisine

18 High Street, Kings Langley, Herts. WD4 8BH 01923 263823/262405

**UNIQUE
SPECIALITY
DISHES**

Eat in or take away

www.cinnamon-lounge.com



Green fingers rewarded at competition evening

The culmination of this year's Gardens Competition took place at Kings Langley Cricket Club where everyone was a winner without a ball being bowled.

'It was another great year for judging,' explained Councillor Alan Johnson, 'and we were delighted so many of this year's winners were able to join us for the celebrations.'

Before the presentations got underway there was an opportunity for a 'Gardener's Question Time' with Craig Brace, Head of Horticulture at the Sunnyside Trust. Pam Litton, a local gardener and British wildlife expert, was also on hand to talk about the eight swift boxes purchased by the parish council, and sought volunteers to help in identifying suitable locations around the village.

Sadly, swifts, which fly to the UK from Africa in the spring to breed, have declined in number by more than 50% over two decades.

There were regular entrants and first time participants this year, with Marion Cox winning Best Contemporary Garden and, with Allen Bentley, Best Overall Garden for 2024. At the other end of the scale, Glenda Seal won Best Newcomer with a garden that had a little of everything.

As is traditional, there was a wonderful buffet provided by Dallings and, at the end of the evening, a raffle and auction which raised £340 for the Sunnyside Trust.



Gill & Alan Busby: Best Front Garden



Marion Cox: Best Contemporary Garden



Glenda Seal – Best Newcomer

'Once again it seemed like everyone was a winner in the raffle or the auction,' added Chief Judge Councillor Gerry Angiolini. 'There was a fabulous selection of raffle prizes and planters, a picnic set and petrol in the auction!'

Lottery award will fund raised beds at allotment site

Kings Langley Allotments and Gardens Association (KLAGA) has been awarded £16,730 by the Lotteries Community Fund towards a Raised Bed project at its Sunderlands Yard site in Kings Langley.

The site at Sunderlands Yard is situated between the River Gade and the Grand Union Canal, which in recent years has seen increased flooding caused from excess water levels in both the canal and river.

The Association, with the support of the Kings Langley Parish Council who own the allotment site, has been in discussion with the Canal and River Trust, the Environment Agency, Herts County Council, and Dacorum Borough Council for several years, but progress has been slow.

The programme will see a hundred raised beds installed across the site. As part of their bid, KLAGA will be hosting an Open Day next year when they will be showcasing the benefits this project will bring to their allotment community.



THE OLD PALACE

'Where everyone is treated like royalty'

*Join us for our Christmas Disco
23 November and our
Christmas brass band sing-along on
16 December.

*Festive party bookings taken now
oldpalacekingslangley.com

83 Langley Hill, Kings Langley



McAulays Tax Consultancy
Chartered Tax Advisers
Accountants

Taxation Services to Private Clients

12 Forester House, Marlborough Road, Watford WD18 0QD
Principal: Lawrence McAulay BA (cantab) MA CTA ATT

www.mcaulays.co.uk ~ Lawrence@McAulays.co.uk
07852 888 911



Comedian kicks off Christmas at village school

Primary school children had a treat last month when actor, comedian and TV presenter Matt Lucas visited for an afternoon.

The celebrity came to Kings Langley Primary School to talk to the children about his debut novel, *The Boy Who Slept Through Christmas*, and entertained them with an interactive assembly based around the festive season.

He also signed hundreds of copies of his new book, ensuring the children had a lasting memory of the day.

Paula Harris, headteacher at the school, said 'It was wonderful to be able to welcome Matt into the school – the children were so excited. Many of them know him from things like *Bake Off* and his role in the film *Wonka*, so there was an electric atmosphere when he arrived. He did a great job entertaining the little ones and getting them up on stage to answer questions. He's welcome back any time!'

Village News contacts

All enquiries, articles, advertisements, and Prize Xword competition entries should be sent by email to kingslangleynews@gmail.com or by post to:

The Editor

**Kings Langley Village News,
c/o Kings Langley Parish Council
Charter Court, Vicarage Lane,
Kings Langley, WD4 9HR**

The next *Village News* will be published for January/February 2025 – copy and advertising deadline is Friday 13 December 2024.

Village News brainiac secures Masters in Maths at 75

A friend of *Village News* is celebrating after graduating with a Masters degree more than 50 years after he was first invited to undertake the qualification.

Andrew Selby, long-time Kings Langley resident and setter of the *Village News* Crossword since the magazine's inception, is celebrating after securing a Masters in Mathematics from the Open University at the age of 75.

And he is no stranger to higher education, having already completed a BSc in Civil Engineering in 1971, one in Mathematics in 2004 and a third in Natural Sciences in 2017.

The retired civil engineer, who spent much of his career working for Thames Water, was first approached about studying for a Masters in Civil Engineering after his first degree in the early seventies, but familial duty called.

He said 'I turned it down as Marguerite and I wanted to marry and to buy a house, which would not have been viable on the grant offered for the two year course. However, I think I squirrelled the thought away in my mind somewhere as a lifetime goal for when I became older!'

Andrew and his wife Marguerite spend much of their spare time supporting the Kings Langley Community Library, with Andrew using his digital expertise. He recently set his 314th crossword for *Village News* and its predecessor *The Villager* – which launched in 1992 – something he finds deeply satisfying.



Andrew, with his wife Marguerite, proudly displays his certificate

But he always found time for his studies. He told *Village News* 'The most challenging part of the Masters were at times just keeping going, with thoughts of "why am I doing this", but fortunately determination prevailed. Marguerite has been a tremendous support while I've been studying, but I think now is breathing a small sigh of relief.'

And the grandfather of six is not entirely sure he's ready to stop studying. He said 'I'm undecided at the moment on undertaking further formal study. However I will continue working with my son's father in law – a retired Sydney-based neurologist – developing a joint paper on understanding and modelling consciousness.'



Locally roasted coffee, homemade cakes, sandwiches & lunch, paella, antipasti, charcuterie, cheeses, tapas take away, hampers & gifts.

Our wine shop stocks an irresistible array of wines, beers, ales & spirits from 25+ countries.







20-22 High Street, Kings Langley, WD48BH 01923 265574 dallingandco.com

Tuffo is named Volunteer Groundsman of the Year

Tony Tuffs, the groundsman at Kings Langley Cricket Club, has been named Volunteer Groundsman of the Year in Hertfordshire – 68 years after joining the club.

As well as being a highly talented player in his day, 'Tuffo' has always played a part in maintaining and preparing the grounds and was rewarded for his dedication with a presentation on the steps of the Lords Pavillion.



Following the presentation by Dominic Chatfield, the Hertfordshire Men's Captain, Tuffo was able to watch some of the county match between Middlesex and Gloucestershire from the famous Long Room – while admiring the Lords pitch!

KLCC Player 'stars' at Blast Finals Day

It's not just Tuffo who's been in the spotlight for KLCC recently.

At this year's *T20 Blast Finals Day* club member Danny Knights was lucky enough to participate in the infamous mascot obstacle course, when all the County Teams' mascots line up against one another.

As a member of Middlesex CC's social media team Danny – or Pinky the Middlesex mascot – found himself on the starting line.

However, things didn't start well for Pinky as his trousers fell down, slightly hindering his pace. There was then a jam of mascots trying to get over some of the obstacles, ensuring Pinky had to dive over – landing on his head. He did manage to finish the race but, sadly, outside the medal places.



It's been a landmark year for Kings Langley Youth girls football

The Lionesses' European Championship triumph in 2022 arguably initiated a long overdue change in footballing culture

Recent years have seen young girls aspiring to emulate female heroes such as Chloe Kelly and Alessia Russo, who were finally afforded a level of media exposure previously restricted to their male counterparts. Equality is still yet to be achieved, but progress in the women's game has been sharp and this has been reflected at Kings Langley Football Club.

The start of the year saw the beginning of the club's partnership with HealthyU Girls Football Academy, which is part of HealthyU Women's Gym in Hemel, and the girls' section is now represented by the most teams in the club's history.

Additionally, a groundbreaking move has seen Kings enter an all-girls team, the Kings Langley Under-11 Whites, into the West Herts Youth League – a predominantly boys' league – for the first time.

Karl Thomas has joined as Head of Girls Football, combining the role with

his existing one as HealthyU's director, and he is passionate in his support of the movement.

Kings are offering unprecedented opportunities for young, aspiring female footballers and a vastly increased number of teams provides large numbers of girls a chance to begin their dreams and a career in the sport at the club.

Karl said 'HealthyU Girls Football is proud to be supporting Kings Langley FC, significantly increasing the number of girls' teams entered to the 24/25 season.

'This new partnership signifies

our shared visions for the club and girls' football with fostering growth, inclusivity and giving young girls the opportunity to develop in the sport.'

Club Chairman Darren Eliot described it as one of his 'proudest moments' at the club and said it represents a breaking of stereotypical boundaries, not only at the club but among the national football system.

Girls interested in joining Kings Langley FC can email football@klfc.club



Kings Langley Under-11 Whites

New pitch officially opened as football gets boost in Kings Langley

A Football Development Programme designed to broaden the reach of the sport had a moment in the spotlight recently when High Sheriff of Hertfordshire Annie Brewster JP officially opened the floodlit 3G football pitch at Kings Langley School (KLS).

The initiative, which is part of the High Sheriff's Fund run by Hertfordshire Community Foundation, includes supporting local clubs to increase the number of female teams, to create opportunities for players with a disability and collectively providing pan-disability football at junior, youth and senior level.

There is also the Monday night walking football team for those who thought their playing days were behind them.

The 3G pitch was built following a grant of over £700,000 from the Football

Foundation as well as an additional £290,000 from a number of local organisations including the school itself, the football clubs in Kings Langley and Chipperfield, and the Parish and County Councils.

Diane Bell, Deputy Head of KLS, who masterminded the project said, 'It's wonderful to celebrate the completion of this project – a big thank you to everyone who's helped to make it happen. The positive impact on both our students and the wider community will be felt for years to come.'



Above: Bird's-eye view of the 3G pitch at KLS. Below: Chipperfield Corinthian Girls with the High Sheriff



Fabulous European Designer Wear

Sizes 16 – 30

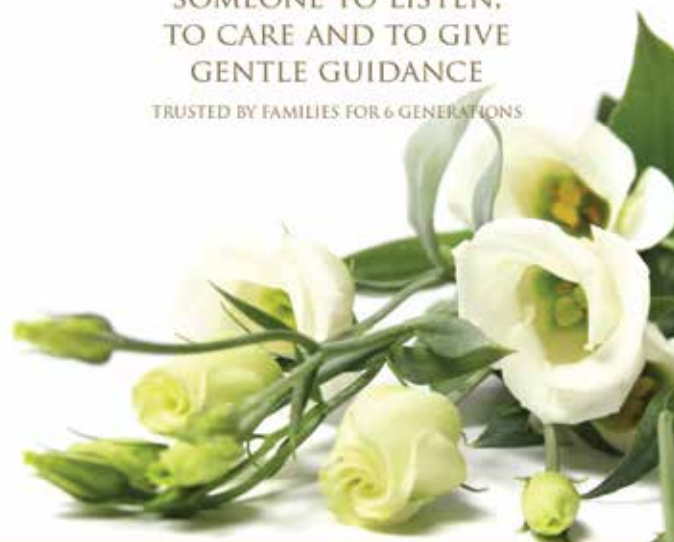
Froxx
of KINGS LANGLEY

57 High Street, Kings Langley, WD4 9HU
(Junction 20 – M25/A41)

Open Monday to Saturday 10am – 4pm
tel: 01923 264743 www.froxx.co.uk

WHEN YOU MOST NEED
SOMEONE TO LISTEN,
TO CARE AND TO GIVE
GENTLE GUIDANCE

TRUSTED BY FAMILIES FOR 6 GENERATIONS



REGIONAL DIRECTOR
A&C TADMAN LTD

EST. 1941

CALL US TODAY

46 QUEENSWAY, HEALD HEMSTEAD, HERTFORDSHIRE, HPI 5LR
TEL: 01482 262701

58A HIGH STREET, KINGS LANGLEY, HERTFORDSHIRE, WD4 9AU
TEL: 01923 264729

INFO@ACTADMAN.CO.UK WWW.ACTADMAN.CO.UK

A & C TADMAN FUNERALS WITH PEACE OF MIND AND STYLE

KLFC launches new suicide charity partnership

A partnership between Kings Langley Football Club and local suicide prevention charity Hector's House kicked off with a match against Thame United at the start of the season.

Berkhamsted-based Hector's House was created in memory of Hector Stringer, who took his life in 2011 at the age of 18. Set up by Hector's parents, Robert and Belinda, the charity aims to prevent suicide and mental health stigma through education, awareness and support.

In the week building up to the game, KLFC marked the new partnership by turning its social media green to help raise awareness of the charity and, ahead of the game, the first team warmed up in bright green Hector's House T-Shirts. A minute's silence was also observed before kick off in honour of people who suffered – and still suffer – from mental health issues.

Despite a 0-2 loss to a highly-organised Thame United, the bigger picture of the fixture was to promote the importance of the charity, raising awareness and providing support to anybody who needs to speak out about how they are feeling.

Club chairman Darren Eliot said 'It truly is a privilege to work with Hector's House. This partnership has the potential to reach so many people across the club, from our young people right the way through to supporters of our first team and it's such an important message.'

For further information about the charity visit hectorshouse.org.uk



PHOTO: MICAH RICKETTS

KLFC hold a minute's silence before the game against Thame United

Bowling green



Kings Langley Bowls Club ended their season in late September, but the work on the green continues throughout the winter. Our photo shows the Green Team applying seeds and then top dressing. Their work may go unnoticed by many, but is much appreciated. The final result is not very exciting looking, but this treatment will ensure the green looks lush next season.



**Overwhelmed by the gym?
Struggling to stay motivated?
SDG Fitness is here to help!**

Personal training & small group training options available

**FREE INITIAL CONSULTATION INCLUDES
1 HR PERSONAL TRAINING SESSION**

Seb Getino
Personal trainer
9 years experience



Scan to find out more
about personal training
or visit www.sdgfitness.com

 07590807669
 seb@getino.co.uk
 @sebgetino
 Based in Chipperfield

Total Flooring

A FRIENDLY, FAMILY-RUN BUSINESS

5 High Street, Kings Langley
Come and see us in our new store

Carpets • LVT • Laminates • Vinyls

Domestic & contract welcome
Free estimates

Contact us now to book an appointment
Tel: 01923 262656
email: totalflooring23ltd@gmail.com



Actor announced as first patron of Druglink

Acclaimed actor Mark Wingett has been named as the inaugural patron of Hertfordshire substance misuse charity Druglink.

The star of *The Bill* and *Quadrophenia* is a passionate advocate for mental health and addiction recovery and is deeply committed to raising awareness about the challenges faced by individuals struggling with substance misuse.

As a patron, Mark will collaborate with the charity to highlight key issues



Welwyn Hatfield Mayor Frank Marsh, with Councillor Leo Gilbert, visited Druglink, highlighting their critical work to support those with substance abuse, with particular focus on housing provision to ensure long term recovery. Inset: Mark Wingett

related to substance misuse, including the need for more accessible treatment options, housing support, and mental health services.

He said 'I'm truly honoured to become the first patron of Druglink. The work this charity does to support individuals

on their journey in recovery is absolutely vital. The oft-misunderstood condition of addiction affects not only those who suffer from it but their families and the wider community as well. I'm excited to help raise awareness and support for this cause and to help give people a second chance at life.'

KLMTC Show People what they're made of

Kings Langley Musical Theatre Company (KLMTC) broke all records when they performed their sparkling cabaret *Show People* to packed audiences early in October.

The Theatre @The Nap was transformed into a nightclub with a black and red theme and subtle lighting. The performers moved among the audience bringing them songs from musical stage shows both old and new.

The cabaret also featured tap dancing, comedy routines and rousing chorus

songs. *Show People* will return next October with even more songs to delight the audience. But now the group is already rehearsing for their next major musical production which will be *Curtains*, a murder mystery musical, written by Kander and Ebb, the writers of *Chicago* and *Cabaret*.



Head down the rabbit hole with Alice this Christmas

Panto-goers are invited to the most prestigious of tea parties next month as the Kings Langley Players perform their centenary show.



The Mad Hatter will be joined on stage by the March Hare, White Rabbit, Cheshire Cat and Tweedledum and Tweedledee – among many other well known characters – for a sensational showing of *Alice in Wonderland*.

Packed with great songs and a witty script, the 40-strong cast – which includes 16 talented children – is currently putting the finishing touches to the show that promises to deliver all the classic panto favourites, from bad jokes to baddies, audience participation

and, of course, an outrageously glamorous Duchess.

Directed by Craig Allen, who was also the brains behind last year's performance of *Robin Hood and Babes in the Wood*, the Players will, for the first time, be working with a rotating stage in order to really bring the magic of *Wonderland* to life.

The show runs from 4 – 7 December at The Community Centre in The Nap. For tickets see klp.org.uk/box-office-2



To join the group either onstage or backstage, or to find out more about forthcoming social events and shows, please email klmtc@outlook.com

Emergency scenario played out at Kings Langley farm

On a murky Monday morning in October six fire engines, four ambulances, five police cars, a Hazardous Area Response Team, an Emergency Critical Care team and an Environmental Health field team were all involved in an operation code-named 'Helo' which brought together emergency services from across the county.

In a setting which was created to represent an event which was as true-to-life as possible, they were faced with a situation which could well be a possibility given our location beneath local and national flight paths.

Nearly six months in the planning, the operation was brought to Langley Lodge Farm by Graham Glover, Multi Agency Training & Exercise Coordinator.

'Emergency service agencies and partner organisations regularly take part in training exercises to test our plans for handling a particular kind of incident and ensure that our teams have the skills and experience to respond to these events,' he said. 'This exercise was a challenging scenario and provided an opportunity for us to work together.'

The scenario included a 'crashed' aeroplane and pilot casualties, a damaged caravan with dazed and injured occupants, a small fire, a hazardous milk tanker and an 'irate farmer', all requiring prioritising for urgent specialist attention.

The aim of the exercise was to test the plans of all emergency services and their partners in responding to incidents together, to ensure public safety in the event of an aviation incident.

Area Commander Andy Hall, of the Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue Services said 'Testing and exercising our skills in extreme situations allows us to ensure that we are always fully prepared to protect the public in any situation, no matter how rare.'

Just as in any real-life situation, crews who turned out on the day were unaware of the precise details of the situation until they were on the scene. In this instance, police were first initially despatched to the scene and contacted their control room to request appropriate emergency support.

Chief Inspector Andrew Palfreyman,

Please visit us at:
hemelcreativeprint.co.uk



HCP
Hemel Creative Print
The local printer on your doorstep

Our services include:

- Booklets & Brochures
- Leaflets/Flyers/Posters/Banners
- Business Stationery
- Architect's Plans
- Design & Artwork
- Promotional Items

102 London Road, Hemel Hempstead, HP3 9SD
01442 212636
info@hemelcreativeprint.co.uk
Proud to be printers of this fine newsletter



Left: Members of the Bedfordshire Hertfordshire Emergency Critical Care (BHECCS) team were proud to show off their newly acquired transport. The fully equipped emergency vehicle was kindly donated by Triple9, a specialist company which converts vehicles for blue-light use. The new rapid response vehicle will allow the team to provide a first response to more 999 calls in the area.

BHECCS volunteers are highly trained pre-hospital Doctors and Critical Care



Kings Langley Physiotherapy Clinic
Chartered and State Registered Physiotherapists

Spinal Problems, Muscle & Joint Sprains, Joint Replacement, Rehab & Pilates

2 Hempstead Road, Kings Langley, WD4 8AD
01923 261974
Email: info@klpc.co.uk



Kings Langley Scaffolding Ltd

01923 271 156
07788 234 260



Left: Following simulated treatment within the cockpit, the 'pilots' were brought to the ground using a complex system of ropes and pulleys

Left: Once safely lowered to the ground, a pilot dummy was stretchered away to a waiting ambulance for further assessment. Below: The wing of the aircraft was staged to have struck a nearby caravan. As well as assigning the occupants physical 'injuries', one casualty was briefed to be found wandering dazed and confused and needing appropriate treatment



Three Rivers Local Policing Command, said 'We set up a Tactical Command Group in our Major Incident Room at police headquarters in Welwyn Garden City. Our emergency service responders and partners worked together, talking through the issues and sharing information' Photographic drones were also employed to relay activities to the Incident Room in real time.

There were a number of debriefs following the event, both on site and over the following days.

Speaking to the *Village News*, Sarah Watson, Head of Communications and Engagement for Hertfordshire Fire & Rescue Service said 'We had a facilitator on the scene, noting how

the emergency teams had responded and how well they were working together. We rigorously analyse the day's performance at exercises such as this, always learning, always seeking to constantly improve our work. We need to ensure that we are ready and prepared ahead of when we could be tested in the future.'

& Care Paramedics working in senior roles in the NHS as day jobs. The clinicians volunteer their days off as part of the BHECCS charity, supporting the NHS ambulance service to bring extra care to patients (which is usually only found in hospital) to the most seriously injured and unwell patients, giving them the best possible chance of survival and recovery.

for onse Their new vehicle carries lifesaving drugs, equipment and treatment not usually found on an emergency ambulance.

Below: Graham Glover held an initial debriefing with the assembled teams, who were also addressed by Inspector Jeff Scott from Hertfordshire Constabulary



Left: Paramedics enacted treatment to one of the caravan occupants Below: One of the aircraft 'pilots' – only a dummy on this occasion, but next time it could easily be for real. Training exercises such as this ensure that all the emergency services are well rehearsed



Hertfordshire Fire & Rescue Service would like to extend their thanks for the cooperation and patience of Kings Langley residents





Monthly meet-up offers grief support

A community café for people who are grieving has been launched in the village in a collaboration between All Saints Church and a local grief counsellor.

The Good Grief Café is a new monthly meet-up created by Father James McDonald and Nicola Duffell (pictured above) and is open to anyone experiencing any form of grief, whether that's the death of a loved one to a diagnosis or even the loss of a job or end of a relationship.

Nicola said 'Grief touches us all in one way or another and in today's society so many people grieve alone when that is absolutely not how it should be. The Good Grief Café is a space for people to grieve in community, to talk to each other, to find support and comfort and to simply feel less alone.

'Grief can be the passing of a partner, friend or family member but it can also be grieving for a life you have lost, whether that is a diagnosis for you or your spouse, an unwanted change in circumstances, or even simply the expectation that you should have moved on from a grief you first experienced a long time ago. Grief is not a one size fits all experience; the only thing that should be universal is the opportunity not to grieve alone.'

The first meeting will take place at 12noon on Friday 22 November in All Saints Church Hall and is free to attend; tea and cake will be provided. It is not necessary to book but to find out more or register your interest email nicola@nicoladuffell.com

Beer Festival chats prompt review of church services

The Rector's Reflections: A note from Father James McDonald

This September saw the return of our increasingly popular Beer and Fizz Festival. Huge thanks must go to the Festival committee of Chris Hughes, Sarah Wragg, Simon Pilling, Jamie Brockhurst, Steve Parry and Kevin Yelland, who organized a brilliant, fun, inclusive, and very successful community event.

We saw lots of returning faces as well as many new ones, including people who are new to the village. We received lots of positive comments about the festival: the atmosphere, the range of beers, the use of the church as a unique setting, the food and music on offer – people told us they look forward to the Festival as a highlight of the village calendar.

I was struck by the number of conversations I had with people at the Beer Festival about how they would love to come to church, or come back to church, but the pressures of life, especially Sunday sport for families, make it nearly impossible.

Well, I hear you. And I am perfectly willing to offer a service at a different time if there are enough people who would commit to coming. So, to help me find out, please scan the QR code to head to a short survey where you can tell me the times that would work for you, and what you would like to see in a service, for adults, and for your children, where applicable.

We would continue with Sunday morning church as it is, fear not, but I'd love to see if we can find a way to help those for whom that doesn't work start, or re-start attending.

You may wonder why All Saints was holding a Beer Festival at all, and whether it's even allowed. Well, if you came along and read the intro in the programme, you'll know it definitely is allowed – the association between church and beer goes back centuries. But the 'why' may still be unclear.

It's for two main reasons. The first and most important reason is to welcome

the wider community into the church for a fun, relaxed and accessible event. All Saints is your parish church, whether you worship there or not. You are welcome in it and it is here for you.

Secondly, it is a fundraising event for All Saints – now the most important fundraising event in our calendar – and enables us to make significant donations to other charities. We receive no funding from the government or from the central church and are responsible for raising the nearly £100,000 a year required to keep the church going. This comes mainly through regular planned giving by congregation members and supporters, and through fundraising.

But there is something more important than both these things. Those of us who worship regularly, who organise the fundraisers and give regularly to keep the church going, want to ensure the church is at the heart of the community now and into the future. And, to ensure there is a future beyond the present congregation, your parish church needs you!

Please do fill out the survey. After all, we need to include you if we are to see All Saints 2025 grow into All Saints 2050 and beyond!



For more info on volunteering, fundraising or planned giving please email info@beneficeoflangelei.org.uk

AUTOMOTIVE

Service & Repair

CUSTOMER SERVICE ★★★★★

QUALITY ★★★★★

VALUE ★★★★★

"They're knowledgeable, friendly, trustworthy, competitively priced and care about the service they provide"

WHICH? TRUSTED TRADER  RECOMMENDED

The local garage you can trust

Unit 4 Langley Wharf, Railway Terrace
Kings Langley WD4 8JE



01923 261222
www.automotive.co.uk

Village fireworks paused for 2024

The village's Christmas lights switch on will be without the annual firework display this year after the withdrawal of a major sponsor from the event.

Kings Langley Parish Council have decided to cancel the firework display due to increasing costs to the council and a reluctance to splurge residents money on such an expensive moment.

Council Chairman Howard Button said 'The annual Christmas Lights Festival draws people from Kings Langley and its surrounding villages every year, and all the other activities – funfair, stalls, Santa and his elves, late night opening for many of the local, independent shops, local choirs performing and, of course, the wonderful Christmas Lights – will still be happening.

'However, committee members acknowledged that, despite financial support from some local traders, this year it did not cover the shortfall. We felt on this occasion the mounting costs falling on the public purse were not a reasonable use of residents' money.'

The council said the decision was not taken lightly and acknowledged it would be disappointing for some residents but stressed the switch-on event would still be as memorable as ever. Cllr Alan Johnson said, 'We will be reviewing this year's event early in the New Year, including the associated costs, to see how to take forward this hugely popular event in 2025.'

The Kings Langley Christmas Lights Festival takes place on Saturday 23 November in the High Street. The road will be closed from 12noon, the stalls and other associated activities will start at 3pm and run through until 6pm. The road will re-open once everything has been cleared and it is safe to do so.





SERVING THE VILLAGE WITH QUALITY BRITISH PRODUCE FOR NEARLY 200 YEARS

CALL IN TO SEE OUR SPECIALS

4 HIGH STREET, KINGS LANGLEY

Community Choir gears up for Christmas

The Kings Langley Community Choir is putting the finishing touches to its festive season repertoire, with their first performance taking place at the Christmas Lights switch-on in Kings Langley High Street on Saturday 23 November.

A new event on the calendar this year will be *A Christmas Cracker* at the Community Centre in The Nap at 8pm on Friday 13 December. This will be an informal evening in a night club setting and the Choir will join with BADJE jazz band to entertain party goers with festive music.

Finally the choir will perform at The Christmas Tree Festival at All Saints Church on Sunday 15 December for two sessions in the afternoon, and on Friday 20 December they will be singing carols in the Abbots Langley Library around 2pm.



Above: Kings Langley Community Choir rehearsals are well underway



Hemel Rotary brings Christmas cheer to area's pubs and clubs

Hemel Rotary Club is expanding its Christmas fundraising campaign by placing giant chocolate Santas in 20 local clubs and pubs, together with 100 £1 raffle tickets per location.

The project – which will run alongside the 25 street routes and nine events in which Santa and Mrs Claus meet local children – is all designed to raise money for more than 50 local charities and community organisations.

Any venue owners keen to participate should contact Harry Bellak on **07881 523333**.

Meanwhile, to volunteer as a collector at the sleigh events contact Tony Burford on **01442 264407**.

Finally, the calendar for when you might spot Santa and his sleigh coming down a residential street near you, can be seen at www.hemelsantasleigh.co.uk

Christmas Tree Festival

The 7th annual Christmas Tree Festival at All Saints church is on from 13 – 15 December.

Once again it promises to be truly magical, with a church full of brightly decorated and lit trees, each representing a different village organisation, business or family. It opens at 4.30pm on Friday 13 December and stays open all weekend. Kings Langley Community Choir will be singing amongst the trees on the Sunday afternoon.

Come along and visit! Proceeds are in aid of local charities.



ALL SAINTS' PARISH CHURCH, KINGS LANGLEY

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

13th-15th DECEMBER



Look out for news on our website and Facebook page, or email allsaintskingslangley@outlook.com for more info

www.beneficeoflangley.co.uk/allsaints

 [allsaintskingslangley](https://www.facebook.com/allsaintskingslangley)



Kings Langley Carnival Committee members

They think it's all over – but it's only just begun

Organising an annual event is always more of a marathon than a sprint. You spend the best part of 8–9 months organising every detail, and then in one day it is all over. Until you start again.

Thankfully with the Kings Langley Carnival it is a little different as before starting plans for next year, there is the Carnival Presentation Evening – an opportunity to thank all the event's sponsors and those who helped out on the day, as well as presenting grants to local charities and community organisations.

The monies raised from sponsorship, the sale of raffle tickets, stall hire, advertising and so on, meant that this year there was over £5,000 given to local organisations at the Kings Langley Cricket Club. Of these, two – the Waterside Centre and the foodbank at All Saints – were the Carnival's highlighted groups this year.

At the Carnival there was an opportunity to 'bring a tin' for the foodbank and the generous people of

Kings Langley responded with gusto. This was subsequently supplemented by an equally generous financial donation.

Funds were also presented to the Waterside Centre which have been put towards the cost of a new minibus. This will enable the Centre to provide more opportunities for adults with learning difficulties to get out and about, in addition to the activities provided at their busy, bustling premises in the village.

'This new "spotlight" initiative is one we would like to continue in future years by focusing on one or two local groups throughout the year,' explained Carnival Committee Chairman Carol Chandler. 'Our presentation evening demonstrated the vibrant and active nature of all the excellent work that is going on in Kings Langley and surrounding areas.'

Planning has already started for next year's event which will be on 21 June 2025. To sponsor, book a stall or join a friendly Carnival planning group, please make contact via Facebook or the website kingslangleycarnival.com

Could you volunteer to help the elderly?

Age UK Hertfordshire is looking to recruit volunteers to support their clients to combat loneliness across Hertfordshire, particularly in Kings Langley and the surrounding areas.

The independent charity's mission is to support older people by delivering services that help make later life a fulfilling and enjoyable experience. Anyone over the age of 18 can become a volunteer and there are different ways in which they can contribute.

If you can spare an hour to share an hour, or if you know someone who is lonely and would like some company or needs some support call **07525 070472**.

Below: Volunteers Trudie and Esther at an Age UK Cheshunt Event



Christian Aid singers head to Hemel



Christian Aid are collecting in the Marlowes, Hemel Hempstead on 13 December when they will be joined in the morning by children from Nash Mills School and in the afternoon by Divine Saviour School, Abbots Langley.

If you can help to collect and hold a red bucket, please email Paul. tucker15@btinternet.com. They will be there from 10.30-11.30am and from 1.30-2.30pm.



Friendly Local Plumbing and Heating Engineer

Central Heating Upgrades
Boiler Replacements • Repairs • Servicing
All types of Gas Works • General Plumbing
Over 20 Years Experience

Contact Paul on
07739 516230
Email paul@pahmail.co.uk



From Kings Langley Methodist Church

Almost ten years ago we challenged ourselves to come up with an alternative Sunday Service which might attract people who find morning services difficult, or perceive them as 'not for me'.

We eventually decided to embark on a monthly afternoon *Songs of Praise*. Some were sceptical about its long-term success which led us to experiment over a six-month period.

We have now met 77 times and nearly 70 different people have chosen and introduced hymns. All have come with a story, personal recollections, fascinating insights and background information – although no-one has been denied their choice through being shy about speaking in public.

So far, we have clocked up 230 different hymns/songs and at our 50th service, we counted down the 'top 10' – with some surprising results.

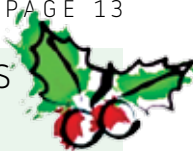
We have regular attendees from a variety of churches, together with folk who have little church background or experience. Each month we seem to see new faces. New friendships have been forged and a special fellowship established.

Our initial 'six-month experiment' has certainly proved a success and Songs of Praise is now well-established. If you'd like to join us, you'd be very welcome at 3pm on the last Sunday of the month – 24 November and 29 December are the next two.

The service lasts for about 45 minutes and is, of course, followed by tea, cakes and chat!



Christmas events and services



Saturday 23 November – Christmas Lights Festival in the High Street

Saturday 21 December 4.30pm
Carols in the Village Garden

All Saints Church

Friday 13 – Sunday 15 December

Christmas Tree Festival

Tuesday 24 December Christmas Eve

3.30pm Crib and Christingle service

7.30pm Nine lessons and carols by candlelight

11.30pm Candlelit Midnight Mass

Wednesday 25 December Christmas Day

9.30am Family Christmas Eucharist (children bring a present)

Methodist Church

Sunday 22 December

10am Carol Service led by Rev Andrew Brazier

Wednesday 25 December Christmas Day

10.30am United Service at HH Methodist Church (Northridge Way)

Sunday 29 December 3pm

Christmas Songs of Praise

Christ Church Baptist

Still unconfirmed at time of going to press

Waterside Baptist

Still unconfirmed at time of going to press



Café Now Open

Breakfast - Lunch - Dinner

Served 7 days

**Catering
Service
Available**



**127 Hempstead Road
Kings Langley
WD4 8AJ**

**www.thekitchenatinspired.co.uk
01923 264649**

enquiries@thekitchenatinspired.co.uk

1st Homecare

Supporting you with first class care

Compassionate and independent care provider providing all of your care needs in your own home

For more information please call

Kings Langley Office
Tel **01923 269 877**
Email **info.kl@1st-homecare.com**
Web **www.1st-homecare.com**

Science student wins rare place on ocean research mission

A GeoPhysics student from Kings Langley has returned from a six week research expedition to the North Atlantic Ocean off Iceland after being hand picked to join the team of eminent scientists.



Aryan Shah, 21, was the only undergraduate researcher among the party who were working on mapping the seafloor and collecting crucial data to study past environmental changes.

The student, who is in his fourth and final year at Imperial College London, is a passionate advocate of the world's oceans and their importance. He has a startup company, InX Tech, which pioneers the development of hydrogen powered submersibles to map the seafloor.

Aryan told *Village News* 'The expedition was a fantastic opportunity to apply what I have learnt during

my degree. On the expedition I was able to deploy instruments to collect and interpret crucial seismic data to inform our research.

'I learnt how to use three new industry-level software packages, and about operations at sea and their challenges. I learnt what's needed to get 55 people on such a research expedition. Most importantly, I learnt how crucial it is to have seismic data of our ocean floors.'



Above: Aryan braving the elements on the deck of the Marcus G. Langseth

'We've had our Green Belt protection tools removed'

from Gary Ansell, Chair of Kings Langley & District Residents Association.

As if the loss of Rectory Farm was not bad enough, a combination of the Government's mandatory housing targets and changes to the planning system, which includes removing protection from development in some parts of our Green Belt, will mean substantial changes to the character and setting of Kings Langley.

Because of the Government-led changes, Dacorum Borough Council (DBC) and Three Rivers District Councils (TRDC) are being forced to add more development sites into their Local Plans in order to try and meet the targets for new homes, and our options to object have become very limited.

500+ homes at Shendish have been added to DBC's plan, which will be published for public consultation between 4 November and 17 December 2024. Please watch out for publication of the consultation details and make sure you have your say.

TRDC's draft plan has been pulled and will be revised with new sites added, but will not be ready for consultation until 2026.

The KL&DRA will continue to do all they can to fight development on our Green Belt, but the battle has got considerably harder. For more information go to www.greenbeltmatters.com

Sa Soft Designs



Bespoke Curtains, Blinds, Soft Furnishing, Upholstery and Interior Design throughout Herts, Beds and Bucks

All our soft furnishings are handmade and fitted to the highest quality and standard.

We offer an exceptional personal service in your home so whether you are re-styling a room or planning a whole new project please visit us and browse through our extensive wallpaper and fabric library.

Stockists of Ashleigh & Burwood fragrance lamps and oils and a selection of Tiffany Lamps



Designers Guild • Harlequin • Scion • Sanderson
Prestigious Textiles • Villa Nova • Romo
Ian Mankin • and many more

31 High Street, Kings Langley, WD4 8AB
Contact - 01923 269326, 07774140526
Visit our website - www.sosoftdesigns.com

Reader Landscapes

For all your landscaping work

40 years experience

including lawns, decking, pruning, patios, ponds, brickwork.

Portfolio available.

Tel: 01923 269223 or 07931 881704
www.readerlandscapes.co.uk



Fast & effective solutions online
without a lifetime of therapy

www.sonalle.com
info@sonalle.com

*The first correct entry drawn from the hat wins a magnificent **Christmas Hamper** donated by your Village News Committee! To enter, simply post or email your crossword entry and contact details to us (see page 3) to arrive no later than Friday 18 October 2024.*

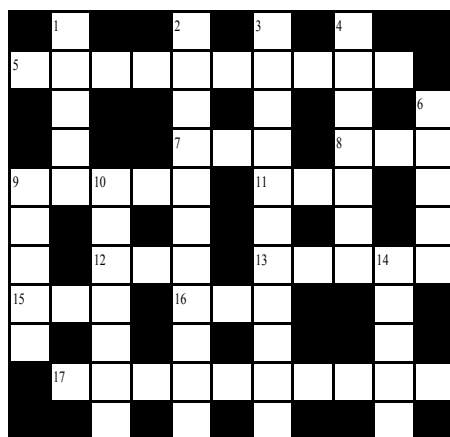
Across

- 5 A leafy Village byway (6,4)
 7 Golfing term (3)
 8 Speak in a soft gentle voice (3)
 9 One of a pair of small drums (5)
 11 Common gas mixture (3)
 12 State of appearing pale and ill or exhausted (3)
 13 Person from a US state whose capital is Des Moines (5)
 15 Divide a factor in half to find this rocky peak (3)
 16 A very small musical group (3)
 17 You might find this attractive Village road hidden in a dowdy meal! (4,6)

Down

- 1 Well-known character in Jim Henson's Muppets (5)
 2 Visual organ found in insects and crustaceans (8,3)
 3 Form of electromagnetic radiation nestling in a rival outlet! (11)
 4 Unfasten (7)

Prize Xword



Prize Xword No. 41 set by Andrew Selby

- 6 The historical first part of a Village byway (near the station) (5)
 9 Village High Street shop with a large plus sign (5)
 10 Byway off Tower Hill, Chipperfield (3,4)
 14 An accepted statement or proposition regarded as being self-evidently true (5)

Answers to Crossword No: 40

Across: 1 The Orchard, 6 Aesop, 8 Batch, 9 Numbers Farm, 10 Station Road, 11 Inane, 13 Thief, 15 Edmund Mews, **Down:** 2 His, 3 Art, 4 Dehumidify, 5 Barnes Rise, 7 Premise, 8 Basinet, 12 Aim, 14 I.O.W.



PHOTO: BARRY KEMP

Barbara Hatch, our winner of Xword 40, was handed her prize voucher by Sam Cowham at Matilda's in the High Street. The premises has only recently re-opened, having had the shopfront smashed in by a car careering off the roadway. 'We've had to close for repairs,' said Sam, 'but I'm pleased to say that we're now open as usual'. Barbara was delighted as she had been looking forward to visiting the new establishment. 'Now I can enjoy a snack and a Christmas tippie with friends' she said.

Dynamic Reformer Pilates Studio

TRY US?
COMMITMENT FREE

BUY 1 GET 2

NEW MEMBER INTRO **£27**

• SCULPT
• STRENGTH
• STRETCH
• CORE

SoBa

BOUTIQUE PILATES @ FITNESS

www.sobafitness.com

Leewood **RECYCLING**

SKIP & GRAB HIRE

Looking to clear an entire house or just have a general tidy up in the attic, shed or garage? Leewood Recycling is based in Kings Langley and have the perfect sized skip to help you deal with your unwanted rubbish and dispose of your waste in an environmentally sound way.

Why choose Leewood Skip Hire?

- Over 18 years in the industry
- Family-run business
- We cover Herts, Beds and Bucks
 - 2-12yd skips available
 - Grab Hire service
 - Same-day service
 - Drop-ends available
 - Easy to book
 - Fast, reliable service

Please visit our website or give us a call to discuss your requirements

01923 269496
www.leewoodskiphire.com

Using computers

Frogmore Paper Mill & Visitors' Centre,
Fourdriner Way, Apsley.
Drop in to our ukonline Centre, suitable
for beginners and those wanting more
practice. No need to book.
Fridays 10.30am – 1pm. Free admission
**Contact Charlton or Sue Woolnough on
01442 234600 or by email education@
thepapertrail.org.uk**

Football

Kings Langley Football Club
November 2024 – January 2025

Away games:

Saturday 16 November, Barton Rovers
Saturday 30 November, Leighton Town
Saturday 14 December, Hertford Town
Saturday 28 December, Enfield
Wednesday 1 January, Hadley
Saturday 11 January, Thame United
Saturday 25 January, Flackwell Heath

Home games:

Saturday 2 November, Welwyn Gdn City
Saturday 9 November, AFC Dunstable
Saturday 23 November, Ware
Saturday 7 December, Leverstock Green
Saturday 21 December, Beaconsfield Town
Wednesday 26 December, Northwood
Saturday 4 January, Biggleswade FC
Saturday 18 January, North Leigh

JIM Games

The Nap.
Dodgeball, frisbee, tag. Adults and
Kids. Mondays 7.30pm – 8.30pm. £7pp
no booking required. **Instagram @
kespearsonpt**

Short Mat Bowls

Kings Langley Community Centre, The Nap.
Every Wednesday 11am. – 1pm. Price
now £4 for members of Everyone Active,
and £5 for non-members. All welcome.

Local history

Kings Langley Local History & Museum
Society

Kings Langley Community Library
Local train enthusiast Rob Freeman will
share his photos and experiences of
the changes that have occurred on our
train line from Euston to Berkhamsted.
Wednesday 20 November, 7pm for 7.30pm.
Tickets £5 from Kings langley
Community Library

Public Information

Kings Langley Parish Office, Charter Court, Vicarage Lane
Parish Council Meetings are normally held on the first
Tuesday of each month. Planning and Licensing on the
first and third Tuesday of each month.
Office hours 9.30am – 12.30pm
Telephone 01923 261828 or email klpc@dacorum.gov.uk



Local Produce Market

Village Garden, Church Lane.
Food, crafts, books, cards, homemade
cakes and refreshments and lots more.
The Local Produce Market is held on
the 3rd Saturday of every month from
9.00am – 1.00pm

Singing

Kings Langley Community Choir
Christ Church Baptist, The Nap.
Every Tuesday evening (term time)
7.30pm – 9.00pm.
No audition or prior experience needed.
**Contact Pat Waterton on 07714 701316
or email patwaterton@gmail.com**

All Saints Choir practise
All Saints Church
Friday 6.30 – 7.30pm
All welcome.

Women's Institute

Kings Langley Community Centre, The Nap.
Every second Tuesday monthly at 7.30pm.
Visitors welcome at most meetings.
**Contact Nova Horley (07876
614250) or Joyce Gray – both are at
kingslingleywi@gmail.com**

Jazz

Kings Langley Jazz Club
Kings Langley Services Club Theatre Bar
5 High Street, Kings Langley WD4 8BJ
Every Tuesday night 8.15pm.
Live Bands! . Visitors welcome.
**See posters for details or telephone
01923 262982**

PROBUS

Kings Langley Cricket Club.
Probus is a club for retired men, meeting
every third Tuesday in the month
at 10am with a speaker and coffee.
Occasional excursions, dinners and other
special events (including partners) are
also arranged.

Future events:

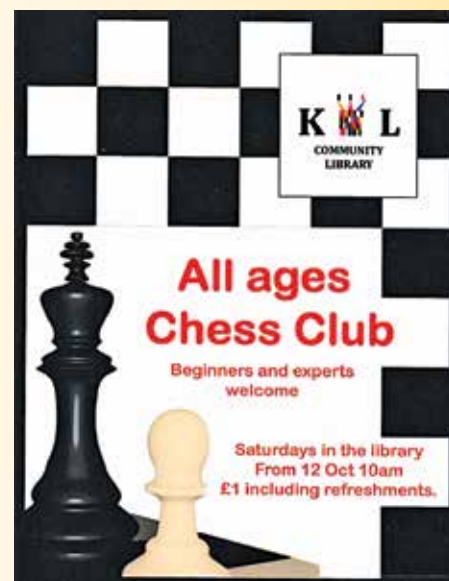
19 November: AGM and Members Talks
16 December: Social – Quiz
**Contact the secretary, John Addy on
07477 900290 or 19jca41+v@gmail.com
for further information.**

Social

Kings Langley Evergreen Club
Kings Langley Community Centre, The Nap.
A social club for residents aged over 60.
Varied programme of events.
Alternate Thursday afternoons from
2.30pm – 4.00pm.
**Contact Ann Martin on 01923 267604 or
email anniedirectchoreo@hotmail.com**

Women's Group

Church Hall at All Saints, Church Lane.
Kings Langley Women's Group.
A monthly evening social group for
women of all ages offering a range of
different activities.
**To join the mailing list please email
jamie.brockhurst@hotmail.co.uk**



999 Computer Help!



**Slow? Virus? Crash? No internet/mail?
Always fixed on the spot (PC/Mac/Phone)
For SAME/NEXT DAY service - call Paul:**

0845 8608781 [local rate]

01923 527131

Kings Langley Village News
thanks N&N electrical services
for their generous support



www.nnelectrical.co.uk