

KINGSLEY NEWS

THE NEWS AND VOICE OF YOUR COMMUNITY

S U M M E R 2 0 2 6



Newsletter Highlights

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Kingsley Players Youth Theatre - Upcoming Production
.....

Community Centre - 50th Anniversary Celebrations
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Kingsley Walkers - Walking Group Poem
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Kingsley Players' Golden Anniversary
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Kingsley Garden Club
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Kingsley Book Club
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Online edition at
www.kingsleyvillage.co.uk



A registered charity
Charity number: 503072

Kingsley Community Association - Committee Members

<i>Chairperson/Bookings</i>	Heather Hayes - chair@kingsleycommunitycentre.co.uk
<i>Kingsley News Editor</i>	Caitlyn McBurnie - editor@kingsleycommunitycentre.co.uk
<i>Treasurer</i>	Sarah Bridger - treasurer@kingsleycommunitycentre.co.uk
<i>Secretary</i>	Ann Kavanagh
<i>Kingsley News Support: Jane Wodhams; Distribution Co-ordinator: Carol Rowlands</i>	

Kingsley Community Centre: Regular Weekly Classes

Tai Chi	Monday	10.30am to 11.30am	liverpooltaichi@gmail.com
Gentle Yoga	Monday	6.15pm to 7.30pm	janet@cheshireyogafitness.co.uk
Pilates	Tuesday	12pm to 1pm	dickienad@yahoo.co.uk
Karate	Tuesday	6pm to 7pm	dan@kenshinryu.co.uk
Yoga	Tuesday	7.30pm to 8.30pm	bjerkan@hotmail.co.uk
Gentle Keep Fit	Wednesday	11am to 12noon	janet@cheshireyogafitness.co.uk
Yoga	Wednesday	7.30pm to 8.30pm	will@yogaandhealingcheshire.co.uk
HiiT	Thursday	6.30pm to 7.30pm	info@alutotraining.com

Community Centre Standard Hire Charges	Whole Centre	The Hall	Club Room	Green Room
Friday or Saturday Evening 6pm to 11pm	£90	£50	£45	£45
Sunday to Thursday Evening 6pm to 11pm	£60	£40	£30	£30
Sunday to Friday 8am to 12 pm or 1pm to 5pm	£45	£30	£20	£20
Saturday 8am to 12pm or 1pm to 5pm	£50	£35	£25	£25
8:00am to 11pm (All Day)	£150	£90	£75	£75

Rooms can be hired for an hourly rate of £15 per hour.
There is a standard charge of £35 per session for the provision of the bar.



Hello from the New Editor



Hello all, and a very warm welcome to the Summer 26 edition of Kingsley News!

I'm Caitlyn, and I'm very excited to be stepping in as the new editor of the Kingsley News!

I grew up nearby in Frodsham, and I've really enjoyed learning more about Kingsley and its history.

I've had a lot of fun reading about Kingsley life in the 20th century in Myra Killip's 'Telling Tales of Village Folk', which inspired the cover of this edition. Myra shares memories of local people and how Kingsley has changed over the years. In the spirit of Myra's 'Tales of Village Folk', if you have any stories about inspiring local people who help to make the Kingsley community special, please do get in touch!

Whatever your passion is, I'd love to hear from you! Whether you love writing and have an article or creative piece you'd like to share, or you're a budding artist or photographer, please do get in touch to share your creativity!

The committee have planned some exciting events to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the community centre - keep your eye out for details later in the newsletter.

Thank you to all our advertisers and contributors for the support that helps keep the Kingsley News free to all households.

Please feel free to reach out, share ideas, or give feedback. If you'd like to get in touch, you can reach me at: **editor@kingsleycommunitycentre.co.uk**
Any contributions to the Autumn edition of Kingsley News are to be sent to the above email by **15th August 2026**. I'm excited to hear from you!

Finally, don't forget that Kingsley News is also available online on the Kingsley Village website: **www.kingsleyvillage.co.uk**.

Wishing you all the best,
Caitlyn

Advert size (A5)	
Full page	£40
1/2 page	£20
1/4 page	£10



The Floor is Yours - Help Shape Kingsley News

Calling all Kingsley News readers! I'd love to hear more of your stories, ideas and opinions! With that in mind, it would be brilliant if you could help shape the next edition of Kingsley News by adding your voice and creativity to some upcoming features.

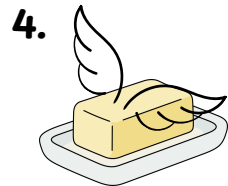


Puzzles and Quizzes

If, like me, you love a quiz, I'd love your help putting together a puzzle page for the Kingsley News.

If there's a particular type of puzzle you'd like to see included - maybe you love crosswords, sudoku, or a wordsearch - or you'd like to make a puzzle yourself for others to enjoy in the next edition, I'd love to hear your ideas!

For now, I hope you enjoy these four summer-themed dingbats! Answers at the back of the newsletter.



If there is anything else you'd like to see in the next edition of Kingsley News, I'd love to hear your ideas!

Don't hesitate to get in touch! editor@kingsleycommunitycentre.co.uk

Pet of the Season



Lots of us have pets with heaps of personality - I have a dog that thinks every squirrel is his archnemesis. So, I want to celebrate Kingsley's furry, feathered, and scaly friends with a pet of the season award.

If you'd like to nominate your pet, please email a photo and a few words about what makes them special to the Editor.

The winner will be featured in the Autumn edition of Kingsley News.

Seasonal Recipes



If you have a favourite autumnal recipe that makes use of seasonal ingredients, please do get in touch!

It might be perfect to share in the Autumn edition of Kingsley News.

KINGSLEY TENNIS CLUB

WIMBLEDON THEMED OPEN DAY

Saturday 6th June 2026

2.00pm - 5.00pm

Kingsley Tennis Club invites you to come and meet our LTA Level 3 Accredited Coach Jamie Oakes and to join in with some free of charge “taster” coaching sessions.

Juniors

2.00pm - 2.45pm

Meet the coach

2.45pm - 3.00pm

Family Fun

4.00pm - 4.45pm

Meet the coach

4.45pm - 5.00pm



Adults

3.00pm - 3.45pm

Meet the coach

3.45pm - 4.00pm

No membership required to play and tennis rackets and balls will be provided.

If you would like further information on any of these sessions please contact Jamie Oakes
Email: jamieoakes154@gmail.com Telephone: 07737 925 420

Strawberries and cream available!
BBQ with the bar open all afternoon serving Pimm's!



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Kingsley St John's C of E Primary
180 Years



The School in the heart of the village

*We would like to invite the community , pupils,
families and staff, past and present , to celebrate
with us on Sat the 27th June*

Please contact School Office 01244 738434

🎉 Celebrating 180 Years at the Heart of Our Village 🎉

Our village school is proud to mark **180 years** of learning, community, and shared memories. To celebrate this special anniversary, we are hosting an **Open Day on 27th June at 1pm**, and we would love to welcome:

- **Current and former pupils**
- **Current and former staff**
- **Families past and present**
- **Members of our local community**

As part of celebrating the community we've been proud to belong to for 180 years, we would also warmly welcome **local village organisations** who would like to have a **table or stall** on the day. This is a wonderful opportunity to showcase the groups, clubs, and services that help make our village such a special place.

Join us for a chance to:

- Explore **old photographs, records, and memorabilia** from across the decades
- Enjoy displays of **pupil work inspired by our 180-year history**
- Reconnect with familiar faces and share stories of school days gone by

We look forward to celebrating with you on **27th June at 1pm**.

Contact the school office: 01244 738434

or

senco@kingsley-st-johns.cheshire.sch.uk

for more information.



KINGSLEY ST JOHN'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

THREE YEAR OLD NURSERY

Our nursery is part of our Foundation Stage and our pre-school children benefit from learning alongside their friends in Reception. We take children from 3 years old into our Little Wrens class and the provision is led by our Early Years lead, Mrs Gibson .

Our pre-school Little Wrens learn in our stimulating environment both inside and outside the classroom and make the most of our beautiful grounds here at Kingsley. We

are very lucky to have a qualified Forest School teacher in Mrs Raynor and our pre-school Little Wrens take advantage by learning outdoors in our Forest School area.

We understand that taking those first steps into school can be daunting for both parents and children .Staff work hard to ensure that from those first tentative moments until they leave us at Y6 our children (and parents!) feel part of our school family ,where they are nurtured, supported, celebrated, challenged and enabled to be the very best they can be.

We accept both full and half day sessions and more information can be found by contacting Mrs Bennett in the office:

We offer:

- Play-based learning focused on the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) curriculum.
- Activities that support early literacy, numeracy, communication, physical, and social development.
- Carefully planned provision to spark curiosity and independence.
- Teachers and teaching assistants who are trained in early childhood education.
- Strong relationships with families and good communication about each child's progress.
- A safe, stimulating, and well-resourced classroom and outdoor area.
- Emphasis on personal, social, and emotional development—helping children feel secure and confident.
- Children ready to move seamlessly into the school's Reception class, with familiar staff and routines.

*"Children in early years settle in quickly and get off to a good start because they are well taught and looked after."
"The leader responsible for early years is a skilled and knowledgeable practitioner."
Ofsted*

Flexible Hours and Funding

- 15 or 30 hours free childcare per week (depending on parent eligibility).
- Options for morning, afternoon, or full-day sessions.
- Wraparound care (before or after the school day) in some cases.

'Believe in the light, whilst you have the light, so that you may become children of light.' John 12:36
Love; Learn; Aspire; Achieve



KINGSLEY ST JOHN'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

EARLY YEARS FOUNDATION STAGE

In our Reception class, we follow the statutory EYFS framework, which promotes development across the seven areas of learning and development:

- Communication and Language
- Physical Development Personal,
- Social and Emotional Development
- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts and Design

At Kingsley St John's Primary, our Early Years classroom is a space where every child is nurtured, challenged, and inspired to learn through play, exploration, and meaningful relationships

We offer an environment where:

- Staff know every child deeply
- Children feel safe, valued, and confident to take risks and explore.
- Positive interactions are constant: adults listen carefully, model language, and extend thinking.
- Emotional well-being is prioritised; children are supported to name and manage their feelings
- Every area (construction, role play, literacy, maths, creative, small world, sensory, outdoor) encourages curiosity and purposeful play
- Adults are highly skilled in teaching through play
- Children develop as confident, independent, resilient learners who love coming to school
- Practitioners have a clear understanding of child development and use assessment to plan next steps.
- Experiences are carefully chosen to reflect children's interests and broaden their world view (diversity, community, nature, culture)
- The curriculum is ambitious, sequenced, and inclusive, building on what children already know and can do

"There's a visible culture of joy, curiosity, and respect — both in children and adults"

*"Believe in the light, whilst you have the light, so that you may become children of light." John 12:36
Love; Learn; Aspire; Achieve*



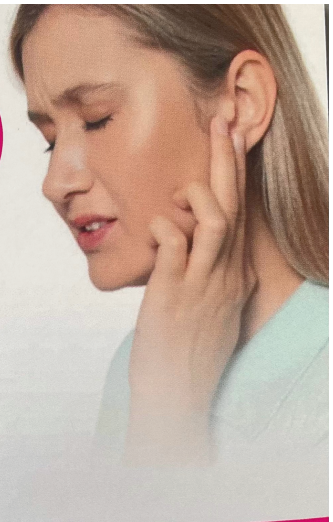
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Kingsley Community Association – Update from the Committee

It's been a busy few months at Kingsley Community Centre, so we wanted to share what's been happening and what's coming up as we prepare for our 50th anniversary.

Refreshing the Community Centre

As we approach this milestone year, we're giving the building some much-needed attention. The centre has served the village for five decades, and in places it needs a refresh. Work is now underway to:

- Carry out essential roof maintenance
- Repaint both the interior and exterior of the building
- Improve storage by creating a dedicated area for all centre users
- Tidy and reorganise existing storage spaces

We're also working on the outside space. The committee has been clearing the side area of the building, and with support from the **Garden Club**, we'll be planting and improving the space to make it more attractive for everyone.

Events and Activities

We're planning a number of events too:

- **Saturday Socials** – We hope to introduce regular early-evening socials where you can join us for a drink from the bar and a chat.
- **Live Music Night – Saturday 20th June**. We'll be joined by Mel & C for a relaxed midsummer evening of live music. The bar will be open.
- **KCA 50th Anniversary Celebration – Saturday 5th September**. An afternoon of family activities followed by an evening event for adults featuring our regular band, **Loose Connections**.

Committee News

We're delighted to welcome several new faces:

- **Gail Silcock** – joining the events team
- **Sarah Bridger** – our new Treasurer
- **Kingsley News Editor** – Caitlyn McBurnie
- **Booking Coordinator Support** – following our recent advert, several people have come forward to offer support, and they will be joining us over the coming months.

Marketing & Social Media Support – Volunteers Needed

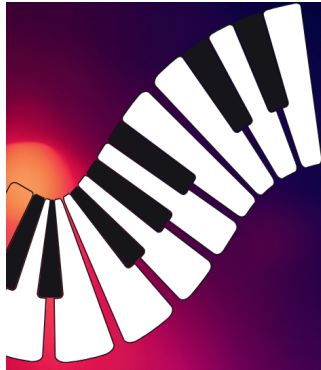
As we continue to grow, we're keen to improve how we communicate with the community. We are looking for people who can help us:

- Refresh and upgrade the **KCA website**
- Improve how we use **social media** to share news, events and updates
- Support us in reaching more residents, including younger members of the village.

If you have experience in marketing, websites, or social media — or simply enthusiasm to learn — we'd love to hear from you.

Thank You

A huge thank you to everyone who continues to support the Community Centre whether by attending classes, running activities, volunteering, or simply stepping in when help is needed. We are always keen to welcome new people, and if you would like to get involved then please contact **Heather**: chair@kingsleycommunitycentre.co.uk



LIVE MUSIC

Join us for an uplifting mid summer evening of live music with Mel & C.

Melissa Wells (vocals) and Catherine Winsor (piano & backing vocals) will take us on a musical journey through the decades – from 1970s classics to modern favourites, including stunning cover versions and iconic Bond theme tunes.

KINGSLEY COMMUNITY CENTRE

Saturday 20th June, 7pm

**Tickets £10 from
Hollands Pharmacy
Red Bull Inn
or
Ticket Source**



or Call 07955 648670



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KINGSLEY COMMUNITY CENTRE**

50 YEAR CELEBRATION

Kingsley Community Centre
50 Year Anniversary
Come and celebrate with us.....



An afternoon of family activities including
Scarecrow Competition
Treasure Hunt
Face Painting
Refreshments

SATURDAY
5TH SEPTEMBER
2026

Evening (Adults only), please join us for music and dancing to
live music with Loose Connections

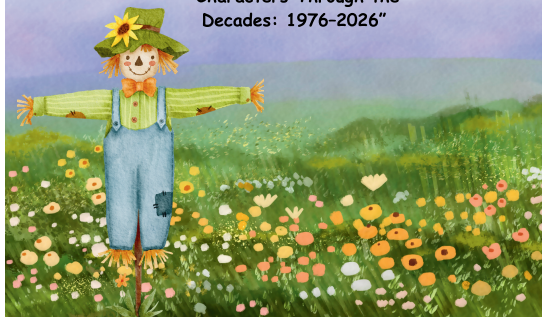
Scarecrow Competition

As part of our 50th Anniversary Year, Kingsley Community Association invites you to enter our Scarecrow competition. The best Scarecrow will be voted for on the day of our official celebration - the afternoon of Saturday 5th September at Kingsley Community Centre.

Theme this year will be Characters through the decades. Scarecrows inspired by iconic people, fashions, films, TV, music, or everyday life from the 1970's to 2020's

To register your interest please email:
events@kingsleycommunitycentre.co.uk
or text to 07955 648670

*"Characters Through the
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KINGSLEY GARDEN CLUB



What a fabulous speaker came to see us for our last meeting. Jacqueline Iddon is known across the UK for her love and knowledge for plants. Lucky us, she brought some along to buy so yes, the debit card took a hit.

Her presentation was on Sunshine Suzies and Shady Characters, so we heard about Pulmonaria Opal, Geranium Patricia, Corydalis Spinner and Dascia Aurora Apricot to name but a few. She also showed us which ones you could easily propagate, and you just don't get that in your average DIY store!

Her nursery is in Leyland, Lancashire and she opens her garden regularly for the National Garden Scheme. If they let me over the border I shall be going :)

It was a great evening, and we would love to share our friendly atmosphere with new members for our next season. We start on **14th September** at the earlier new time of **7.30pm**. See you there.



See Kingsley Village website for details of other dates.

Do come and join us at the Community Centre.
If you aren't already a member, just come along for a visit at **£5.00**.
Everyone is welcome.



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Kingsley 
COFFEE CLUB



- ☞ Friday 5th June
- ☞ Friday 19th June
- ☞ Friday 3rd July
- ☞ Friday 17th July
- ☞ Friday 31st July



At KINGSLEY COMMUNITY CENTRE

 10-11.30am

All welcome 



County Cup Win for Kingsley Women Cricketers



**Kingsley Comets pull off a dramatic
last ball win to claim the County Softball Cricket Cup**



June this year marks the fifth year of women's cricket at Kingsley – and the growing women and girls' section of the club celebrated in style with a win in the county wide softball knockout final played at Chester Boughton Hall in April.

The Comets were behind in the game until the penultimate ball in their match versus Widnes - The final was held over from 2025 due to bad weather.

Widnes posted a formidable 111 in tricky batting conditions and Kingsley were behind the required rate throughout.

Even with just 24 balls to go the game swung back and forth – it came down to 10 needed off the last three, and then a crucial four from the skipper was followed by a six and the Comets had their hands on the Cup.

Commiserations to Widnes who played well - it took something epic to beat them – and that's what the Comets skipper in particular managed.

While the 2026 season is well underway, there are still opportunities to give cricket a try – softball is played with a plastic ball and fibreglass bats – with no need for protective equipment. We also have a Women's team playing the established 'hardball' format.



**CHESHIRE
SOFTBALL
CUP
CHAMPIONS
2025**



If you'd like to give either format a try,
then you can attend any training
session (**Thursdays at 6:30**)
or **contact Adrain (softball)**
on 07966 711940
or **Tarryn (hardball) 07464379113**
or contact the club via our **club
Facebook page/Messenger**

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KINGSLEY WALKERS



The twice a month programme of the Kingsley Walkers has continued in 2026. Our short walks on the second Tuesday have included trips from the Leigh Arms and around Little Leigh and Comberbach in March, then from the Morris Dancers and round Kelsall in April, with pub lunches to be enjoyed afterwards.

The long walks on each fourth Tuesday included a train journey in March to Cressington Merseyrail Station in Liverpool. There was then a fascinating walk through Cressington, an estate built for the "Carriage Folk", wealthy Liverpool merchants who travelled daily into the city. Then we went along Otterspool Promenade, past the old Festival Gardens site, the South Docks, the marina and the Albert Dock. There was some time for refreshments in the Royal Liver Building cafe bar before a walk through the city up to Lime St for the train home.

April saw us return to a rural walk, with a trip up the Bosley Cloud near Congleton, with panoramic views over the Cheshire plain and the Peak District. Amongst the group members are many stories of classic walking trails, The South Downs Way, The Coast to Coast. Indeed, some multi day expeditions have been planned through the Kingsley Walkers Group, with routes and accommodation set up. A recent example was the Yorkshire Wolds Way.

Recently ten of us flew to Jersey for a week, completing the 48 mile circuit of the island. There were gorgeous cliffside paths and long stretches along beautiful sandy beaches. The weather was dry and generally very sunny with the sequence of walks changed to place us on the sheltered south-east of the island for the single, very windy day. From a base in St Helier, with fine breakfasts but an extremely quirky service, we radiated out, using the excellent bus services to each day's start points.

Similarly we returned at each day's end for extremely convivial meals, working around various excellent restaurants. The buses also facilitated trips to the zoo and neolithic sites for those with dodgy knees. The coincidence with the Island's Liberation Day celebrations was another excuse for a day off the route, and instead we listened to stories of the occupation and then marched behind bands and rallies of military vehicles and classic cars.



For more information, please email kingsleywalkerswa6@gmail.com



KINGSLEY WALKERS

The combination of enjoyable times, spent with long standing and newer but good friends, with a few idiosyncrasies and ailments thrown in has inspired these words.

WALKING GROUP

As I lead for this day
Herding cats on a route
Can you buy on eBay
Pied Pipers sweet flute

Once we'd argue the distance
With compass and maps
We still disagree now
With smartphones and apps

Your best stories I've heard
Maybe three or four times
Now with creeping in wheezing
On the longer hill climbs

The profiles of bottoms
I've learnt oh so well
As I follow them upwards
To the top of a fell

Past names seen on benches
Seem doubly poignant
As we stop for a rest
And to apply some more ointment

Life doesn't always show us
Smooth or clear trails
Storms can afflict us
And tears fill our vales

But, to share miles and trials
It's you I would choose
Along with goretex and daysack
And stout walking shoes




As we pile on the years
And go down through the gears
I must say very clearly
I love you all dearly





THE LIVING WELL SERVICE

The Living Well Service supports our communities by providing:

-  COVID-19 vaccinations
-  Health checks
-  Mental health support

If you would like to visit the Living Well Service, you can drop in at the time listed below

Thursday 4 June
 10:30 – 16:00
 Kingsley Community Centre, Smithy Lane, WA6 8ED

Hosted by:

 Cheshire and Wirral Partnership
 NHS Foundation Trust

Learn more about the Living Well Service at:
www.cwp.nhs.uk/livingwellservice

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CONTACT DAVID HATCHARD

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07770 963870

info@kingsleycommunications.co.uk

Speed Watch for a Safer Village

Villagers have long had concerns about speeding vehicles in Kingsley, which prompted the purchase of equipment so that a Speed Watch group could be formed. Training was provided by our Local PCSO.

We have completed four sessions so far this year on Mill Lane, Hollow Lane and Top Road, and the data collected is sent to Cheshire Police Traffic unit.

It is hoped that the group's presence will make a difference in improving the safety on our local roads.

HOLLAND PHARMACY

FREE PRESCRIPTION COLLECTION AND DELIVERY SERVICE to all patients at Princeway Health Centre, Helsby Surgery, Weaverham Surgery and all other local surgeries.

The Kingsley Surgery (Brookside) is now closed and so you can now collect your prescriptions from Holland Pharmacy. Simply ask the surgery to nominate Holland Pharmacy as your preferred pharmacy and then order your prescription as normal.

If you have any queries then please call us or pop into the pharmacy to discuss.

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CHURCH NEWS

St John the Evangelist, Kingsley

Alvanley & Manley, Norley, Crowton and Kingsley Benefice

Services in June 2026

Sunday 7th June

10.00 am Family Holy Communion at Norley

6.30 pm Sacred Space at Crowton

Sunday 14th June

10.00am Holy Communion at Crowton

6.00pm 2nd Sunday @ 6 – at NCK Centre, Norley

Sunday 21st June

10.00am Holy Communion at Kingsley

Sunday 28th June

8.30am Holy Communion at Crowton

10.00am Holy Communion at Alvanley

Mid-week Holy Communion all at 10.00 am

4th June at Norley 18th June at Kingsley

11th June at Crowton 25th June at Norley

Services in July 2026

Sunday 5th July

10.00 am Holy Communion at Norley

6.30 pm Sacred Space at Crowton

Sunday 12th July

10.00am Holy Communion at Crowton

6.00pm 2nd Sunday @ 6 – at NCK Centre, Norley

Sunday 19th July

10.00am Holy Communion at Kingsley

Sunday 26th July

8.30am Holy Communion at Crowton

10.00am Holy Communion at Alvanley

Mid-week Holy Communion all at 10.00 am

2nd July at Crowton 16th July at Norley

9th July at Kingsley 23rd July at Crowton

30th July at Kingsley

Services in August 2026

Sunday 2nd August

10.00 am Holy Communion at Norley

6.30 pm Sacred Space at Crowton

Sunday 9th August

10.00am Holy Communion at Crowton

Sunday 16th August

10.00am Holy Communion at Kingsley

Sunday 23rd August

10.00am Holy Communion at Alvanley

Mid-week Holy Communion all at 10.00 am

8th August at Norley 20th August at Kingsley

13th August at Crowton 27th August at Norley

St John's Church, Kingsley

Sadly the large oak tree at the front of the church has been found to be diseased.

Because of its position overhanging the main road, it has to be taken down.

This will mean some disruption, hopefully for just one day, and we apologise for any inconvenience that this will inevitably cause.

At the moment this is scheduled for the

15th June 2026.

We will put a reminder on the village website and facebook page nearer the time to confirm.

Vicar Revd Margaret Byrne

Tel: 07368 375 070

Email: revmargaret1@hotmail.com

Church website www.nck.org.uk

<https://www.facebook.com/NCKwithAM/>

Worship at The Hurst Methodist Church

June 2026

Sunday 7th June - 8.30am Holy Communion led by Revd A Crookes

10am Morning Worship - Local Arrangement

Sunday 14th June - 10am Morning Worship led by Mr M Ridley

Sunday 21st June - 10am Chapel Anniversary led by Prof N Ford

Sunday 28th June - 10am Morning Worship led by Mrs R Lane

July 2026

Sunday 5th July – 8.30am Holy Communion led by Revd C Rawlinson

***Sunday 5th July** – 10.45am United service at Norley led by Revd C Rawlinson*

Sunday 12th July - 10am Morning Worship led by Mr J Bell

Sunday 19th July - 10am Holy Communion led by Revd C Rawlinson

Sunday 26th July - 10am Morning Worship led by Mr K Martin

August 2026

Sunday 2nd August– 8.30am Holy Communion to be confirmed

10am Morning Worship led by Mr J Evans

Sunday 9th August – 10am Morning Worship led by Dr J Ford

Sunday 16th August –10am Holy Communion led by Revd C Rawlinson

Sunday 23rd August – 10am Morning Worship led by Mr M Gough

Sunday 30th August – 10.45am United service at Norley led by Revd C Rawlinson

A warm welcome awaits all who wish to attend.

We are anxious the most vulnerable of our community feel safe, so ask that you please do not attend if you have cold or flu symptoms.

Feel free to wear a mask if you wish.

Coffee and Chat

*Please come and join us each **Tuesday morn 10am** at the Hurst Methodist Church meeting room.*

For ‘Coffee and Chat’, meet old friends and new.

You will be most welcome

Men’s Brunch

Everyone Welcome

*Friday 27th June
and Friday 31st July
at 10.30am in The Hurst meeting room for bacon/sausage bap.*

Please come and join us.

Soup Lunch

***at The Hurst Methodist Church
on Thursday, 16th July from
12 noon***

***in aid of Smile Train.
Soup, Pudding, Tea/Coffee
£6.50***



KINGSLEY BOOK CLUB



Review: *The Forbidden Garden of Leningrad* by Simon Parkinson

The true history of the Plant Institute during the siege of Leningrad, which lasted almost 900 days, from 1941 to 1944.

Which saw 3 million people starved to death whilst the scientists & workers at the Institute strove to safeguard their collection to ensure future generations would have high-yielding disease-resistant crops.

This was not an easy book to read, showing the brutal realities of war in both words & pictures. Using the diaries and letters of the scientist and workers, a well written book about an amazing story, we even found a local(ish) connection; the seeds stolen by Heinz Brücher were believed to be planted by William Denton Venables, a trained botanist from Kinderton (Middlewich), when he was a POW at SS Institute for Plant Genetics at Lannach Castle.

Review: *The History of Mr Polly* by H.G. Wells

This brought us some light hearted relief after March's brutal read, the story of the bumbling Mr Polly, we really did not like him to start with, but he seems to grow on you as you get further into the book.

A superbly written book shows us a slice of social history whilst following the changes in Mr Polly's life , each chapter is a scene\act that make up the story.

This came as surprise to some who considered H.G Wells a Science Fiction writer.

Many readers are holding on to their copies so they can read it again — a real testament to the quality of the writing.



The Kingsley Village Book Club meets on the **second Thursday of each month at 7:30pm. at the Red Bull**. New members are always welcome—just turn up with your curiosity and love of books, whether you prefer to quietly soak up the discussion or dive into the debate.

Everyone gets to choose a future book if they wish, so the list develops organically and reflects the group's variety of tastes.

2026 Reading List (Mar–Aug) — with average scores out of 5 where available:

- Mar – *The Forbidden Garden of Leningrad* – Simon Parkinson – botanists under siege in WW2 (3.4)
- Apr – *The History of Mr Polly* – H.G. Wells – Edwardian comedy (4.2)
- May – *Tokyo Express* – Matsumoto – 1958 whodunit with train timetables (3.6)
- Jun – *Everything is Illuminated* – Saffran Foer – family heritage search in Ukraine
- Jul – *Make a Home of Me* – Vanessa Santos – Scottish horror
- Aug – *Earth* – Emile Zola – 19th Century French novel exploring social inequality

We score each book, and our discussions often bring out unexpected perspectives and lively debates.

If you would like further information, please email Janet.Owen10@outlook.com.

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SCAN ME

Kingsley WI

All meetings are the first Wednesday of the month
at 7.30pm in the Community Centre

Programme from June 3rd 2026 - March 3rd 2027

- June 3rd **BBC Local Radio at 60, Past, Present and Future**
Mick Ord
- July 1st **Northwich Hedgehog Rescue**
Helen Gill (This will be held at The Hurst Chapel)
- Sept 2nd **Finding Elmo—Northwich Ship Builders**
Andrew Rowe
- Oct 7th **How I ended up in prison**
Dr Karen Castle
- Nov 4th **AGM and Social Evening**
- Dec 2nd **Christmas Cookery!**
- Jan 6th **Hob Hey Wood**
Mark O'Sullivan
- Feb 3rd **My Mad Life Trekking the World for Charity**
Michelle Beaver
- March 3rd **Do you remember the 1960s?**
David Hearn

New members are always welcome

For further information email janetlesleyfletcher@gmail.com



KINGSLEY WOMBLES

Yet again we got very lucky with the weather as eight of us met for the third picking of the year. We now have a band of about 30 volunteers.

We went along Hollow Lane, Mill Lane, Ball Lane, Top Road and through the park. It was pleasing to see that the centre of the village was relatively free of litter.

Some of us ventured as far as Delamere Road which offered plenty of interesting pickings (and two very full bags!). It was good that the road was closed during this time as there is no pavement. Many thanks to Sue, Ann, Zora, Gail, Gavin, Tim, Greg and Danny.



We're aware that lots of villagers go out at times on their own doing a good stint, and their efforts are very much appreciated. If anyone would like to help out, please look out for any **postings on FaceBook** and **contact Greg via direct message**.

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Kingsley Players celebrate 50 years of award-winning community theatre (1976 – 2026)

Kingsley Players are celebrating their golden anniversary this year with a special programme of exciting productions, on stage at Kingsley Community Centre.

Coming soon are two Youth Theatre shows – a junior version of the smash hit, **'Matilda the Musical'** (July 1-4), and on Saturday 12 September for one night only, **'My Son's a Queer (But What Can You Do?)'** These will be followed by **'Ladies Day'** by Amanda Whittington, an exuberant comedy about four likely lasses from Hull fish docks on a trip to the races (October 28-31).

The year started with a traditional January pantomime, **'The Magic Wishing Well'** by the group's talented musical director Arnold Ashbrook. Arnold, who lives in Norley, has written nearly a dozen pantos and musicals staged by the group over the years. This was followed in May by a stage version of the popular BBC comedy, **'Blackadder Goes Forth'**, with five sell-out performances. It was directed by Kingsley Players veteran, Malcolm Barker - the 34th play he's directed for the Kingsley stage, in a long association with the group, stretching back nearly four decades.

How Did it All Begin?

Originally called Kingsley Drama Group, it all started as a group of young people who were keen to raise money to build a new village community centre on land owned by the council, alongside new, old-people's bungalows.

The enthusiastic group of friends, mainly in their 20s and 30s, organised variety shows, carnivals, pram races, raft races and events to generate cash towards creating the new centre. They also used their considerable talents to help with construction.

Mary Lightfoot, who has been a member since those early days, recalls: "It was a big community effort to get the centre built. Lots of residents had special skills.



"My husband David used his digger to dig out the site to lay the drains and footings. Other people helped with the design and planning, did the carpentry and electrics, and everyone mucked in to get it painted. The centre would not have been there without the drama group, with their drive, determination and donation of skills. We had a lot of fun!"

Kingsley Players originally started as a group of young friends in the 1970s, raising money to build the new community centre.

The centre was built with its own lighting gallery in the main hall to allow the drama group to continue with its popular variety shows and reviews. These productions developed into regular annual seasons of two adult plays and a panto, which in November 2003 included a performance of a new version of **'Allo Allo'** as a fund-raiser.

In March 2004 a catastrophic fire ripped through the centre, causing thousands of pounds worth of damage. While the centre was closed for repairs, Kingsley Players took their **'Allo Allo'** show on the road and set in motion a touring tradition which lasted two decades, raising many thousands of pounds for the centre and other charities.

In particular, the Players twice covered the costs of main hall wooden re-flooring after repeated failures of the renovation replacement floor, installed by sub-contractors after the fire.

Malcolm reflects: "We had no idea at the start of the 'Allo Allo' journey just how long it would endure, and we are so grateful for all the people who have contributed as either cast or crew over the years. What better way to raise money for charities than to have the best fun ourselves at the same time – and I think the audiences shared our pleasure!"

In 2016, a record cast of 20 adults and 30 children performed in the January musical 'Oliver', directed by Lynn Pegler. There was such a buzz from young people and their parents appealing for more involvement, that the Players' committee decided to launch a new youth group.

The result was Kingsley Players Youth Theatre, led by Jake Powell and Tom Hayes, who have since taken dozens of talented young people on an exciting journey of theatrical discovery, including participating in a prestigious National Theatre youth project. The Youth Theatre is also celebrating their own tenth anniversary this year.

Jo Oultram, chair of Kingsley Players, sums up Kingsley Players' achievements: "Over the last half century, our award-winning theatre group has staged dozens of top plays, musicals and pantos, as well as raising thousands of pounds for charity with our fund-raising tours of the BBC hit comedy 'Allo Allo", she says.

"It originally started as a group of friends staging productions to try and raise money to build a new community centre in Kingsley in the 1970s. Those young actors played a key role in making that happen and Kingsley Community Centre has been our wonderful theatrical home ever since.

“Over the years we have added new staging, lighting, sound, projection and raised seating, as well as bringing a more professional approach to the productions on stage. It’s incredibly satisfying that many youngsters who first trod the boards with us have gone on to carve out successful theatre and media careers.



“At our heart, we’re just a bunch of creative, talented people who love giving audiences a great night out!”

A scene from Kingsley Players' 50th anniversary production of 'Blackadder Goes Forth' in May, on stage at Kingsley Community Centre.

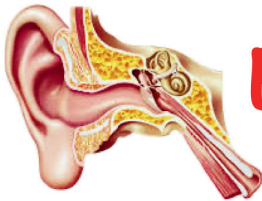
For more information and to book tickets: www.kingsleyplayers.co.uk.

Answers to the Summer-themed Dingbats

1. Walking on Sunshine
2. Barbecue
3. Ice Cream
4. Butterfly



Well done if you got them right!



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Rebellion is nigh in 'Matilda the Musical Jr', a gleefully witty ode to the anarchy of childhood and the power of imagination! This story of a girl who dreams of a better life and the children she inspires will have audiences rooting for the "revolting children" who are out to teach the grown-ups a lesson.



Matilda has astonishing wit, intelligence...and special powers! She's unloved by her cruel parents but impresses her schoolteacher, the highly loveable Miss Honey. Matilda's school life isn't completely smooth-sailing, however – the school's mean headmistress, Miss Trunchbull, hates children and just loves thinking up new punishments for those who don't abide by her rules. But Matilda has courage and cleverness in equal amounts, and could be the school pupils' saving grace!

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Jake Powell, director and KPYT Chair, said: 'Following on from our production of 'Mary Shelley's Frankenstein' in March, we are excited to be bringing this much-loved story to the stage. Our cast of 30 young people aged 10 to 18 have worked hard learning their songs and choreography over the last couple of months, and can't wait to share KPYT's first ever musical with our audiences!'

**'Matilda the Musical Jr' will be on stage at Kingsley Community Centre
from Wednesday 1st to Saturday 4th July,
with performances at 7:30pm nightly and a 2pm Saturday matinee.
Tickets cost £12 and £10 for under 16s, and can be booked online
www.kingsleyplayers.co.uk
or by ringing the box office on 07724 892154.**



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