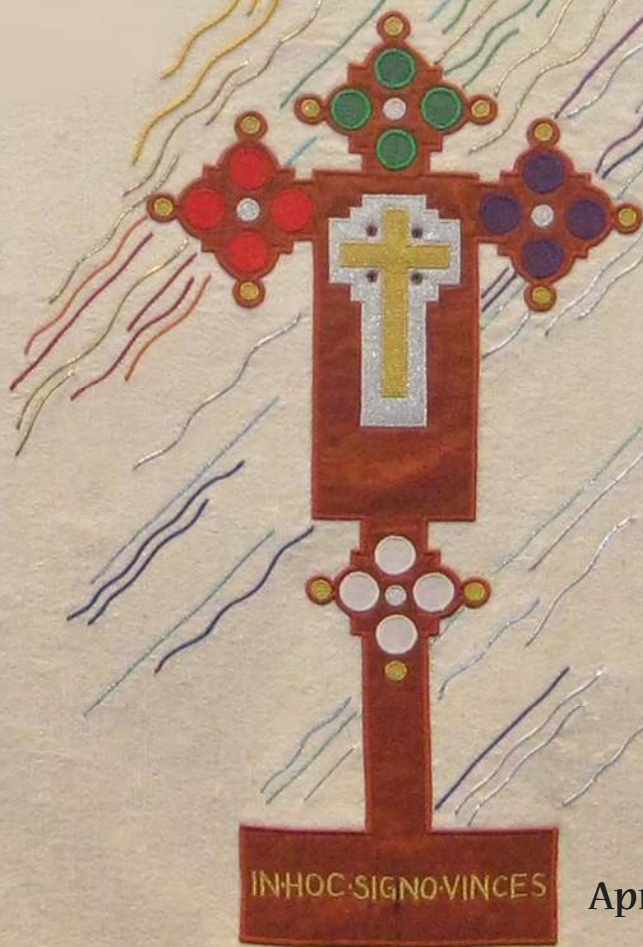
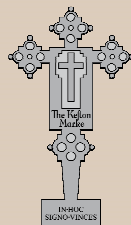


The Keston Magazine

News of your Parish and Village



April/May 2019

Keston Parish Church

Church Rd., Keston, BR2 6HT kestonparishchurch.org.uk



Rector

The Rev'd Carol Morrison 01689 853186

email: cfmorrison@sky.com

Days working for Keston Parish: Sunday to Wednesday

Licensed Lay Minister

Tricia Coward 01689 854373

email: kestonconsult@btconnect.com

Churchwardens

Martin Becker 01689 857673

John Molnar 07709 818073

Verger

Patricia Geiger 01959 574008

Parish Secretary Heather Molnar 020 87774669

email: hevamolnar@aol.com

Treasurer Anna Bailey 01689 852583

Organist & Choirmaster David Cook 020 8289 5768

Church Hall email: hallbookings@kestonparishchurch.org.uk

Messy Church Tricia Coward 01689 854373

Magazine Editor Sally Churchus 020 8462 8750

email: editor@kestonparishchurch.org.uk

Book Reading Fellowship Sally Churchus 020 8462 8750

Keston Singers Pam Robertson 01689 856318

Beavers/Cubs/Scouts www.27thbromley.org.uk

Women's Institute email: tonia.cc@blueyonder.co.uk

Residents' Association www.kvra.org.uk

Village Hall Tina Lupton 01689 859906

Bless the Children John Goldby 01689 851000

Welcare in Bromley Caroline Cook 020 8289 5768

Keston C.E. Primary School Julia Evison 01689 858399

Friends of Keston Common High Elms Country Park 01689 862815

website: www.friendsofkestoncommon.btck.co.uk

Keston Residents' Road Safety Group email: krrsg@hotmail.com

Front cover: Keston Church altar frontal © Carol Morrison

Jesus said to them, "The Son of Man is about to be handed over to men who will kill him; but three days later he will be raised to life". *Matthew 17:22-23*

Thought for the month



Love Your Necklace!

There's nothing like a piece of jewellery to enhance an outfit. Probably the most popular item ever is a little silver cross, which goes with nearly everything – and it comes with a wealth of meaning.

Maybe it was a gift for a special occasion such as a birthday, or Confirmation, or perhaps it was from someone special and so may hold memories of people we love or of special events. In almost every jewellers there are crowded displays of crosses in gold or silver. Perhaps we saved up to buy the best, maybe with a precious stone or diamond in. Gold and silver, unlike most other materials, never rot or rust. It can lie in a drawer for years, or, dropped in a river, it might be found centuries later still almost perfect.

No wonder with all those qualities that the cross on the chain is much loved. Yet we know that the cross is really an instrument of torture, a way of delivering a slow and painful death. And we wouldn't wear one of those

on a chain round our necks. So why is it so popular worldwide? The answer is that so much good to mankind resulted from the death of Jesus on the cross.

When talking about this article recently, someone mentioned that they had been given a crucifix on a chain for their 21st birthday. However, as their faith deepened they began thinking more about how the story actually ends with Jesus rising from the dead, and decided to have a jeweller remove the figure of Jesus from their crucifix and make good the surface of their cross.

At Easter time as well as remembering God's great love for us in sending his only son to die for our sins so that we can be reconciled to him, we also celebrate that Jesus is no longer on the cross but has risen bringing the hope of eternal life. Do join us in our worship at Keston church this Easter.

Sally Churchus, based on an article by Colin Reeves from the Association for Church Editors.

Cover Story

The front cover photo is of the altar frontal in Keston Parish Church, an enlargement of part of a photo of the altar taken by the Rev'd Carol Morrison. The altar frontal was specially designed by a leading Christian fabric designer and donated in memory of Pam Coombs in 2003. It features the Keston Marke with the words “In Hoc Signo Vinces”, (In this sign shalt thou conquer), which appears in the church engraved on the altar and in other places. Previously it featured on the sign of the Mark Inn at the crossroads formed by Croydon Road and Westerham Road. The word “Marke” is derived from the Anglo Saxon word “Mearce”, meaning a boundary. The Keston Mark was originally a symbol to denote a boundary between two communities and a stone or post would be set up to guide and warn the stranger

of what penalty he might have to pay for violating this boundary. Because such a mark was a dangerous place and one where criminals were executed, superstitions became attached to it which often persisted down the centuries. It has been suggested that the clergy sought to divert some superstitious notion about the Keston Mark to the Christian mark of the Cross by connecting the cross of Christ with the Mark. As the dedication of the church is unknown, it is good to have a special symbol instead!



Keston Church 2018 Charitable Giving

Every year we hope to give 10% of our unrestricted net income to charities chosen by the Parochial Church Council. For 2018, the following charities were selected:

Payments made

Sponsored Child – Ema in Kenya	£90
33% of profit for 2019 Keston Calendar to Keston Residents’ Association	£212
50% of Baptism receipts with Gift Aid: Welcare in Bromley	£236
Demelza Hospice Care for Children	£235
50% of Christmas collections 23 rd -25 th December with Gift Aid to St. Mungo’s Broadway charity for the homeless	£284
Rochester Cathedral	£10

Collections given direct to charity

The Children’s Society (collected during the Christingle Service)	£164
Christian Aid (collection in church 26/8/18 including 25% Gift Aid)	£183.75
The Royal British Legion including 25% Gift Aid	£190.53

Total: £1,605.28

Keston Church Car Park Improvement

In 1937 half of the triangular piece of land bordered by Rectory Road, Church Road and Westerham Road was gifted to the church (approx. 1¼ acres). During World War II it was let out for allotments free of charge as part of the 'war effort'. In 1955 the existing car park was created and doubtless considered adequate to meet the everyday needs of the church at the time! The rest of the site was overrun by self-seeded sycamores which grew tall and spindly. High winds and storms brought down the weaker specimens, so opening up the centre of the site. Brambles, bindweed and ivy invaded the area and this part of the 'Green Belt' has become the absolute mess it is today and a magnet for fly-tipped rubbish.

In 2016, the serious lack of car parking in the vicinity of the church persuaded the PCC an enlarged car park would be a real service to the community. The narrow lanes used to park cars posed particular risks for the elderly and disabled; mothers and children were also at risk when attending Messy Church or children's parties if they had to decant children into the middle of the lanes.

In April 2017 a planning application was submitted and an Arboricultural Report requested by the planning department was obtained from Quaipe Woodlands. The application was refused by the planning department under a 'Delegated Decision' because "The proposal is not acceptable in that it is inappropriate development in the

Green Belt and no very special circumstances have been demonstrated that clearly outweighed the harm by reason of inappropriateness. The proposal would result in a significant loss of amenity to local residents and impact detrimentally on the character of the area and the woodland setting".

We obviously disagreed with that assessment and went to Appeal. The Inspector appointed by the Secretary of State refused our Appeal which was another blow! Her conclusions were: "24. Inappropriate development is, by definition, harmful to the Green Belt and should not be approved except in very special circumstances.

25. I have given moderate weight to the support received and the positive impact of reducing the level of parking in the surrounding roads and limited weight to other considerations. However I consider that the harm to the Green Belt and the harm to the character and appearance of the area are not clearly outweighed either individually or cumulatively by other considerations sufficient to demonstrate the very special circumstances that are necessary to justify inappropriate development of the Green Belt".

Frank E. Netscher

To be continued in the next issue



100 Not Out!



Congratulations to Cyril Perrin who celebrated his 100th birthday on February 16th in the Irvine Unit, the rehabilitation centre attached to Bexhill Hospital. Cyril's home is in Bexhill, but whenever he visits his daughter, Jan, in Keston he attends services at Keston Parish Church.

The celebration was held in the conservatory of the Irvine Unit, which was decorated with bunting and balloons and a wonderful spread of food, plenty of champagne and a lovely birthday cake – fortunately not with 100 candles! Cyril received lots of gifts and birthday cards, and a very special card from Queen Elizabeth II. Cyril was very pleased to receive a card signed by many of our parishioners.



There were friends from Cyril's own church of St. Michael and All Angels, Bexhill, from Biggin Hill RAF Chapel and from Keston Parish Church in attendance and a good time was had by all – Cyril certainly enjoyed himself.

Thank you, Jan, for organising such a special celebration.

Eileen Davies

BBC to run a 'Year of Beliefs'

The BBC is going to 'shine a light' on faith and spiritual values in Britain today by running a year of programmes dedicated to religion and ethics. The move comes after the BBC promised to 'raise our game' in the way that it treated religion following a review of its religious and ethics output. So what series should we look out for? On BBC

1, *Earth's Sacred Wonders* will look at the rituals and monuments of faith around the world; *Medical Ethics* will be a documentary filmed at Great Ormond Street Hospital; and *Pregnant and Platonic* will be a documentary on people who have children without being in a romantic relationship. On BBC 2, *Inside the Vatican* will show a year in the life of the Vatican community, including Pope Francis; and the popular *Pilgrimage* series will return.

My Faith Journey

Standing in all its glory, on the banks of the River Thames, is All Saints' church, Isleworth, the attractive medieval stone tower rising above all else. The church, rebuilt in 1705, was sadly destroyed by arson in 1943. A temporary church was built within the old walls, and this is the place I hold so close to my heart, for this is where I grew in my faith as a child.

Born and brought up in Twickenham, Middlesex, my faith journey began as far back as I can remember. I was christened at the age of four, when my mother gave me a little book entitled "My First Book of Prayers", and she taught me how to pray. I was confirmed at the age of twelve.

Every Sunday, we went to the Holy Communion service at All Saints', and then my brother, sister and I would go along to Sunday school in the afternoon. Following a walk by the river, or a stroll in Richmond Park, we would finish the day with Evensong at 6.30pm.

We went to the Church of England Primary school attached to All Saints', and here we had a daily assembly involving prayers and a lot of hymn singing, "Onward Christian Soldiers" being the favourite!

As I grew older, I joined my father, brother and sister, in regular bell ringing. My father was a good tenor

ringer, but I never progressed much beyond the treble! We practised every Friday and rang the bells for the morning and evening services.

At eighteen, I followed my longing to enter the nursing profession, and started my training in Redhill, Surrey. I loved it, but nothing could have prepared me for the suffering of others, or the enormous responsibility it entailed. I regularly attended the hospital chapel and was grateful for the Christian Union which was led by the Rev'd Ruddock, who

gave us young students comfort and encouragement, keeping us in the knowledge and faith of Christ. I have fond memories of Christmas Eves carol singing around the wards with our red capes and torches. It was very moving.

After qualifying and working as a Sister for some time, I married and

went on to have three beautiful children. We then moved to the coastal town of Whitehaven, Cumbria, where I attended St. John's church. I was grateful for the support and prayers of Father John Kelly, who kept my faith alive during some difficult times.

In 1992, after several moves, the children and I came to settle in Keston. During this time, my church attendance had severely lapsed, though I had never lost sight of God, and in 1995, we found Keston Church. What a blessing!

Jenny Erian



Experience is something you don't get until just after you need it

Obituary

Doreen Allen 6/1/1929 – 27/12/2018

Doreen was born in Hartlepool, the youngest of five children. She grew up in the town and was married to John in 1953 at the beautiful local church, St. Hilda's, where she also acted as a Sunday School teacher.

Doreen qualified as a State Registered Nurse, Midwife and Operating Theatre Assistant. She elected to take her training as a Midwife at the Glasgow Royal Infirmary. In what turned out to be a very busy unit, during her time there Doreen delivered twice the number of babies necessary to pass the practical part of her qualification. However, she also contracted TB and had to spend six months recovering in a sanatorium back near the family home in Hartlepool.

With John and their two children, Mike and Drew, Doreen settled in Keston Gardens in 1960, the house she remained in for nearly 60 years. The move proved to be a very happy one for all the family. Keston Gardens also attracted many other families with young children of a similar age. With much in common, Doreen and family quickly made many friendships that became close and life-long bonds.

Keston village life suited Doreen very well and many more enduring friendships were made through Keston Parish Church, and nearly 50 years membership of the local lady's choir under the leadership of Pam Robertson, another great friend. Initially the

ensemble was called the Keston Young Wives Choir. Years later, with so many of its original members still enjoying the fraternity of community singing, it always amused Doreen to point out that the choir had reluctantly chosen to drop the 'Young' from its name.

In the early Keston days Doreen took on a voluntary role as a field worker for the Adoption Society. Liaising with young mothers and adopting families, she covered many miles throughout Kent and to the organisation's HQ in Kings Cross in her black Morris Minor.

Walking, along with singing was another great passion and often at the same time! Doreen always marvelled that a walk could start right from her front door and that minutes later she could be passing by the Fishponds and onwards around the parish boundaries. These pleasures and many others provided

by village life were key reasons why Doreen always felt happy and fortunate to be living in Keston.

Doreen and John both joined the National Association of Decorative and Fine Arts (NADFAS). For many years Doreen acted as projectionist for visiting lecturers and also enjoyed working in a series of voluntary roles at the National Maritime Museum, The Fan Museum and latterly in the press office of the Tate Britain.

Doreen leaves Mike, Drew and two granddaughters, Hayley and Rosie (Mike's daughters).

Much loved and missed.

Drew Allen



Church Services

CW = Common Worship H & W = With prayer for Healing & Wholeness

7th April

8.00am

10.00am

5th Sunday of Lent

Holy Communion (1662)

First Sunday Service – non Communion

(Shorter all age service)

14th April

10.00am

Palm Sunday

Holy Communion (CW)

18th April

8.00pm

Maundy Thursday

Holy Communion (CW) preceded by Bring & Share meal at 6pm

19th April

10.40am

Good Friday

Service preceded by Walk of Witness from Village Sign at 10am

Tea and coffee with hot cross buns in church hall afterwards

2.45pm

Quiet reflection

21st April

10.00am

Easter Day

Holy Communion (CW) H & W with lighting of Paschal candle and renewal of Baptismal vows

28th April

10.00am

2nd Sunday of Easter

Holy Communion (CW)

5th May

8.00am

10.00am

3rd Sunday of Easter

Holy Communion (1662)

First Sunday Service – non Communion

(Shorter all age service)

12th May

10.00am

4th Sunday of Easter

Holy Communion (CW)

19th May

10.00am

5th Sunday of Easter

Holy Communion (CW) H & W

26th May

10.00am

6th Sunday of Easter

Holy Communion (CW)

From the Registers

Funeral

22nd January Doreen Allen (aged 89 yrs)

5th February Celebration of the life of Michael Anthony Paulding (aged 85 yrs)

Interment of Ashes

17th February Jonathan Edward Brownlee (aged 66 yrs)

A variety of ways to help us grow



Sunday Morning Services

From 2nd June on the first Sunday of each month at 10.00am we will gather in church for a Communion Service that is shorter (approx. 40mins), with less traditional hymns and specifically tailored for the whole family. There will be opportunities for the children to join in and help with

elements of the service as well as join their friends in doing some colouring on the theme of the service. The other Sundays are a bit more traditional and usually last approximately an hour – we welcome everyone. On the third Sunday of each month we offer prayer for Healing and Wholeness during the service – anyone is welcome to go for this. We always have tea, coffee and lovely biscuits after every service with time to chat and be community.

Silent Meditation

On the third Monday of each month at 7.30pm we get together at the church or sometimes in the lobby, for a time of reflection and silence. All newcomers are given instruction on how we spend our silent time – which is simply saying one calming word repetitively and silently to still our thoughts and refresh us.

Silence, and particularly Meditation has been found to be beneficial for lowering blood pressure, improving sleep and helping with stress, anxiety, depression and addictions. In a world full of noise and activity, Silent Meditation can teach us to be still and in touch with our inner being.



in faith at Keston Parish Church



'Growing Together' Bible Fellowship Group

We will gather at the Rectory 40, The Dale, Keston at 7.30pm for an 8pm start on the 4th Tuesday of the month beginning on 25th June. We will start with tea and coffee and a chat – catching up and getting to know each other. This will be followed by a time of worship – maybe

simply listening to a piece of music, and then explore a passage from the Bible together. We will share our thoughts remembering that we are all learning and none of us knows all there is to know about God! We will then take a short time to be silent with what we have discussed and end by saying some simple prayers – maybe praying for each other. We aim to finish at 9.30pm.

Prayer Walk

On the first Tuesday of each month we meet at 9.30am on the field opposite the Greyhound Pub for our prayer walk – we start with a simple prayer and then proceed to walk and chat as we make our way across Keston Common. We stop a couple of times for prayers that are creation themed, taking the time to appreciate the natural environment and water and wildlife around us. We end our walk in the Greyhound Pub where we have tea and coffee. You would be welcome to join us, either at the start for a few minutes, or at the Greyhound at 10.45am if you would rather not walk. Rev'd Carol will be able to chat to you at this time if you have anything you would like to discuss.





Book Reading Fellowship

This small informal group meets about every 6 weeks to chat about the books we have read with some Christian content. We choose our own books, all reading something different, either from the church library or that belong to us. We meet at 2pm on a Monday afternoon and enjoy tea and homemade cake. Our next meeting will be on 13th May, newcomers are welcome. Further details from Sally Churchus 020 8462 8750 or sally.churchus@btinternet.com.



Midweek Communion

This will be in the church at 10.30am on the 2nd Wednesday of each month beginning on 12th June. It is a quieter, more reflective service than the Sunday services, and gives us the opportunity to enjoy the stillness of this beautiful ancient building. Receiving Holy Communion can be a very personal thing and give us a sense of being close to God. Some people find this easier when the pace is slowed down and there is room for quiet.



Messy Church

We continue to run a lively, fun Messy Church approximately every 6 weeks on a Tuesday afternoon between 3.30pm and 6.00pm in Keston Church Hall. We do several crafts on a Bible theme, have a short time in church when we sing and pray and then we enjoy high tea together. Our next meeting is on 21st May. Everyone is welcome!

Famous Author Visits Keston

Henry Williamson is most famous for his 'Tarka the Otter' book, written in 1927. The nature story is set in Devon in the land surrounding the Taw and the Torridge rivers. However, much of the inspiration for his novels came from his early years in North Kent.



Colfe Field Club visit to Keston Ponds on 16th July 1910.
Henry Williamson is holding the stick in the front row

He was born in Brockley and educated at Colfe's School in Lewisham. He was classed as a dreamer who would never achieve a successful career and consequently suffered caning from the Headmaster and thrashings from his father. Initially he sought solitude in the local countryside but once he had a bike he was able to go further to Keston and the Darent Valley. He joined the Colfe Field Club and had his photo taken with them while visiting Keston Ponds on 16th July 1910. The school magazine recorded a very enjoyable day when the ponds provided an apparently never ending supply for the naturalists and the aquarium at the school.

The young Henry wished to explore the private woodlands of Keston, and with the help of a library book on etiquette, he wrote formal letters to each of the owners of the estates. In every case he received a generous response and also a card signed by the Dowager Countess of Derby, granting entry to Holwood Park.

"Once, talking to the bailiff of Keston Home Farm, I saw a black vehicle approaching in absolute silence. It was driven by a heavy man with a large face and moustache, wearing a cloth cap with a dark town suit. Beside him sat an old lady in widow's weeds and floppy black hat. The electric brougham stopped. Off came my cap, for the driver was what the bailiff called the Lord of All, with his mother the Dowager Countess. They asked about the birds I had seen before they drove down the lane towards High Elms, where lived Lord Avebury, who had also given me leave to wander in his woods with my five-shilling Brownie".

Within a year or two Henry was marching through the woods around Ypres, and wrote a detailed account of the famous Christmas Truce in 1914 in a letter to his Headmaster at Colfe's.

Based on an article by Fred Shepherd in Bygone Kent. Subscriptions to Bygone Kent are available from bygonekent.org.uk

A Buzz in the Air



Although now being the most common and widespread UK bird of prey after thriving in the last few years, the Common Buzzard is undeniably still a very majestic sight when seen soaring high in the skies. Being a keen wildlife enthusiast, it gave me quite a 'buzz' (excuse the pun!) to see four of them flying high in the sky above Keston on 8th March. Watching from my back garden in Ravensbourne Park, I started observing the four of them gliding in a circular pattern over Padmall Wood after hearing their unmistakable call, (referred to by the RSPB as 'cat-like', but personally I can't see why). During the next five minutes or so they gained height rapidly with hardly any need to move their wings, seemingly riding a thermal updraft which took them high above Keston Park, although it did seem a bit too cold for such an occurrence to be the cause of their rapid ascent. Definitely worth keeping an eye (and an ear) out for in the coming weeks if you happen to be an avid birdwatcher! Often heard before being seen, their call can be identified here: <https://www.british-birdsongs.uk/common-buzzard/>

Robert Humphreys

Cleaner Wanted

A cleaner for Keston Church Hall is needed for about 2+ hours a week, this is a paid post. Please contact Rev'd Carol on cfmorrison@sky.com or Tel: 01689 853186 if you are interested.

Keston Church APCM

Everyone interested in the life of the church is welcome to our APCM at 11.30am on Sunday 28th April in the church hall, to be followed by a lunch of homemade soup and ploughman's for £7 for those who would like it.

Use it or Lose it!

Please remember to support Keston Village Stores – it is a great asset to the community and if everyone buys a few things it all adds up. Hot drinks are now available, with seating outside for all.

Shop locally, invest in your village, walk in that door you always pass, slow down, be a tourist in your own village, find the value in the cost, discuss the weather, learn the name of the person at the till, look up and admire the view, love where you live, invest in your future.
www.totally-locally.co.uk

Where am I?



Answer on page 18.

What I Do

Time for a little Trompe L'oeil?

Having lived in Downe and Keston Mark for the last 40 years and worked in the City of London for 44 years before retiring some years ago, the long awaited play time has finally arrived.

My father hand built a grand vintage style pedal car for me, to the envy of all my friends, complete with wire spoked inflatable tyred wheels! Maybe this was a portent for what would follow in later life for me...

During my first year as a student at St. Thomas' a lecturer offered me my first car – £15 for a 1936 Austin 12/4 Ascot limousine – rakishly Al Capone or Bonnie and Clyde in the swinging sixties!

Now this seed of vintage interest that had germinated laid dormant for the 'sensible years' of family life until the approach of retirement. What vintage car should I now have ?

Shock realisation.... If only I had been able to keep that Austin! Anything racy was unaffordable and I was keen to have something like a 1930 sports racing car...the only way for me to enjoy that sensation was to cheat a little. The car would have to be Faux Vintage or Trompe L'oeil as the French would say – it would have to be made from a car that was more reasonably priced and rebodied with a period style livery.

I now enjoy driving in vintage style with a few creations that literally embody the golden years of motoring and at an affordable outlay. The cars are

based on the humble 2CV 'Deux Chevaux' chassis and engines whilst still appearing to be authentic in style and glamour.

Driving in them recreates the same feeling from those days and onlookers happily wave and enjoy the sight of an 'old car' on the road.

An especially enjoyable 'spin off' is an annual invitation to France in one of them to a Retro Exposition and Rally on the Seine from a Vintage car club. They are of great interest as they know so well the characteristic sound from the little 2 cylinder engines and so are aware of their origins, but due to French regulations are not allowed to build or

register the like for use but they are a much appreciated variant of their beloved tin snail.



But there is never really a free lunch. Being apparently convincing brings difficulties... people interestedly gather round to look and ask questions! I am happy to answer. The first is how much is it worth ? It is a dilemma for me which way should I answer. They would like me to confirm it's a valuable survivor and to thank me for keeping it on the road. I know that if I tell them the true history they are disappointed – I smile and say "not as much as you'd think" and whisper it's just "a little Trompe L'oeil" to myself so as not to feel such a fraud!

Richard Darlison





The year is moving on and the mornings are brighter, the grass is growing and soon we'll hear the dreaded drone of lawn mowers. I remember when 'I werc a lad' the sound of a lawn being mowed was a soothing sound, a gentle whirring sound of small rhythmic bites as the mower was pushed, then pulled, then pushed again to chop through grass which had become tufty over the winter months. Later in the year the sound was more measured as the grass yielded more easily and long runs could be managed.

On the brow of the slope stood a young stag

Stop! I'm getting carried away! Talking of which, after the squally Sunday the 10th March there were many ivy clad trees carried away in the strong gusts. It's all part of nature's way. After all, isn't March known for strong winds? All the dead leaves of winter are efficiently swept away and the new growth peeps through. Ah – lovely!

Stop! I'm waxing lyrical.... Oh, why not? In the early morning sun last week I rounded a small copse across from the airfield and as the land drops steeply away into the valley, there on the brow of the slope stood a young stag. In that split second before he 'clocked' me, he looked stunning with the sun behind him and a slight early morning mist in

the valley. He didn't dash off but just sauntered into the undergrowth between the airfield perimeter footpath and the field in which I approached.

The wood in which the deer live runs all the way up to Biggin Hill and the West Kent Golf Course follows it pretty well all the way. In this wood, years ago, I discovered the remnants of steps and various hollows; in one of which, beneath brambles etc. was a sheet of old corrugated iron. Intrigued, I lifted it and found to my surprise an army mess tin – yes, a mess tin! What could this mean? All was explained by my friend Frank Goodrich who informed me that as a boy he recalled the Canadians encamped there prior to the disastrous Dieppe landings of 1942.

When my children were small the first part of the wood was 'The Goblin Wood' and the further part 'The Soldiers' Steps'.

Richard Geiger

St. Christopher's Fun Runners Welcome

Fun Runners taking part in the St. Christopher's Fun Run on 19th May will be welcome to stop at Keston Parish Church for a drink, to light a candle, use the facilities or give their dogs a drink!



Numbers Count

A well tried way for lepidopterists to estimate the numbers and varieties of butterflies in a given area is to take a weekly walk over a specific route



Speckled Wood

throughout the season, known as a transect survey. However, the walk should follow certain rules.

The same route must be used consistently and regularly at least weekly. The surveyor can choose different days and is often forced to because butterflies are sensitive to changing weather conditions. They love sunshine, rarely fly at temperatures below 15°C, avoid rain and dislike high winds. This does mean anyone undertaking this activity as a hobby can expect to walk only in lovely weather.

The surveyor should walk steadily along the route recording butterflies seen up to 10/15 yards on either side, beyond that distance accurate identification is often impossible, some species are difficult within a few feet. Unless you are something of an expert carrying an identification chart is a must.

The Keston Common transect starts on the heath above Westerham car park and continues downhill past Darwin's Bog, circles the Ravensbourne meadows and ends at the lower pond taking about 30 minutes. Over time you learn to identify the plants most favoured by different species and much more.

Thanks to the dedication of the Friends of Keston Common and others, the open heathland areas at Keston are being kept clear of the constantly invading gorse bushes and scrub trees. This has created a wonderful habitat of low heather for some of our native reptiles which need these sunny spaces to thrive and breed. These include Adders, Slow Worms and Common Lizards – all increasingly scarce in our over-farmed, over-built landscapes. Because these shy creatures are difficult to detect by simple visual surveys, the standard method of monitoring the health of their populations is to create a suitable “home” (or refuge) and then visit this regularly to record the inhabitants who have settled there.

These “homes” are usually small squares of corrugated iron, or black corrugated plastic, laid in secluded spots. They act as a suntrap, providing the ideal place for the cold blooded reptiles to enjoy a dry sauna and raise their body temperature enough to become active in the fickle British climate. These refuges are checked regularly by volunteers, so if you find one, **please do not disturb it** as this can



Female slow worm

drive the residents away and prevent good data collection. For more information on identifying reptiles, see: <https://www.arc-trust.org/report-your-sightings> and download their Reptile Identification Guide.

Tudor Davies and Bob Harrop

If you feel you could help with either the butterfly survey or the reptile survey, please contact Steven Lofting on steven.lofting@idverde.co.uk or at High Elms

WI News

Do join us at 2pm on 10th April in the Village Hall when Norma Hale, who is a quilter, will give us a talk on 'My Life in Stitch'. We will be having a fish and chip lunch before our AGM in May.

Our **Coffee Morning** will be on Wednesday 8th May from 10-12 in Keston Village Hall, £3 entry to include coffee and cake. There will be a raffle, pre loved books, DVDs, cakes and crafts for sale. Everyone welcome!

Shirley Newman

Magazine Deadline

Please send copy for the June/July issue of The Keston Magazine by Sunday 5th May at the very latest to Sally Churchus on editor@kestonparishchurch.org.uk or Tel: 020 8462 8750. Thank you.

Laughlines

☺ A man was driving down the street in a panic because he had an important meeting and couldn't find a parking place. Looking upward toward heaven, he said "Lord, take pity on me. If you find me somewhere to park, I will go to church every Sunday for the rest of my life". Miraculously, a parking place appeared. The man looked up again and said, "Never mind, I found one".

☺ Poster found outside a church:
"When you enter this church it may be possible that you hear "the call of God". However, it is unlikely that He will call you on your mobile. Thank you for turning off your phones. If you want to talk to God, enter, choose a quiet place and talk to Him. If you want to see Him, send Him a text while driving".

Answer : Keston Avenue



Parish Walk

(Formerly Beating the Bounds)

Sunday 26th
May 2.15pm

Meet in Keston Church
Car Park, Church Rd.
Keston BR2 6HT
Takes about 2 hours
finishing back at the
Church Hall for
tea and cakes
Well behaved dogs
welcome





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