

## SHOPPERS BACK OUR APPEAL



WAITROSE Community Matters collection raised £482 for the Kennington Garden of Remembrance project. The money will be put towards replanting the borders. Spring bulbs have already been planted and a volunteer from Volunteering Ashford

has begun to catalogue the plants in the shrub border so a pruning guide can be created. It is hoped to plant a new hornbeam hedge this autumn. If you would like to help, please contact the Forum, 01233 611196, or Volunteering Ashford at [www.volunteering-ashford.org](http://www.volunteering-ashford.org).

# Water park given a warm welcome

**THE plan to transform Conningbrook Lakes into a country park has been given an enthusiastic welcome by clubs, activity groups and conservationists.**

They support the scheme which will provide water-based sports including canoeing, kayaking, wind surfing, dinghy sailing and angling.

There will be an extensive adventure play area and a waterside pub/restaurant is proposed, based on the existing manor house. There are also plans for a commercial zone.

The Willesborough Road project will be funded by an "enabling residential development" of 300 high quality houses on the land owned by the Brett Group.

Local residents will have an opportunity to express their views at an exhibition

## PROJECT TO BE FUNDED

### BY 300 NEW HOMES

early in the New Year. Details can also be seen online at [conningbrooklakes.info](http://conningbrooklakes.info) where you can comment on the project.

**A planning application is expected to be submitted by Brett in February. If it is approved the homes are likely to be built by several developers over a five year period.**

As the park has to be entirely self-financing, with low running costs and maintenance, it will be several years before it is fully developed.

It is hoped the first public access will be in spring 2013.

Brett is working with the highway authori-

ties to investigate implications of extra traffic created by the development.

The transformation of the former aggregates site has been developed by Ashford council and the Brett Group in partnership with clubs, activity groups, community groups, nature conservationists and the Environment Agency.

Kent Wildlife Trust has played an important role in advising on the design.

The park will contribute to biodiversity through the enhancement of wildlife habitats along a stretch of the Stour and will provide new links to established public rights of way and cycle routes.

The lakes will retain their status as an angling venue of national significance.


Combined with the Julie Rose stadium the site will be able to stage events at county and regional levels.

## An invitation to EVERYONE from the Scouts

KENNINGTON Scouts have issued an open invitation to residents to visit their new Community Hall in Lower Vicarage Road. The Rev Canon Roger Martin, chair of the fundraising committee, said: "The day after the official opening is Remembrance Sunday and we would like people to come to the hall following the Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial. We will be aiming to have some hot drinks available." The hall will be fully functional when work to install the sustainable energy system has been completed.



On the run: Competitors speed through Kennington in the Givaudan 10k road race Picture ANTHONY BAINES

 KENNINGTON Community Forum represents the views of people living and working in Kennington and communicates those views to Ashford council and other statutory organisations. It is an independent, voluntary group with its own constitution.

THE Forum is led by a Core Group comprising the Chair, Treasurer, Secretary and up to nine other members. It is supported by an officer from Ashford Council.

ANYONE who lives in Kennington will be very welcome at the Forum's meetings which are held every two months at St Mary's Community Hall, Rylands Road.

**Next meeting:**  
**29 November, 7.30pm**

*Kennington News is published quarterly.*  
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## YOUR CHANCE TO BE A SCHOOL GOVERNOR

PHOENIX Community Primary School in Belmont Road, Kennington, needs people over the age of 18 to join its team of school governors. There are no formal qualifications needed to be a governor, just an interest in the school, ICT skills, finance (or accounting), the ability to interpret data, enthusiasm

and the time to commit to the role. Governors work with the headteacher to ensure that children receive the best education possible. For more information please contact Yvonne Pucknall, clerk to the governors, on 01233 622510 who will send you an information pack, or go to

www.kent.gov.uk/education and follow the menu for Education and Learning/School Governors. Any successful applicant will need to undergo an enhanced CRB check.  
● There is a vacancy for a parent governor at Downs View Infants. If you would like more information please call 01233 632339

## Ready for the challenge

KENNINGTON Forum is well placed to take an active role in shaping future local development, chairman Chris Morley told the annual general meeting. But he warned the scale of the challenge should not be underestimated.

He said the Localism Bill, and a continuing push from central government for the Big Society to make a difference, could lead to increased risks that poor decisions will be made while new structures are implemented.

"A strong, and vibrant Core group will be essential if we are to con-

Officers elected at the AGM: Chair, Chris Morley; Secretary, Sandra Dunn; Treasurer, Chris Woolgar; Core group: Robin and Jill Britcher, Ian Milbery, Yvonne Freeman.  
*Another five can be co-opted.*

tinue to be effective," he added. Mr Morley said that during the year the Forum had been actively involved in many planning matters. "We have put forward strong arguments against a large-scale proposal for development of 600 homes by Bovis. We have opposed

applications for 'back garden' developments and taken part in appeal hearings.

"We have supported other applications for housing, sport and leisure where these have seemed beneficial, not least the redevelopment of the former Golden Ball pub. We are participating in the consultation for design of the Conningbrook Lakes Park and for the new primary school at Goat Lees."

"The Core group has continued with projects to improve our area, including further work on the Memorial Shelter and Garden of Remembrance, preliminary work on the Jubilee Pump in Upper Vicarage Road, participating in the BTCV Heritage Trees project and we have obtained permission from ABC to set aside areas of Spearpoint Recreation Ground for a bio-diversity programme."

The Forum is liaising regularly with the three other urban forums.

**NEW HAYESBANK** surgery is providing a new service which allows patients to book and cancel advance routine appointments online. You need to register by filling in a form, handing it to Reception and provide proof of identity. You will be told how to create a user name and password. A separate account must be created for each family member. Details 01233 624642.

★ A couple who had two bottles of milk stolen from outside their front door in Kennington were asked by police investigating the theft if they needed counselling.

MESSY CHURCH, which puts the emphasis on family fun, craft activities, worship and eating a meal together, has begun at St Mary's Community Centre, Rylands Road. The Rev Richard King said: "We had 40 people ranging from youngsters to grandparents. Each month activities will be based

around a particular theme." It is hoped to attract families who would not normally go to church. The next Messy Church is on Sunday 13 November, from 4-5.30pm. A YOUTH CLUB has opened at the centre for 11-14 year-olds. Thursdays 6-8pm.



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## Pudding and pies

TWO festive events are being held as part of the drive to raise £150,000 for urgent repairs to St Mary's Church, Westwell: a pudding party at 83 Sandyhurst Lane on 29 Nov, 7pm, (tickets £10 on the door) and on 20 Dec Christmas music and readings at Godinton House, with mulled wine and mince pies. Tickets £10 from Heather Absalom 01233 714667.

PEOPLE without fast broadband should register their interest so internet service suppliers can judge the demand. At the moment only BT is supplying 40Mb broadband. Other ISPs are expected to begin rolling it out soon with AOL starting in the spring.

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The future's warm

## Victory over garden grab

THE fight to stop a "back garden" development in Grosvenor Road has been won. Chailey Homes wanted to demolish Rosedene and build two semi-detached houses, a bungalow and three chalet bungalows on land behind Numbers 127/129. Following an appeal an inspector upheld the decision by Ashford council to refuse the application. The inspector said it would be out of character with its surroundings; there would be problems involving parking on the narrow road and the development would conflict with the Local Plan which ensures proposals are of a good design and do not result in "town or village cramming".

### STREET APPEAL

**AN APPEAL** by Skillcrown Homes against the council's refusal to allow Little Acre, 80 The Street, to be demolished and six homes built on its land will be heard at the Civic Centre, on 13 December. More than 100 residents, borough and county councillors and the Forum oppose the application.

**TICKETS** are still available for the WI trip on 21 Dec to the Thursford Christmas Spectacular. Call Gill Whitling 01233 633550. Other events: *Shopping trip to Tunbridge Wells*, 7 Dec (details Ursula Jones 620620); *Christmas Bazaar*, WI Hall, 3 Dec (2pm). *Aladdin*, written and produced by Brenda Lunn, will be on 27 and 28 January. Tickets 01233 646695.

**NOT** quite Time Team, perhaps, but the recent archaeological report on the Goat Lees School site in Trinity Road produced some interesting insights into Kennington's past. The survey by Wessex Archaeology included digging nineteen trenches, each 15m by 1.8m. Four archaeological features have been found including two pits from the mediaeval period, and two pot rims have been dated to as early as the 12th century. Environmental samples from one of the pits uncovered quantities

## Digging up the past

of cereal remains, including grains of free-threshing wheat and barley, together with seeds of celtic bean and pea. Free-threshing wheat became common in Southern England only within the Saxon and mediaeval period, and the presence of this is compatible with the mediaeval dating. The combination of plant

types and other finds such as fragments of mediaeval ceramic roof tile and a piece of bone from a domestic fowl means there is good evidence for a settlement in the area at this time. It's intriguing to think that this south-facing slope of Goat Lees, with access to water from Kennington Brook, was being farmed a thousand years ago. The archaeological finds are on the southern part of the site, which is to be the school's sports field, and any further features will remain undisturbed. CM

**T**HE Kent Heritage Trees Project has got off to an excellent start in Kennington. Following an appeal for the whereabouts of ancient and historic trees in the last issue of *Kennington News*, we have been able to add more information to the database being compiled by the project. There is a magnificent 400 year old sweet chestnut; a venerable apple tree; old yew trees; a fine field maple and a lovely black mulberry. The project is running for five years so there is plenty of time for more trees to be added. If you know of any old, rare or historic trees



please let Jill Britcher know, 01233 634410. Following our plea for information about the tree planted to commemorate the Festival of Britain, Peter Huckstepp has identified the oak as being near the footpath from Church Road to the recreation ground. See above. He remem-

bers it being planted. Peter also said that one of the other oaks on the Rec was planted for the coronation of Edward VII. He placed this as third tree on the right as you enter from Church Road. Mrs Stace, of Canterbury Road, who is 96, said there was an oak tree near the school playground planted to commemorate Queen Victoria. This may have been felled, but research continues. Kennington Community Forum is planning to plant a tree next year to commemorate the Queen's Jubilee. It is hoped that all the commemorative trees will then be marked by plaques.

## Sure-fire fun

**SURE STEP'S** Children's Centre teamed up for a week of activities with Phoenix Community School. The main topic was ecology with older children working towards "School University" accreditation. They were joined by representatives from the cycling charity Sustrans, the Police, Fire Service and Ashford council. In addition to eco art and craft, pond dipping and bug hunts the week included a trip to Bedgebury Forest and a "What do you want to be when you grow up?"

event at Bockhanger Community Centre which attracted more than 100 people. If you have children aged 0-5 and are not registered with your free, local, fun children's centre call 01233 624857.

**BETTER** bus services in Kennington and Little Burton are needed, say many residents. County councillor Elizabeth Tweed is making inquiries.

**THE OLD MILL**, formerly the Golden Ball, in Canterbury Road, now hopes to re-open in March. The former Ex-Servicemen's club in Ulley Road is still on the market.

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**WW1**

**ALEXANDER JENNINGS** was the only son of farmer and landowner William Jennings of Kennington Hall. He was studying in Zurich for an engineering degree when war broke out and wanted to return home and join up. His father persuaded him to stay and take the examination. An hour after it ended Alex was on a

train heading home. He joined the Royal Field Artillery and was wounded at Gallipoli. Later, while recovering from typhoid, he took private flying lessons with the intention of joining the RFC. But he was turned down because of his size: 6ft 2in and 14 stone. After taking part in the great bombardment before the Battle of the Somme Alex was finally accepted by the RFC. On 7 April 1917 his plane was shot down over enemy lines. It was thought he had been taken prisoner but four months later a message was dropped from a German plane stating that he had been killed. Alex was 22.



**As Remembrance Day approaches we tell the stories behind some of the names on Kennington War Memorial**

**WW1**

**ARTHUR TAYLOR** lived in Cuckoo Cottages, Lower Vicarage Road, and sang in the church choir. Before joining the Navy he worked for Headley the grocer and later at Ashford Railway Works. He enlisted at Chatham in

August 1915 and after serving as a signal boy was drafted to HMS Natal. On 30 December 1915 while at anchor at Cromarty Firth the captain and his wife were hosting a party for civilians, nurses and children when a series of explosions tore through the ship. More than 400 of those on board were killed, including Arthur. It is believed the explosion was caused when faulty cordite ignited ammunition. Arthur was 18.

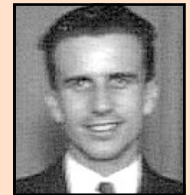
**WW2**

**JIMMY ALLCHIN** lived with his parents and sisters at The Homestead in Church Road and went to Ashford grammar school. He

joined the RAF but when he came home for his 21st birthday he did not say operational flights were about to begin. A week later, on 7 November 1941, he was co-pilot of a Whitley bomber which took off from an airfield in Yorkshire with 169 other aircraft to bomb Berlin. He never returned. It is believed his plane ran out of fuel and crashed in the North Sea. James Allchin Gardens on the Little Burton estate is named in his memory.

**WW2**

**FRANK HOLLANDS'** boyhood home was St Kilda, in Faversham Road. He was an assistant public health inspector and played cricket for Kennington. He married Jean Ruff at St Mary's Church, Eastwell and they lived at Old Saddler's, Kempe's Corner. Frank joined the RAF and was captured by the Japanese in Singapore. He was forced to work on the Burma-Siam railway where 13,000 pris-



oners of war died of disease, sickness, starvation and brutality. Frank died in the camp hospital at Chungshai on 23 August 1943. The shock of his death caused Jean to lose the baby she was expecting. Frank was 29.

**WW1**

**ALBERT KNIGHT** lived in Canterbury Road and worked for an Ashford timber merchant. He enlisted in The Buffs in December 1915. He was wounded a few months after arriving in France and spent a month in hospital in England. On his return to the Front he won the Military Medal for leading a party to rescue



six men buried in No Man's Land when a shell exploded. Albert was killed on the Somme in August 1917. He was 23.

**WW2**

**DAISY MERCER** was a talented arts teacher and the youngest of four daughters brought up at The Knoll, in Ulley Road. Daisy and her sister ran a private school at The Knoll for several years. She played a leading role in Kennington WI drama productions and produced the Kennington



Pageant of 1935. Daisy helped design costumes at the Old Vic Theatre in

London and after a two-year course at Bromley Arts College she took up an appointment at Southampton School of Art. On 6 November 1940 she was teaching a class of 13-year-old girls when a bomb ripped through the roof and exploded in the basement air raid shelter killing Daisy, 14 children and several other adults. Daisy was 38.

## YOUR KENNINGTON CONTACTS

### COUNTY COUNCILLORS:

Elizabeth Tweed (Ashford Central) 01233 714689 elizabeth.tweed@kent.gov.uk  
Andrew Wickham (Ashford Rural East) 01233 840902 andrew.wickham@kent.gov.uk

### ASHFORD BOROUGH COUNCILLORS:

**Kennington:** Philip Sims 01233 627603 philip.sims01@gmail.com  
**Bockhanger:** Michael Claughton 01233 635969 michael.claughton@ntlworld.com  
**Bybrook:** Andrew Buchanan 01233 627696 andrewjohnbuchanan@hotmail.com  
**Little Burton:** Marion Martin 01233 628811 marionmartin168@btinternet.com

### NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICE OFFICERS:

**Kennington:** Pc Mandy Surgenor 07772 226133  
**Bybrook and Little Burton:** PCSO Nikki Relf 07772 226206  
**Eureka Park, Bockhanger, Trinity Rd area:** PCSO Selina Lawrence 07772 226098  
**POLICE INCIDENT LINE:** 01622 690690  
**KENT HIGHWAYS:** 08458 247800  
**ASHFORD PARKING SERVICES:** 01233 330641  
**REV. RICHARD KING :** 01233 623334

### NEW HAYESBANK SURGERY: 01233

624642 Mon 8.15am- 8pm; Tues 8.15am-6pm; Wed 7am-6pm; (Closed 1st Wed pm of each month for training) Thurs 7am-6pm; Fri 8.15am-6pm (pm emergencies).

### FORUM: Chris Morley, chair, 01233 611196

chris.f.morley@gmail.com.  
Sandra Dunn, secretary, 01233 634165 sandradunn@sky.com.

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