KINGSLEY NEWS

THE NEWS AND VOICE OF YOUR COMMUNITY

JULY 2025



Highlights

Newsletter

Kingsley Walkers

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Macmillan Mighty Hike

Kingsley Book Club



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Online edition at www.kingsleyvillage.co.uk

Kingsley Community Association - Committee Members			
Chairman	Elizabeth Batey - Tel: 788788		
Vice Chairman/Kingsley News Editor	Steve Easton - kingsleynewseditor@gmail.com		
Treasurer	Heather Jones - Tel: 788104		
Bookings/Secretary	Heather Hayes - Tel: 07955 648670		
Council Members elected	Vic Wodhams, Carol Rowlands, Anne Kavanagh (In addition, one representative from each affiliated group supports the committee)		

Printing: Simon Batey; Printing Support: Jane Wodhams; Distribution Co-ordinator: Carol Rowlands

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	helenjanetwoodcock@gmail.com		
Pilates	Pilates Tuesday 12pm to 1pm		dickienad@yahoo.co.uk		
Karate	Tuesday	6pm to 7pm dan@kenshinryu.co			
Yoga	Tuesday	7.30pm to 8.30pm bjerkan@hotmail.co.uk			
Gentle Exercise	Wednesday	11am to 12noon helenjanetwoodcock@gmail.c			
Yoga	Wednesday	7.30pm to 8.30pm will@yogaandhealingcheshire.			
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.

FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to the JuLy 25 edition of Kingsley News,

... and a very Happy Summer to all our Kingsley News Readers.

Just a reminder to you all; there is no Kingsley News next month. However, events for July, August and even September are being advertised within.

Whilst many of us are looking forward to our summer holidays where we can relax and have fun with family and friends, Steve Baker's article this month I feel is very poignant. His personal account of the Srebrenica genocide, which took place 30 years ago this month, is there to remind us how fragile and unstable our World can become when people take it upon themselves to use hatred to justify their actions.

Thanks again to my wife, Lisa, for providing me with one of her photos for the front cover; photos by other villagers' partner, family member or friend would also be greatly appreciated for future editions!

Best Wishes Steve

I hope you continue to enjoy reading this edition and please do give feedback too. Please, don't forget that Kingsley News is also available in digital format on the Kingsley village website, www.kingsleyvillage.co.uk.

Photos/Articles/Adverts for the newsletter to be sent to the Editor at kingsleynewseditor@gmail.com

<u>Copy deadline the 21st of the month.</u>



Advertising Costs

Advert size (A5)	Colour	Black & White
Full page	£40	£24
1/2 page	£20	£12
1/4 page	n/a	£6

Macmillan Mighty Hike



This fine band of ladies from Kingsley are up for a challenge and this time they are walking over 26 miles through the beautiful rolling hills and coast of Northumberland on a Saturday in September. Like so many in Kingsley and beyond, all of them have been touched in some way by cancer. Either affecting close friends or family. As women of action, this team has decided to take on the challenge of the Marathon Hike to support the Macmillan Cancer Charity and to remember loved ones; Allen Crocker, Zora Ann Castling and Chris Gosling. And for Rachel Gosling currently living with cancer and determined to join the team on the hike.

This brave Kingsley team would greatly appreciate your support in their hours of need, and in turn helping Macmillan support cancer patients and families in their hours of need. If you can support this worthy cause, please follow the link to the team's Just Giving page.



You can also support Macmillan Cancer Support whilst testing your wits against the brains of Kingsley, at the **Quiz Night** being held on Saturday 6th September, at 7.30 in the Community Centre. Please see the poster for details.



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REMEMBERING SREBRENICA: A JOURNEY FROM FORENSIC ANTHROPOLOGY TO EDUCATION

by Steve Baker

In July 1995, Europe witnessed one of its darkest moments since the Second World War—the Srebrenica genocide. More than 8,000 Bosnian Muslim men and boys were systematically executed by Bosnian Serb forces, despite Srebrenica being declared a United Nations (UN) "safe zone." It remains a defining example of the consequences of unchecked hatred and division.

This year marks 30 years since the genocide, and as someone who worked on the forensic investigations that followed, I feel a deep responsibility to reflect on my experiences.

The War in Bosnia and the Fall of Srebrenica

The break-up of Yugoslavia in the early 1990s unleashed ethnic and religious tensions across the Balkans. Bosnia, home to Bosnian Muslims, Catholic Croats, and Orthodox Christian Serbs, was plunged into war between 1992 and 1995. Sarajevo suffered the longest siege in modern military history, and eastern towns like Srebrenica became surrounded by Bosnian Serb forces.

In 1993, General Philippe Morillon of the United Nations declared Srebrenica a "safe zone." However, in July 1995, Bosnian Serb forces, led by General Ratko Mladić, overran the enclave. The Dutch UN peacekeepers stationed there were unable to prevent what followed:

- Men and boys were systematically separated from women and children.
- They were taken to execution sites—forests, warehouses, and fields—where they
 were murdered in cold blood.
- Upwards of 10,000 men attempted to escape through the hills north of Srebrenica in an event now known as 'The Death March', but most were caught and executed. A mere 3.000 survived.
- The bodies were buried in mass graves, only to be later dug up and reburied in different locations to cover up the crime.

The International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY) later ruled that these events constituted genocide but there were other areas of ethnic cleansing, spread right across Bosnia. For those of us who stood over the graves, unearthing the evidence, no legal judgment could capture the horror we witnessed.

My Role as a Forensic Anthropologist

In 1999, I was approached by the UN and asked to be part of a forensic investigation team tasked with excavating mass graves and identifying the victims. Our work, conducted on behalf of the ICTY, sought to piece together the truth, provide evidence for war crimes trials, and give families some measure of closure.

I was stationed in Tuzla and travelled each day to exhume a grave at Kozluk, a site near the Drina River where hundreds of Bosnian Muslims had been executed. As we travelled to Kozluk each day in UN vehicles, we were met at the Republika Srpska border by Russian paratroopers, there to protect us as part of the United Nations Protection Force. My name appears in the official forensic report detailing our work.

The findings gave an overview of the devastating scenes I witnessed:

- Many of the bodies had hands tied behind their backs with ligatures.
- Some victims were blindfolded, indicating they faced execution.
- Shell casings were embedded in the soil beneath them, confirming they were shot on-site.
- The victims wore civilian clothes, dispelling any notion that they were combatants.
- In a grotesque attempt to hide the massacre, bodies were later dug up by machinery and reburied in secondary mass graves, leaving behind body parts strewn across the site.

This official report to the ICTY details the uncovering of the hand of a man still clutching a plant, pulled from the earth at the moment he was shot. That small detail, frozen in time, encapsulated the brutal reality of genocide.





In a mortuary at Visoko, our work took on a new dimension. After exhuming the graves at Kozluk, I joined a team supporting forensic pathologists as they performed autopsies on the recovered bodies. Our role extended beyond identification—we were also gathering crucial evidence to classify these atrocities as genocide. Some of the remains we examined were already skeletal, but others had only begun to decompose, making our work even more harrowing. In these cases, we had to remove the remaining soft tissue to expose the bones, allowing us to determine age, height, and other identifying features. It was painstaking, often horrific work, but every examination brought us closer to uncovering the truth, ensuring that these victims were not lost to history and that those responsible would face justice. We handled wedding rings, identification documents, and photographs buried with the bodies—small remnants of normality among the horror. Every discovery carried a heavy weight and will stay with me for the rest of my life.

Standing over those graves, I understood the true cost of hatred. The genocide was not the result of a spontaneous act of violence but the end product of years of division, propaganda, and dehumanisation.

The Urgency of Remembering

Srebrenica was not an isolated event. The same forces of division, intolerance, and dehumanisation that led to genocide in Bosnia can be seen in rising hate crimes, racism, and nationalist extremism today.

The survivors of Srebrenica have spent the past 30 years telling their stories in the hope that history will not repeat itself. But remembrance alone is not enough. We must act.

As someone who has stood over the graves, held the evidence in my hands, and later dedicated my life to education, I urge everyone reading this to do something:

- Learn the history of Srebrenica and other genocides.
- Challenge hate speech and division in your community.
- Educate young people about the dangers of intolerance.
- Support organisations working to prevent prejudice.

The lesson of Srebrenica is clear: Hatred left unchallenged leads to tragedy. Holocaust survivor Elie Wiesel famously said "The opposite of love is not hate, it's indifference."

The phrase 'Never Again is often used when discussing the Holocaust and other genocides, but we must all play a role in ensuring that "Never Again" means something more than just words.





Kingsley St John's Primary The school in the heart of the village will be 175 years old in 2026



As we prepare to celebrate this momentous occasion we kindly ask past pupils and the community to share photographs, stories and memories of our school over the years. This will be collated to form our school museum, which will be shared with the community in summer 2026.





Hollow Lane, Kingsley, Cheshire, WA6 8EF

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

KINGSLEY BOOK CLUB



The Kingsley Book club read In Memoriam by Alice Winn for our June meeting. A book based around the young upper-class officers dragged out of a privilege private school into the horrors of the front line in WW1. Alice Winn an Irish and American novelist born in France and educated in England was only 31 when In Memoriam was written, a few of us approached this as just, 'A war book about toffs from public school'.

In good book club tradition, our prejudices were quickly thrown away with the wonderfully written book which did not try to put in the ethics and moral of today, but just showed us the feel at the time from a number of angles by integrating; the boys growing up, finding love, those left behind and the horrors of war.

We had a good discussion on the different roles in each class \ gender played in the war and how the people back home were fed the propaganda that led to it being one of the deadliest conflicts in history resulting in an estimated 10 million military dead and more than 20 million wounded, plus some 10 million civilian dead from causes including genocide.

A gruesome story but a wonderful read that did fizzle out a bit at the end we gave it 4 out of 5.

I cannot believe it is already July! Here is a roundup of our 2025 reads so far

The glamour Boys by Chris Bryant	2.36	War/Spy	Well reached but very hard going, difficult to follow the story
The Passenger by Cormac McCarthy	2.4	Noir thriller/ Conspiracy	Bleak with a dark vision
Young Mungo By Douglas Stuart	4.2	Life	Dark as the deepest loch and as hopeful as Glasgow when it stops raining
Frankenstein By Mary Shelley	3.9	Gothic Horror	A look into who is the real monster a classic everyone should read at least once
Once a monster By Robert Dinsdale	3.13	Greek Mythology	Writing at a gallop, but got bogged down in parts a true Fagin story
In Memoriam by Alice Winn	4.04	Love Story/War	

Thank you Cieron for hosting us at the Red Bull. Iin July we are back at the Institute to discuss Driving Over Lemons (An Optimist in Andalucía) by Chris Stewart. at 7:30pm.

If you are interested in joining us or would like to see our reading list for the remainder of the year, please drop me an email to Janet.Owen10@Outlook.com or call on 07749 734740

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Tickets £7.50

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Kelsall area: contact Howard Cruse on 07767 494995

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Worship at The Hurst Methodist Church

July/August 2025

Sunday 6th July 8.30am Holy Communion led by Revd G Gresswell

10am Morning Worship led by Mr P Davidson

Sunday 13th July 10am Morning Worship led by Prof N Ford

Sunday 20th July 10am Holy Communion led by Revd G Gresswell

Sunday 27th July 10am Morning Worship Local Arrangement

Sunday 3rd August 8.30am No early morning Holy Communion today

10am Morning Worship led by Deacon M Doherty

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

Sunday 17th August 10am Holy Communion led by Revd I Rigby

Sunday 24th August 10am Morning Worship led by Mrs R Lane

Sunday 31st August 10.45 United Service at Norley led by Revd S Levitt

No service at the Hurst today.

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.

St John the Evangelist, Kingsley

We are part of the United Benefice of Norley, Crowton and Kingsley with Alvanley and Manley

Services in July 2025

Sunday 6th July

10.00 am Family Holy Communion at Norley 6.30 pm Sacred Space at Crowton

Sunday 13th July

10.00am Holy Communion at Crowton 6.00pm 2nd Sunday @ 6 – at NCK Centre, Norley

Sunday 20th July

10.00am Holy Communion at Kingsley

Sunday 27th July

8.30am Holy Communion at Crowton 10.00am Holy Communion at Alvanley 4.00pm 4th Sunday at 4 – NCK Centre, Norley

Mid-week Holy Communion all at 10.00 am

3rd July at Crowton 10th July at Kingsley 17th July at Norley 24th July at Crowton 31st July at Kingsley

Services in August 2025 Sunday 3rd August

10.00 am Holy Communion at Norley 6.30 pm Sacred Space at Crowton

Sunday 10th August

10.00am Holy Communion at Crowton

Sunday 17th August

10.00am Holy Communion at Kingsley

Sunday 24th August

10.00am Holy Communion at Alvanley

Mid-week Morning Prayer

all at 10.00 am, NCK Centre, Norley on 7^{th} , 14^{th} , 21^{st} , 28^{th} August

Associate Minister Revd. Hilary Merrington Tel: 01928 788087 Email: hilary.merrington@btinternet.com Church website www.nck.org.uk

Church Open St John's is open on Tuesday Mornings from 10am to 12noon for those who wish to take some quiet time out or for private prayer



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KINGSLEY PRAYER DIARY



Each week of the year Christians in Kingsley pray specially for people in a different area of the village and its surroundings. During July and August we think of, and pray for: -

W/c July 6th Ministers of Religion
W/c July 13th Ecumenical work in Kingsley
W/c July 20th Methodists in Kingsley
W/c July 27th Roman Catholics in Kingsley

W/c Aug 3rd Anglicans in Kingsley W/c Aug 10th Quakers in Kingsley W/c Aug 17th Baptists & URC in Kingsley W/c Aug 24th Non-Christians in Kingsley W/c Aug 31st Frodsham Parish

We invite you to add your own prayers

Coffee and Chat

Please come and join us each **Tuesday morn 10am** at the Hurst

Methodist Church

For 'Coffee and Chat', meet old friends and new.

You will be most welcome

Men's Brunch

Friday, 25th July at 10.30am in The Hurst meeting room for bacon/sausage bap.

Please come and join us.



Kingsley WI

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

Wednesday July 2nd 'Finding Poetry in You Life'

with John Lindley, Cheshire's Poet Laureate

New members are welcome, we are a very friendly group, you may make new friends and even learn something ... and the cake is always delicious!

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are infectious!

A SMILE is a universal sign of happiness, friendliness, and warmth, but its impact goes far beyond what we often realize.

Whether it's a subtle curve of the lips or a wide grin, smiling has profound effects on both our physical and mental health. It's not only contagious but also has the power to change our mood, outlook on life, and interactions with others.

When we smile, our brain releases endorphins—the feel-good chemicals that enhance our sense of happiness and well-being. These natural mood elevators make us feel more positive, even when we're feeling down or stressed.

Smiling creates a sense of trust and reliability, making others more likely to feel comfortable around us.

Studies have shown that people are more likely to engage with those who are smiling, which improves our social connections.

The Bible emphasizes the importance of maintaining a joyful heart, reminding us that joy is a fruit of the Spirit. As we embrace joy, we are naturally led to smile, connecting with others in warm and inspiring ways.

Smiling is infectious,

You catch it like the flu, When someone smiled at me today, I started smiling too.

I passed around the corner, And someone saw my grin. When he smiled I realized I'd passed it on to him.

I thought about that smile then I realized its worth, A single smile, just like mine could travel round the earth.

So, if you feel a smile begin, don't leave it undetected Let's start an epidemic quick, and get the world infected!

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...... that you don't have to necessarily believe in God to attend worship on Sunday mornings at the Hurst.

We have been told many times by people who have attended that they have a feeling of well-being when they have been, and that they feel they have a warm arm extended around them. If you feel in need of comfort and inclusion, why don't you give us a try?

There is a reason why there is strength there! Perhaps you are searching for something and don't quite know what! (Like the rest of us, we might add!)

Come along! There is no need for a commitment! Anyone is welcome! We don't do anything particularly strange! There are usually 5 hymns (which you are not obliged to sing!), 2 Bible Readings, a number of prayers led by the preacher, and a talk based on the Bible readings of the day. It is a time of hearing and learning, but without questions and exam papers!

Services are at 10am, but occasionally the church is closed as we might be meeting at Norley Methodists for a combined service.

It is worth checking the website: http://www.kingsleymethodist.org.uk/ We also have a Facebook page: The Hurst Methodist Church Kingsley.

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KINGSLEY WALKERS



Over very many years the Kingsley Walkers have only been deflected by the weather on very few occasions. Sadly May 27th turned out to be one of those days. Staying very locally we had foregone any driving and set off directly and very promptly from the Community Centre with the intention of exploring local footpaths. In fact, it was a little too prompt for one couple who arrived at a fashionable time and missed the departing group. However, a phone call sorted that out and we were soon able to proceed, united.

Heading up Hollow Lane, past St John's we climbed a few steps to the footpath across the fields of Pike Nook farm. It was surprising that several long standing village residents had never actually used this path, even though it is so close by. Crossing Pike Lane and the little brook below it we passed close to Peel Hall. Here some Friesian cows defied the herd instinct and seemed to go in all sorts of different directions. I idly wondered, given their colouring, if they couldn't be bred to have individual QR codes on their sides. This might replace their need to have earrings and wear electronic ankle tags like criminals. Perhaps it could be linked to a web site and innocent walkers would be able to find out if a particular cow was likely to come straight at you, stand obstinately in your path, run off in blind panic or team up and follow you, zombie style.

As we turned right by Lady Heyes, past Bellair farm and down to Catton Hall, a light rain started to fall. Along the bank of the Weaver and close by Bradley Orchard it was getting heavier and in Bradley itself a quick conference decided against the prospect of a soggy lunch at the caves by Fivecrosses above Overton. Instead, we softies headed past Hatley Farm and regained our original track by Lady Heyes.

Our packed lunches were consumed with cups of tea at home, as our waterproof gear dripped onto the hall floor. Despite the curtailment we still managed 6 of the planned 8 miles, sustained by much enjoyable banter along the way.

The weather was much improved for the short walk on Tuesday 10th June. We drove to the Dysart Arms in Bunbury. This time it wasn't the antics of demented dairy cows causing bewilderment but those of Cheshire West Highways Department. They must have been having an exercise to use up all their "Road Closed" signs in as small a geographical area as possible. There were no fewer than 6 roads closed either on, the usual 25 minute and 12 mile route, or leading off it, on both major and minor roads.

Overcoming this we were able to enjoy a 5 mile walk through farmland and along the banks of the Shropshire Union Canal. We even assisted a canal boater and 5 generous bottoms acting in harmony soon overcame the resistance of a recalcitrant lock gate and allowed his passage. We proceeded back to the Dysart Arms and most enjoyed an excellent pub lunch served by very friendly staff.

The Kingsley Walkers meet up on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month. If you are interested please contact us on <u>kingsleywalkerswa6@gmail.com</u>.

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