

June /July 2025

## KINGTON ST MICHAEL NEWSLETTER

Funded by the Parish Council and distributed by village volunteers.

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### Father's Day Gifts

Father's Day is soon upon us, so why not buy a mug or tankard for your Dad and top it up with chocolates, sweets, a bottle of beer, or whatever he likes? Mugs are £10 each (we only have seven left!) and tankards are £25; to get yours please contact Alex Hall on 01249 750602 or Linda Durno on 01249 750514. Email [alex.hall@kington-st-michael.com](mailto:alex.hall@kington-st-michael.com), [kingtonstmichael@btinternet.com](mailto:kingtonstmichael@btinternet.com).

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### PARACHUTING TEDDIES & FAMILY FUN

SAVE THE DATE for Kington St Michael's much-loved teddy parachuting and family fun afternoon that returns on Sunday 7th September from 2 pm - 4.30 pm at St Michael & All Angels Church. This popular event first started in 2011 and this will be its 14th year of running (the only exception being 2020 during Covid). It's now a firm family favourite in the annual village calendar! There will be a chance for your teddy to parachute, refreshments, cream teas, stalls and more – so save the date and watch this space! More info will follow in due course...

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### WOOD CARVING KINGTON ST MICHAEL

As many of you will know Cilla Labouchere has been running a very popular wood carving group for many years. There are now some vacancies for anyone who would like join the group. If you are interested, please ring Cilla on 01249 750222 (messages answered).

### VILLAGE SHOP BANANA COMPETITION

The competition to guess how many bananas were sold in March was won by 8 year-old Xanthe, who was closest to the answer of 105. She was delighted with her prize of a bunch of bananas and an Easter egg.

### KINGTON ST MICHAEL WI

The WI will be organising the Annual Produce Show on **Saturday 2nd August** in the village hall. Show schedules are available from the village shop or a member of the committee – see [www.kingtonstmichael.com](http://www.kingtonstmichael.com).

### SCHOOL FÊTE , SATURDAY 12th JULY

A fun day for everyone! The school is looking for local businesses to support this event and in return they will feature in the fête's promotional material. Donations of raffle prizes and items for the silent auction will be gratefully received. Volunteers to help with the fête are most welcome.

Raffle tickets will be on sale in the café and village shop for villagers to purchase. The main prize is a Dyson V15. There is also an afternoon tea at The Bell Hotel and many more prizes to be won.

### PART-TIME CARETAKER NEEDED FOR KINGTON ST MICHAEL VILLAGE HALL

Average of 9 - 12 hours per month. Hourly rate £12.21 (subject to review). Duties include:

- Weekend clean of the hall.- Ordering cleaning supplies.
- Monthly safety check of fire equipment and alarms.
- Dealing with any other maintenance issues that arise with the hall.

For further information and/or to register your interest in this post, please email [kaysambell@gmail.com](mailto:kaysambell@gmail.com).



## KINGTON ST MICHAEL COMMUNITY SHOP

Incredibly, it's 18 years since Kington St Michael's village shop first opened. The existing Post Office and shop in the village closed, so a group of villagers got together and formed the team that led to the opening of the shop in May 2007. There was a huge commitment from the volunteer team, supported by the Plunkett Foundation, a charity that supports community businesses that continues to be a useful resource to us today. The shop was also fortunate to have a supportive Parish Council, together with the Village Hall committee.

Villagers were invited to buy shares at £5 each, helping everyone to feel part of the shop's future, even if they only bought one. There was the added perk of a free drink at the AGM, a tradition which continues! Shares are still available to buy and we welcome younger shareholders (16 & over) to help with the future of this vital village resource. If you don't have time to volunteer in the shop, as a shareholder you can still contribute to its development.

At the beginning, it was a balancing act. Unlike now, at that time the shop closed for lunch, shut at 5pm and closed on Saturday afternoons; it was a steep learning curve. Restocking shelves depended on having funds from the previous week's takings! Now the turnover is higher, but the high minimum order value demanded by wholesalers still can't be met and the storage space is limited, so someone still has to drive to Swindon two or three times a month.

As it does now, the shop contributed to the community by using local suppliers whenever possible. The milk, butter, yoghurt, and cheddar are supplied by the same local dairy and eggs from the local business the shop used at the beginning. Other suppliers have come and gone, but the volunteer buyers are always looking out for new local places that can supply products, like the beautiful, locally grown, flower bouquets and Tracklements preserves from Easton Grey. Recently, as well as selling everyday essentials, the shop has re-introduced some interesting small gifts, so that customers can buy cards and presents in one place.

The shop was selling free range turkeys at Christmas long before Morrisons came up with the idea, and Ivan Balmforth and Roger Sealy would drive out to a farm near Swindon to collect the order. One Christmas, the farmer's dog had died and she'd forgotten to put aside the turkey order. Panic ensued, but the turkeys arrived in time for Christmas. In winter, when the village was completely snowed in, a tractor was despatched to fetch the milk from the top of Tor Hill.

The shop remained open during the Covid restrictions and home deliveries came into their own, with volunteers delivering around the village to those who didn't want to come out. Sometimes, people stood in the shop doorway, calling to the volunteer what they wanted, so that they could shop with less risk.

For several years, Avril Balmforth gave her time to voluntarily manage the shop along with Pat Squires as assistant manager, with support from other volunteers. The WI was a good recruiting ground at the beginning and one volunteer, Kay Sambell, has been volunteering since the shop opened. Some people volunteer for a while, life changes for them, they take a break and then return some years later. Others have retired or moved away. There have been paid part time and full-time managers, but now the shop works as a team again, led by Claire Pugh, a paid lead co-ordinator. Many volunteers have their own area of responsibility; others are purely there to serve behind the till. Making sure the shop has enough people to keep open for the hours the village wants can be challenging, so if you would like to contribute, do get in touch. The people who serve in the shop are crucial to its future and success, so even if you can only spare two hours a fortnight, you will be very welcome.

The village shop has experienced some difficult times, but Polling Day this May was the best day ever when 43 ice creams were sold! If you were able to drop in that day, the volunteers would have been very happy to see you and it is hoped that you will be able to continue visit the shop.

Kington St Michael Shop is open 8.45am-5pm Monday-Saturday, and until 6pm on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. The shop is opposite the village church, and you can park right outside. Follow the shop at: Instagram @ksmvillageshop and Facebook @Kington St Michael Village Shop Limited. If you'd like an informal chat about volunteering, please ring: Diane on 07768053116, or email the shop on: [hello@kingtonstmichaelvillageshop.co.uk](mailto:hello@kingtonstmichaelvillageshop.co.uk).

## What's on at Kington Café.....



### June

Saturday 14th – Berni-ish.

Steak Night, serving from 7pm.

Contact us to secure your 'chair'.

Tuesday 17th – Closing at 1pm for a private booking.

Sunday 29th – Open 10am-2pm

Serving breakfast until 11am

Sunday lunch 12noon-2pm

Pre-booking is advised.

### July

Saturday 12th – Closing at 1pm for a private booking

Pizza night 5pm-8pm

Available to eat in or takeaway.

Sunday 27th – Open 10am-2pm

Serving breakfast until 11am

Sunday lunch 12noon-2pm

Pre-booking is advised.

Fish/scampi and chips available every Friday  
lunchtime.

Follow us on Facebook/Instagram for updates.

Email: [orders@kington-cafe.co.uk](mailto:orders@kington-cafe.co.uk) Tel: 01249 750212



## KINGTON ST MICHAEL CLUB

**QUIZ NIGHT** – starts at 8pm:

- 21st June
- 19th July



Four people per team, entry £1 each.

**LIVE MUSIC** – METSON

Saturday 7th June, starts at 8.30pm

**FRIDAY FEAST NIGHT** - every Friday

5.30pm - 8.30pm. Eat in or takeaway.

Fish & chips, scampi, battered chicken breast chunks, burgers including veggie, jumbo sausage (plain or battered. Served with chips, with choice of curry sauce, baked beans or mushy peas. Children's menu available.

Room hire available to members and non-members. For further details contact [ksmclub\\_official@outlook.com](mailto:ksmclub_official@outlook.com)

Club opening times:

Wednesday 6pm - 10pm

Thursday 7pm - 11pm

Friday 5pm - 11pm

Saturday 7pm - 11pm

Sunday 6pm - 10pm



Child friendly with disabled access - this is a family-oriented members club run by a committee.

The club also offers a bar service for events in the village. For further details contact the club secretary Bev Roberts on 07402 962084, who will be happy to help.

## THANK YOU TO KINGTON CAFÉ

As the café is approaching its fifth anniversary under the ownership of Lisa and Gavin, Sheila Jobbins approached the newsletter editor to ask if the following could be published on her behalf.....

*"You have been so kind to me since I lost my eyesight five years ago and I don't know what I would have done without you. You have gone well beyond what anyone could expect and I deeply appreciate the various ways in which you have cared for me, especially by delivering lunch to me regularly and keeping me so well fed. Together with Lisa, you [Gavin] form a marvellous team in the café and are a wonderful asset to the village. I do hope that you will continue to be well supported in the future. Thank you once again for all that you do".*

I'm sure Sheila is not alone in her appreciation of the café and the huge difference it makes to the lives of so many in the village, especially the elderly.

## ST MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS CHURCH SERVICES

You are very welcome to join us at any of our services and to stay for refreshments afterwards.

### June

Sunday 1st, 9.30am: Morning Praise.

Sunday 8th, 9.30am: Holy Communion.

Thursday 19th, 10am: Holy Communion.

Sunday 22nd, 4pm: All Together @ 4; informal all ages worship with activities, music and refreshments followed by optional

Holy Communion at Bybrook Primary School, Yatton Keynell.

Sunday 29th, 11am: Cluster service at Biddestone church.

### July

Sunday 6th, 9.30am: Morning Praise.

Sunday 13th, 9.30am: Holy Communion.

Thursday 17th, 10am: Holy Communion.

Sunday 27th, 4pm: All Together @ 4 at Bybrook Primary School.



The church and church yard are open every day for you to enjoy. Batteries, ink cartridges and medication packets (the foil & plastic part) can be left in the porch for recycling.

We are looking to do a census of the plants and wildlife in the churchyard with the aim of making it a richer and more diverse habitat. If you would like to help or have any knowledge of plants, birds, insects or small mammals we would love to hear from you. Please contact Alison on 01249 750742 or 07748 759661.

The church has been given a £500 grant to hold a Choral Evensong followed by refreshments at 6pm on Sunday 28th September, to celebrate our Patronal Day, St Michael.

The church is planning a day to celebrate the church's part in village life and history, so if you have any memories or photographs which you would like to share, or have any ideas for the day, please do get in touch with Alison Greenhalgh - email [alison.mulley@btinternet.com](mailto:alison.mulley@btinternet.com) or Chris Laskey [chris.laskey@outlook.com](mailto:chris.laskey@outlook.com).

## KSM QE2 FIELD NEWS

**KSM BONFIRE & FIREWORKS NIGHT –**  
Save the date for  
**Saturday 1st November 2025.**

**BBQ HIRE** – summer has arrived and the BBQ is available to hire at the QE2 field! Just £15 to hire (water facility access included). For more details or to book your BBQ, please email:

[ksmqe2fieldgroup@gmail.com](mailto:ksmqe2fieldgroup@gmail.com).

**CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND –**  
playground upgrades are in progress! Replacement swings are on order and these will be installed by Merv Singer and team as soon as they arrive. A tree has been planted in the play area, major repairs/upgrades to the large climbing frame are scheduled for 16th June (although this remains safe to use until then) and other enhancements, including repairs to wear and tear on swing safety surfaces, are also underway.

**KICK WALL AREA** – this area has been resurfaced and completely re-fenced and basketball hoops have been added at each end. Court/line markings are being agreed and will be delivered soon.

**ORCHARD & TREES** – maintenance has been ongoing for the orchard and for other trees on the field.

**STORAGE** – container options are being investigated to enable necessary equipment to be stored at the recreation field.

**VOLUNTEERS WANTED** – we are a VERY small group of volunteers (all of whom also have busy day jobs!) – if you can help in any way with special projects or at specific events, please get in touch –

[ksmqe2fieldgroup@gmail.com](mailto:ksmqe2fieldgroup@gmail.com). You do NOT need to join an official committee – we are a friendly, voluntary group and members are always welcome BUT we really need some extra hands to make things

### NEWSLETTER SUBMISSION DATES:

Friday 18th July - Friday 26th September -  
Friday 21st November. The earlier date in July is in order to facilitate printing at the village school.  
Send your submissions to Avril: [kingtonnews@gmail.com](mailto:kingtonnews@gmail.com).



## BONFIRES AND SMOKE POLLUTION

During the recent lovely sunny weather there have been bonfires at the north end of the village on weekend mornings, when those who are at work all week have their only opportunity to hang out their washing.

Please be considerate when lighting bonfires and follow this advice from Wiltshire Council:

Lighting a bonfire without consideration for those around you can cause distress, when for example:

- weather conditions are inappropriate (such as winds blowing toward neighbours' property) or
- burning inappropriate materials (such as wet or green plant material, plastic or other materials that will generate smoke)
- on a fine summer's evening when others are enjoying their gardens.



In addition, it may exacerbate ill health in those who suffer from Asthma, COPD and COVID.

## PARISH COUNCIL MEETING DATES Council Year 2025 – 2026

All Meetings will take place in the Village Hall at 7.15pm on Thursday evenings. No meetings in August or December.

**2025:** June 19th; July 17th; September 18th;  
October 16th; November 20th.

**2026:** January 15th; February 19th; March 19th;  
April 23<sup>rd</sup>; May 21<sup>st</sup>.  
Annual Parish Meeting: April 16th

At May's Annual Meeting Peter Macdonald was elected as Chair and Alex Hall was elected as Vice-chair; Fiona Twisse was co-opted on to the council, bringing it up to its full contingent of nine. New councillors, Ollie Mead and Tim Mead were welcomed on to the council and it's believed that Ollie (who is in his twenties) is the youngest councillor we have ever had. Here's a full list of our Parish Councillors (for a list of their responsibilities, please visit the village website):

- Peter Macdonald (Chair)
- Alex Hall (Vice-chair)
- Gerry Gamble
- Ollie Mead
- Tim Mead
- John Newton
- Will Roe
- Fiona Twisse
- Stephen Woodhead

*If you have something that you wish to bring to the Parish Council's attention, please contact the Clerk, Viv Vines, on 01249 657695 / 07785 717665, [ksmparishclerk@gmail.com](mailto:ksmparishclerk@gmail.com)*

## ROZ SAVAGE, MP for the South Cotswolds (Liberal Democrat)

Roz holds regular constituency surgeries to support residents with their concerns. Following parliamentary advice, these surgeries are now by appointment only.

Where possible, appointments will be held virtually. However, Roz is also hosting less frequent in-person surgeries at various locations across the constituency, to ensure accessibility for all residents. To book an appointment, please email:

[roz.savage.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:roz.savage.mp@parliament.uk)

or call her office on (01285) 300555.

If you have specific accessibility needs, please let the team know when booking.