

October/November 2025

KINGTON ST MICHAEL NEWSLETTER

Funded by the Parish Council and distributed by village volunteers.

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WHAT AN AMAZING ACCOMPLISHMENT!

NIGEL'S LONDON TO KINGTON ST MICHAEL SPONSORED BIKE RIDE HAS RAISED OVER £10,000 AT THE TIME OF PUBLISHING, WITH DONATIONS STILL COMING IN.

On Saturday 13th September, Nigel Farr and Warren Burgess started out on their journey to London to raise funds for Dorothy House Hospice.

Following the death of his sister, Kathryn, whose last days were spent being cared for in Dorothy House Hospice, Nigel decided to undertake a ride in her memory, in order to raise as much money as possible for the charity.

Nigel and Warren took the train from Chippenham station early on Saturday morning, heading for London, where they took to the saddle for the two-day cycle ride back to Kington St Michael; Clive Dury, Harvey Bull and Martin Casey joining them at Newbury for the final leg of the ride.

Typically of the English climate, after a long, dry summer, they had to contend with heavy downpours of rain, and wind, but undeterred they arrived back safely in the village on Sunday 14th, to a joyous crowd of villagers who had come out to greet them.

Kington Club opened its doors at 4pm for people to join them in congratulating Nigel and Warren on their successful fundraising challenge.

Nigel's ride was made more challenging for him following his recent health problems. In 2002 he contracted meningitis and septicaemia; last year he suffered two strokes. In addition to this Nigel has only one kidney, and a pacemaker.

Nigel's family has lived in the village since 1625 when the first Farr family appeared on the church registry.

Nigel's grandparents lived in Honey Knob cottage and his parents, June and Brian Farr, moved into the village when they got married. They lived in a cottage in Sebastopol terrace for a while then moved to Mayfield Cottage at the end of Stubbs Lane, where Kathryn Nigel and Richard were born. All three children attended the old village school before it was converted into the new village hall and shop. Afterwards Nigel went to Chippenham boys' school which later became Sheldon School. After leaving school he went to Lackham College where he obtained a City and Guilds diploma in gardening. His passion had always been farming so he went to work for various farms in the area. When farming work dried up, he was employed at the Jolly Huntsman, which led to him being employed by other hostleries over a period of 26 years. Nigel's love of photography has also provided interesting photos of the village and surrounding areas.

After his parents passed away Nigel moved out of the family home into an Alms House on the main village street, and by a quirk of fate ended up in the same Alms House that his great grandfather had lived in many years ago.



KINGTON ST MICHAEL COMMUNITY SHOP



The village shop is looking for someone new to lead the team and ensure the continuation of a smooth-running organisation. Claire, who currently fills this role, has done a great job in the past months, leading and growing the volunteer team, managing the buying and finding interesting new lines. She now wants to give more time to her other activities and travelling, so will step down once a replacement has been recruited. The post offers flexible, paid, part-time hours, so it may be attractive to a working parent.

The shop has recently expanded its snacks and drinks range to include handmade cakes, millionaire bars and brownies from Cakesmith, based in Bristol. Volunteers have tried them and report that they are tasty. It's hard to stand next to them and not buy one!

Kind villagers are continuing to donate surplus local produce, grown in their gardens, for the shop to sell. If you would like to do this, please just drop it into the shop anytime it's open.

The shop is open 8.45am - 5pm Monday-Saturday, and until 6pm on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. We are opposite the village church, and you can park right outside. Follow us at: Instagram@ksmvillageshop and Facebook @Kington St Michael Village Shop Limited.

If you'd like an informal chat about volunteering, please ring Diane on 07768 053116, or email the shop on: hello@kingtonstmichaelvillageshop.co.uk.

NEXT NEWSLETTER EDITION

Please send your copy before noon on Friday 21st November to kingtonnews@gmail.com.



WE ARE HIRING



Kington St Michael Community Shop is seeking a dynamic, community minded manager to lead our thriving enterprise. This is a unique opportunity to make a meaningful impact, working alongside dedicated volunteers.

- Part time 20 Hrs a week, Monday to Friday
- £23,809 Full time equivalent
- Flexible working within business hrs 8.30am-6pm
- 20 days holiday plus public holidays (pro rata)
- Manage day-to-day operations of the community shop
- Oversee & help to recruit volunteer staff
- Maximise profit and customer footfall

INTERESTED?

Email
hello@kingtonstmichaelshop.co.uk
for more info.

Community Defibrillators



Our community defibrillators (one at The Jolly Huntsman and one at the school) are 14 years old and are now classed as obsolete; the one at the pub is currently out of commission.

The parish council has agreed to replace them both, taking over the responsibility from Linda Durno, who, with Avril Balmforth was instrumental in raising funds to purchase these for the benefit of the village after Avril's husband died of heart failure, at home, in March 2010.

The new defibrillators have been ordered and will now be suitable for both adults and children. There will be an update once the new defibrillators are in situ.

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Kington cafe



OCTOBER

Saturday 4th – Closed

Saturday 11th Open 9am-3pm

Pizza Night 5pm-8pm, available to eat in or takeaway.

Sunday 26th – Open 10am-2pm.

Breakfast served until 11am.

Sunday lunch available 12-2pm, Pre-booking is advised.

Tuesday 28th – Closed for a private lunch booking.

Thursday 30th – Closed for a family commitment.

NOVEMBER

Saturday 15th – Open 9am-3pm

Pizza Night 5pm-8pm, available to eat in or takeaway.

Sunday 30th – Open 10am-2pm

Breakfast served until 11am.

Sunday lunch available 12-2pm, Pre booking is advised.

Updates posted in café window and Facebook/Instagram.



Now taking orders for Brandy fed Christmas cakes and boned and rolled stuffed Turkey.



Christmas menu and availability coming soon...

You can place orders in the café or speak to Gavin/Lisa by calling 01294 750212

KINGTON CLUB NEWS

The club committee is happy to announce the installation of TNT sport, so you can watch all the autumn rugby internationals & mid-week Champions League games. This is only available in the back bar, so members are able to have a quiet drink in the front bar. Please do not forget monthly bingo on the first Tuesday of the month, and the Friday Feast Night takeaway or eat in.

EVENTS OCTOBER

Tuesday 7th, 6.30pm: BINGO NIGHT

Saturday 18th, 8pm: QUIZ NIGHT.

Friday 31st, 6.15pm - 8.30pm: KIDS

HALLOWEEN PARTY

(£2 per child).

EVENTS NOVEMBER

Saturday 1st, 3.10pm: RUGBY INTERNATIONAL - England V Australia.

Tuesday 4th, 6.30pm: BINGO NIGHT.

Saturday 8th, 3.10pm: RUGBY INTERNATIONAL

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Scotland V New Zealand, and 5.40pm

England V Fiji.

Sunday 9th, 3.10pm: RUGBY INTERNATIONAL -

Wales V Argentina.

Saturday 15th, 3.10pm: RUGBY

INTERNATIONAL -

England V New Zealand.

Saturday 15th, 8pm: QUIZ NIGHT.

Sunday 23rd, 4.10pm: RUGBY INTERNATIONAL

- England V Argentina

OPENING HOURS

Monday - Tuesday - Sunday 6pm - 10pm

Wednesday - Thursday - Saturday 6pm - 11pm

Friday 5pm - 11pm

KINGTON ST MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS CHURCH

Sunday Oct 5th morning praise 9.30 Harvest

Sunday Oct 12th Holy Communion 9.30

Thursday Oct 16 Holy Communion 10.0

Sunday Nov 2nd morning praise 9.30

Sunday Nov 9th Holy Communion 9.30 remembrance

Thursday Nov 20th Holy Communion 10.00



TEDDY BEAR PARACHUTE DAY

A HUGE "Thank you", on behalf of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) and organising team from this year's village teddy parachuting and family fun event at the church. An amazing £1,028.19 was raised, that will go towards the upkeep of our beautiful church.

In fourteen years of its running, these are the most funds ever raised - a fantastic achievement and a reflection of all the hard work that went into planning, setting up and managing this event.

Thank you to all who contributed to this record-breaking success by helping (before, during and after), donating, and everyone who came along to support.

KSM QE2 FIELD NEWS

BONFIRE & FIREWORKS, SATURDAY 1st NOVEMBER

Now that the nights are drawing in it will soon be time for the annual village bonfire and fireworks event at the QE2 Field!

Save the date for Saturday 1st November and watch out for more details coming soon on Facebook and on posters in the village, once tickets are available.

There will be food and refreshments, so bring plenty of cash on the night and enjoy an evening outdoors up at the field, with a spectacular firework display!

The hard-working organisers of this event are a small group of volunteers, so all extra pairs of hands to help with planning in advance and/or on the day and night are always needed and much appreciated.

Please email

ksmqe2fieldgroup@gmail.com if you can help.

Other QE2 Field news: The committee was delighted to have received approval from the Parish Council to go ahead with plans for a storage facility at the field. This will be a huge help in storing equipment required for events, including bonfire night. Thanks go to the PC for its support.

KSM BOOK SCHEME - INSPIRATION

Sue Cassell, who hosts Flexifit in the village hall on a Monday morning, would like to express her thanks to whoever donated the book by Julian Barnes 'The Sense of Ending' to the KSM book recycling scheme, situated in the shop foyer. She bought the book for 50p and was so struck by the quality of story-telling that it inspired her to write. She's now been shortlisted for the Bridport Literary Prize. All because a generous soul in KSM donated a book!

KINGTON ST MICHAEL WI

October 14th 2025

Murder in Wiltshire - Claire Mills

November 11th 2025

Dragonfly Mosaics - Denise

December 9th 2025

Christmas Entertainment - committee



VILLAGE CHRISTMAS FAYRE

SATURDAY 6th DECEMBER 10am - 1pm

October always seems a bit early to be thinking about Christmas, but make sure you save the date of the Christmas Fayre. It's the perfect time to buy some presents and meet up with friends over a hot chocolate and mince pie.

If you run a small craft or gift business and you would like to have a stall at the Christmas Fayre, please email ksmvillagehallsecretary@gmail.com.

Tables cost £10. grateful

The committee would be to receive any unwanted presents or donations for the tombola stall. Please drop them off at Joan Gilbert's house - 26 The Ridings. Thank you!

DOG FOULING

Sadly, there have again been reports of dog mess on the pavements in the village. This is the height of antisocial behaviour; please pick up the waste and put it in one of the many bins provided for this purpose on the high street. The latest culprits have failed to pick up at the bus stop by the phone box and a side gate near the public footpath running behind Paddock End. Please pay attention to your dog and where it's leaving 'little parcels' and act responsibly.