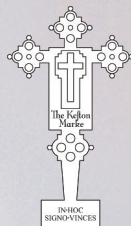


# The Keston Magazine

News of your Parish and Village



April/May 2022

# Keston Parish Church

Church Rd., Keston, BR2 6HT [kestonparishchurch.org.uk](http://kestonparishchurch.org.uk)



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[www.kvra.org.uk](http://www.kvra.org.uk)

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Keston Residents' Road Safety Group

[krrsg@hotmail.com](mailto:krrsg@hotmail.com)

Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die'.

*John 11:25*

Front cover: Easter eggs by Sally Churchus ©

# Thought for the month

## How do you start your day?



How do you start your day? You might already know how different your day can pan out depending on how it started! What if you could pro-actively create a positive and calm start which would make the rest of your day positive, calm and more enjoyable than it might have been!

People of faith have been pro-active in this way for centuries, starting the day with prayer, scripture reading or meditation—basically structuring a mindful space to breathe and begin the new day as you hope it will continue.

For Christians specifically, Easter is all about making a fresh and positive start. Each year we again recall the sacrifice that Jesus made, and particularly his resurrection, so that anyone can have a fresh start—a new day to start over afresh into a new life. It is the ultimate in re-focussing and pro-actively making a good start, and the wonderful thing is that the natural world reflects this at Easter time!

Each new day is an opportunity for a better day, and a good start is helpful—we don't have to have a faith—well, maybe just faith in the good that's in the

universe and the potential in all creation and people! Some basics that we could begin with are:

1. Being grateful—speak out what you are grateful for: This new day/the breath in my lungs/the opportunities in this day. Other things personal to you.
2. Speaking out positive statements:  
a) “I will carry peace and stillness into my daily activities”  
b) “I will give my best to the things and people of this day”.
3. Making a commitment: ‘I commit to being loving and kind throughout this day’.

If you have a faith, you might hand your day over to that power you believe to be greater than yourself—Christians believe that God has the power to make a difference and might pray: *‘God, be in my day – may I make the most of the opportunities that come my way, and give me peace and joy in this day.’*

Maybe the most important thing to remember is to actively be mindful of how your day has, or is, beginning. We can ‘fall’ into our day without actually giving a thought to how it’s starting, and before we know it, it’s not panning out that well.

Every day we are alive is an opportunity to love, to think, to enjoy, to give and to receive—to be an integral part of the great community of the earth each having a specific role to play, each day—however small. Easter time reminds us of the miracle of life—each day we have life let’s start that day proactively well!

Rev’d Carol Morrison



## From the Editor

This issue contains details of some of the planned events for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee as it will be almost upon us when the next issue comes out. Thinking of anniversaries, this issue marks 30 years of my editorship. A bit of research reveals that this can be symbolised by pearls, (one of my favourite things, as is mother-of-pearl), the colour green and the lily flower with connections to fresh life and re-birth. How appropriate for this spring and Easter issue. 30 years means I have been editing The Keston Magazine for half my life! It has been and is a lot of work, but it is also a huge privilege and very rewarding. It has brought me into contact with a variety of interesting people, and has been most enjoyable. I do have to pray about it quite a lot as things don't always go to plan. One time when I was absolutely desperate for a front cover my prayers were answered by a wonderful and appropriate photo appearing in my inbox the next morning from a total stranger. A bit more than a coincidence.

On a seasonal note, my family are looking forward to helping me 'use up' the chocolate Easter eggs that feature on the front cover this time! We have much to be grateful for in this country as the world news unfolds day by day and as we fast approach the celebrations of Easter.

Sally Churchus



## Roman Tombs Open



On Sunday 22nd May 11am - 4pm there will be an opportunity for young and old to visit the Keston Roman Tombs at Brambletye, Westerham Road, Keston BR2 6AG. It is on private property so it is not normally open to the public.

There will be frequent guided site talks, displays and books for sale by the archaeologist, Brian Philp, who was involved in the excavations. The tombs date back to 3AD and include a mausoleum incorporating three tombs, plus other aspects.

The adjoining garden will also be open and tea, coffee and cakes will be served on the terrace overlooking the valley and across to Biggin Hill airport. All funds raised will go to Fighting for a cure MND (motor neurone disease).

FREE entry to site, and no bookings needed. Pedestrian access only but parking is available at Keston Ponds/Heathfield Road car parks.

Sally Ring



# New Keston WI

Keston WI is planning on re-forming to once again serve the women of Keston and the surrounding areas. We will be meeting on the second Wednesday of the month from 1.30pm-3.30pm in Keston Village Hall, 132 Heathfield Rd. BR2 6BF.

The WI is many things to many women. For some it is an opportunity to meet once a month, listen to an interesting speaker, chat with some friends over a cup of tea. For others it is the opportunity to do the above plus join a variety of groups, go out together

## One aspect that the WI is not so well known for is its campaigns

on local visits and campaign on issues that are important, locally, nationally and internationally. It is so much more than its traditional jam and Jerusalem stereotype.

The WI was set up in 1897 in Stoney Creek, Hamilton, Canada. The first WI meeting in the UK took place in Anglesey in Wales in 1915. Two years later the National Federation of WIs, a democratic, non-party political, non-sectarian and voluntary organisation was set up.

The WI was first established to enable women to learn together, to improve and develop the quality of their lives and those of their communities, to widen their horizons and together influence local, national and international affairs on issues that matter to members, as well as to develop friendship and companionship.

These principles that were in place over a hundred years ago are still in place today.

Every meeting is an opportunity for the members to meet socially with other women, to listen and learn from interesting speakers or watch a demonstration. Speakers and demonstrations cover a wide range of subjects including art and craft, health, history, travel, cooking and antiques. WI members also have the opportunity to join clubs and take part in local visits.

One aspect that the WI is not so well known for is its campaigns. The WI has been campaigning since the 1920's on a range of issues. The very first WI resolution was passed in 1918 and called for a "sufficient supply of convenient and sanitary houses". Since then campaigns have included Women on Jury Service, An increase in Women Police, Equal Pay for Equal Work, Cervical Screening, Smoking in Public Places, Plastic Pollution, HIV and Aids awareness, Fairtrade Foundation, and More Midwives.

At Keston we want our members to have a say in how the group is run, what types of speakers and demonstrators we have, what groups we have and what trips we go on.

If the above interests you, please come along to one of our meetings or for more information please contact Bev Wild on 020 8289 3533 or email: [wiadvisors@wkwfi.org.uk](mailto:wiadvisors@wkwfi.org.uk).

Helen Best

**theWI**  
**INSPIRING WOMEN**

# Obituary

**Shirley Ann Richards**

**6/5/1951 – 20/12/2021**



Born on 6th May 1951, Shirley was born and raised in Farnborough. From a very young age Shirley loved to dance, and attended both tap and ballet classes. She won gold medals and various awards, even featuring in the local paper.

Growing up, Shirley would always be the best dressed. Her beauty and style eventually got her noticed by David Richards and in 1972 they were married at St. Giles, Farnborough. They were blessed with three children, Leanne, Kelly and Daniel.

David and Shirley both worked hard to give their children everything, Dave as a scaffolder and Shirley in an office job. But that all changed when, in the summer of 1976, David came home from work driving an ice cream van! Shirley left her job and started building up the round at school fairs, fetes and other events.

The couple had two grandsons, Baley and Teddy, but sadly in 2004 David lost

his fight to an illness at only 54 years old. Shirley and her children had lost their leading man. This hit her hard and the only way she knew how to carry on was to get back in the van and work... and work...and work.

More grandsons followed, Indie (who has lived with his nanny all his life), Buddy and then Kit—her fifth grandson completed the five-a-side! Shirley loved her family with a passion. She always spoilt her children and grandchildren and gave them anything she had.

Of course, Shirley had her other family, her customers. She not only provided a service, a smile and the best ice cream but she also gave a whole community memories that will be cherished for a lifetime. Children's faces lighting up and beaming because Shirley's here! Ice cream for all. Parents in need of a chat, a shoulder to cry on, someone to share stories and news with too. She was a friend to many. Shirley wasn't just the local ice cream lady, she was a very well loved and respected lady with a heart of pure gold. Her children will continue her legacy in Keston, Farnborough and surrounding areas, so there will always be Shirley's ice cream.

The community of Darrick Wood have raised most of the money towards a memorial bench somewhere near the school that she served so fondly, and it is hoped there will be a bench at Keston Ponds too. Please visit <https://gofund.me/4e02bd3a> or just go to [gofundme.com](https://gofundme.com) and search for 'Shirley ice cream' if you would like to donate. Thank you.

Samantha Gatsell



# The story behind the hymn 'Abide With Me'



One of the most famous hymns in the world came out of Brixham, near Torbay, Devon, in 1847.

In those days it was a poor, obscure fishing village, and the vicar was Rev'd Henry Francis Lyte. It was a discouraging place to be a pastor, but Henry felt that God wanted him there, and so he stayed, though it was lonely work, and he suffered constant ill health.

By the time he was 54, Henry had contracted tuberculosis and asthma, and he and his family knew he was dying. It would have been so easy for him to look back on his life and feel a complete failure. What had he ever much accomplished? And yet—and yet—Henry knew that in life it is not worldly success that matters, but how much we respond to Jesus Christ, and how much we follow Him.

In September of 1847 Henry was preparing to travel to the south of France, as was the custom for people with tuberculosis at that time. One day before he left, he read the story in the gospel of Luke about the two disciples

on the road to Emmaus. They were met by Jesus on the day of His resurrection, and they invited Him to stay with them because it was getting late. “Abide with us”, they said “for it is towards evening”.

“Abide with us—for it is toward evening”. These words struck a chord with Henry, who knew that it was getting ‘towards evening’ in his life. So, he sat down and wrote this hymn as a prayer to God—the following are just some of the verses.

## ***Abide with me***

*Abide with me; fast falls the eventide;  
The darkness deepens; Lord, with me  
abide!*

*When other helpers fail and comforts flee,  
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.*

*Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;  
Earth's joys grow dim; its glories pass  
away;  
Change and decay in all around I see;  
O Thou who changest not, abide with me.*

*I fear no foe, with Thee at hand to bless;  
Ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness.  
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy  
victory?  
I triumph still, if Thou abide with me.*

Shortly after Henry wrote that hymn, he preached his last sermon. He was so ill he practically crawled into the pulpit to do so. A few weeks later, in Nice, France, he died, and so of course he never knew that his hymn with some of his others, (notably ‘Praise, my soul, the King of heaven’), would go on to become greatly loved the world over.

Courtesy of Parish Pump



# Groups meeting in Keston Parish Church Hall BR2 6HT

- **Yoga**

Wednesdays 10-11.30am in upstairs room. Small group (max 10 students). Suitable for all levels of experience.

Claire Challis 07770 873055

[www.orpingtonyoga.co.uk](http://www.orpingtonyoga.co.uk)

[claire.challis@mac.com](mailto:claire.challis@mac.com)

- **Pilates**

Mondays and Fridays 10-11am.

Tanya Carpenter 07795 511366

[pilatesbytanya@yahoo.com](mailto:pilatesbytanya@yahoo.com)

[@pilates\\_by\\_tanya](mailto:@pilates_by_tanya)

- **Pawsitive Dog Services**

Wednesdays (6 week course)

5pm and 6pm. Puppy training with Pawsitive Dog Services.

Sarah Naessens 07956 942175

[www.pawsitivedogservices.com](http://www.pawsitivedogservices.com)

- **Totsplay**

Tuesdays

10.15am Social tots for children that are crawling up to age 3

11.15am Social tots

12.15 Discovery tots for babies 2 months until crawling

1.15 Baby development course for newborn to 6 months

Ayten Olgu 07749 978715

[Ayten@totsplay.co.uk](mailto:Ayten@totsplay.co.uk)

[www.totsplay.co.uk/westwickham](http://www.totsplay.co.uk/westwickham)

- **Alcoholics Anonymous**

Wednesdays 6pm

Saturdays 10am

Sue 07850 285662.



# Annual General Meetings

## Keston Village Residents' Association

This will be at 7.30pm on Wednesday 6th April in Keston Village Hall. Guest Speakers will be Graham Pearse, Community and Event Fundraising Manager from St. Christopher's Hospice, and a Speaker from Flight Path Watch Ltd. Refreshments will be available after the meeting.

## Keston Parish Church

This will take place at 11.30am after the church service on Sunday 15th May. Anyone interested in the work of the church is welcome to attend.

## Prayer for Ukraine

Loving God,

We pray for the people of Ukraine, for all those suffering or afraid, that you will be close to them and protect them.

We pray for world leaders, for compassion, strength and wisdom to guide their choices.

We pray for the world that in this moment of crisis, we may reach out in solidarity to our brothers and sisters in need.

May we walk in your ways so that peace and justice become a reality for the people of Ukraine and for all the world.

Amen

*From CAFOD*

# Obituary

**Valerie Margaret Burton**

**1/11/1934 - 28/12/2021**



My mother, Valerie, was born in 1934 in Portslade near Brighton. She was educated initially at the local convent school where the nuns kindled her love of literature, and then at Hove County School for Girls where she was in the first cohort of pupils to take O level exams. Alongside, she took piano and ballet lessons and acted in plays. After one year of her A levels she decided to become a speech therapist, and was advised to leave school to get experience working with children. She duly left and started teaching, a career path which seems unthinkable today. However, marriage in 1955 to Kenneth, and two sons, David (1956) and Keith (1958) meant that for the next few years she was fully occupied with her young family and she never did become a speech therapist.

As we grew up, she began to undertake a range of voluntary work. She was a founder member and secretary of the local branch of Oxfam; she worked with stroke patients in the speech therapy department at the old Lennard Hospital on Bromley Common. From there she was

nominated to the Bromley Community Health Council, representing the interests of patients to the Health Authority, and then served on the Health Authority itself. Back in Keston she was the co-ordinator of Keston Care, putting people in Keston who needed help in touch with volunteers who had offered their help, and was on the PCC of Keston church for over 40 years, and for many of those years its Deanery representative.

Her interests ranged widely over the arts: literature, drama, and in particular Shakespeare, music and art. Her appreciation of art lies behind her enjoyment of her worldwide travels, which were also inspired by her intense curiosity with people, about what they are thinking and doing, and how people live in other societies, both now and in the past. This instilled in her a tolerance and understanding of other people, even if she didn't agree with them. She enjoyed the natural world, whether it was animals, flowers, beautiful scenery or birds, and some readers will know of her tame pheasant, Percy, who comes daily for his food. But alongside this interest in the world all around her, she was a home lover, taking a pride in and never wanting to move from South Park, her home of over 54 years, which she kept in immaculate order.

Characteristically she faced her final and unexpected illness with great courage, her thoughts focused still on comforting other people, rather than on pitying herself. She was a remarkable lady, a wonderful mother, a devoted wife, a loving sister, a devoted aunt, and a friend and inspiration to all.

David Burton

# Crown of Thorns



My mother took ownership of her first Crown of Thorns many years ago. It eventually died and it wasn't until quite a few years later that she spotted another in a shop, promptly bought it and it remains with her to this day. She, unfortunately, has no recollection of who informed her that her wonderful plant was called 'Crown of Thorns' but was told it was named after the thorn crown that the Romans placed upon Jesus's head, so we undertook some research to discover how the plant came upon its prestigious name.

Crown of Thorns is a member of the spurge (Euphorbiaceae) family. It is native to Madagascar and grows well in the tropics. Its species name is 'mili' but common names include Crown of Thorns, Christ Thorn and Christ Plant. Latin Americans call it Corona de Cristo. Its relation to the thorny crown

Jesus was forced to wear comes from its thorns and the red flowers which represent his blood and the belief by some that the crown of thorns worn by Jesus Christ at his crucifixion was made from stems of this plant.

*And they stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on his head and put a reed in his right hand. And kneeling before him, they mocked him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!"* from Matthew 27:28,29 (ESV).

Crown of Thorns is considered an ideal house plant due to it being a member of the cactus family. Thus it enjoys poor soil and little water which add up to minimal maintenance. It is happiest in full sun, as hot as you like.

A slow growing, evergreen succulent, it is mainly characterised by its large, sharp inch-long thorns that randomly cover the stem. The thick stems have water-storage capacity making the plant drought-resistant. The bright green fleshy leaves are spirally arranged. Leaves are only produced on newer stems and they naturally drop off as the plant ages, giving a scrawny appearance in older plants.

It is recognised for its eye-catching blooms, which are not real flowers but red bracts conveniently situated at the shoot tips, (the flowers can come in other colours too—yellow, white and pink). These conspicuous, saucer-shaped bracts surround the real yellow flowers. Blooming mostly occurs between spring and late summer, however, with the right conditions, the Crown of Thorns plant can produce flowers tirelessly throughout the year.

Nicola Kingswood and  
Josephine Williams



# Church Services

We are holding our usual Sunday services:

1st Sunday of each month – Informal Family Communion Service

All other Sundays – 10am Holy Communion



## **Thursday 14th April**

## **Maundy Thursday**

6pm

Bring & Share meal

*(Details from Tricia 01689 854373) This will be a creative meal with readings and will lead into a celebration of communion*

7.30pm for communion only

## **Friday 15th April**

## **Good Friday**

10.00am

Walk of Witness from Village Sign

*All ages (and dogs) welcome!*

10.40am

Short non-communion service

*Followed by hot cross buns and tea and coffee in the hall*

## **Sunday 17th April**

## **Easter Day**

10.00am

Holy Communion

*With lighting of new Paschal Candle and Renewal of Baptism Vows*

# From the Registers

## **Wedding**

15th January

Jonathan Wilson & Chonnie Drake

## **Funerals**

26th January

Valerie Margaret Burton (aged 87 yrs)

16th February

Caroline Vida Markham (aged 81 yrs)

3rd March

Ian Stimpson (aged 84 yrs)

## **Memorial Service**

4th March

Sheila Ann Netscher (aged 83 yrs)

## **Burial of Ashes**

15th February

Jean Elizabeth Anderson (aged 87 yrs)

19th February

Sheila Ann Netscher (aged 83 yrs)

# Lent Foodbank Collection

This issue of the magazine finds us in the church season of Lent. It is the time that leads to Easter and traditionally Christians give something up during this season. It seems a great opportunity as we give something up to give something to those who have been forced by circumstances into food poverty. Therefore, between now and Easter please consider collecting the following foods or toiletries, (listed below), and either bringing them to the church for us to pass on to the Bromley Foodbank or drop off at the foodbank point when

you visit the supermarket. We are in the church hall having a cuppa from 11am on a Sunday—this would be a great time to drop off. (For more information please call Rev'd Carol on 01689 853186).

- Tinned or mashed potatoes
- Small washing up liquid
- Small tubs of non-bio washing tablets
- Tinned cold meat
- Toilet roll
- Men's shaving foam

They have already have plenty pasta, beans, soup, cereal and tea. Thank you.



**SAVE THE DATE 3rd & 4th JUNE**

**Join us on the common for a Bank Holiday of fun & games to celebrate the....**

*The Queens Platinum Jubilee*

**LIVE MUSIC. FOOD VENDERS. GAMES. STREET PARTY. SHOPPING. DOG SHOW AND LOTS MORE....**

**IN COLLABORATION WITH THE KVRA & ST CHRISTOPHERS HOSPICE**

**We are looking for stall holders, venders, raffle prizes & volunteers to make this a fantastic event for everyone. If you are interested please message us through our facebook page or through our KVRA website thank you**



# Royal Afternoon Cream Tea

**3pm-5pm Thursday 2nd June**

**Keston Parish Church Hall**

To include sandwiches, scones, cream and jam, cakes, tea and coffee, with a special Royal cake and a glass of fizz

There will also be a display/sale of local arts and crafts

Tickets £15 in advance from Tricia Coward 01689 854373

[kestonconsult@btconnect.com](mailto:kestonconsult@btconnect.com)

or from Chris on 07988 712873

# Celebration church service

**2pm-2.45pm Thursday 2nd June**

**Keston Parish Church**

All welcome





# Easter

Chocolate eggs and cuddly bunnies  
Mark the start of Easter time.  
But where's the cross, the Lord's great passion  
That took our sin both yours and mine?  
Once a babe but now a king  
Born of David's royal line  
See the crown of tangled thorns  
Rammed upon the head divine.

Jeering now they strip and beat Him  
Nail him to a cross on high  
Throwing dice they shout and mock him  
Watching there for Him to die.  
Little did they know the outcome  
That it was the Father's plan  
That the Son should give His life  
Our sacrifice, the Paschal Lamb.

Taken down and wrapped in spices  
In a borrowed tomb He's laid,  
Stone rolled hard against the entrance  
Guards and seal securely made.  
The women and disciples seek Him  
He who death could not hold down  
Risen now, forever living,  
Wearing now the victor's crown.  
He the firstfruits of the Father,  
Secures for us a heavenly place  
What great joy and celebrations  
When we see Him face to face.

*Megan Carter*

# "Opus"

## Landscape and contemporary figure paintings past and present by Sebastian Ward Turner



Talented artist, Sebastian Ward Turner will be exhibiting a collection of his oil paintings at the Wilberforce Scout Centre (BR2 6AD) on the 9th and 10th April 10.30am-6pm. Entrance is free.

Influenced by many of the great Impressionists, his atmospheric land and seascapes draw you into a world of peace, reflection and tranquillity.

This exhibition will appeal to a wide range of people as Sebastian will also be showing his contemporary studies of the human form which have recently generated a lot of interest both in the UK and overseas.

Many of his works depict the painterly influences of artists such as Warwick Fuller and Fred Cuming in addition to his own, very individual style.

Sebastian enjoys "Plein Air" painting (painting in the open air) for that sense of immediacy that the Impressionists worked so hard to create but he mainly enjoys the peace and quiet of his studio, taking inspiration from places he has

visited and his considerable imagination. Do take a look at his website: [www.sebastianwardturner.com](http://www.sebastianwardturner.com).

Sebastian has already enjoyed several shows in the UK and abroad. In his recent exhibition, entitled 'Escape' he explored painting landscapes where the viewer could get lost in a world far away from the stress and anguish of recent times and the anxieties we have all felt during the pandemic. Many of these works will be on view in this forthcoming display of paintings. Any enquires to 01689 854868.

### A bit about Sebastian:

I have had an interest in drawing and painting since I was a child, when my grandfather, who taught Scenic Design would visit us and spend a summer's afternoon sitting in the garden with me, observing and drawing what was around us. I attended Keston CE Primary and then Hayes School, and throughout my schooldays my passion for art didn't fade nor did my fascination in the ever changing colours in the sky and the clouds. The sky in particular mesmerises me and it's something I love to paint to this day.

Over the last 20 years, I have experimented with many different subject matters including Portraiture, the Human Form and Still Life but my true passion lies with Landscapes and Seascapes.



# Passwords

“Open Sesame!”—albeit not quite a direct translation of the Eastern Tale’s magical phrase, was quite possibly an early password utilised during the infancy of the internet. I envy Ali Baba only having to remember one phrase to gain access to all his storage. However, his brother who learns of the famous password promptly forgets it and perishes at the hands of the 40 thieves. Passwords, even for those in fictitious realms are a pain to remember!

Such an obvious password phrase is ill advised today and it is also unwise to use the same password for everything. Nowadays, a complex password of at least 10 characters, alphanumeric, upper and lowercase is usually required; further suggestions are at least one special character and without any sequential repetition. The problem is how to remember all of them for the multitude of sites we now frequent?

Many ways of storing passwords are advocated by different institutions. A more recent idea is within secure online apps, but all methods present their risks as there is really no 100% secure way to store logins safely. So if you do avoid the digital storage and resort to writing them down, (and your sites don’t forbid this), you might encrypt them on paper with only prompting phrases noted down as an aide memoire. Or you might keep them hidden securely away, perhaps in an organised date stamped index book for each entry. Ensure where possible that genuine sites you use have your correct up to date information such as your email address plus working mobile number. Losing a password can be stressful and made all

the worse when the backdoor option isn’t available either!

To reduce similarity perhaps develop a system by compartmentalising your personal, work and social media passwords from each other by using different inspiration to create them from. As much as Rover is your loveable furry best friend, his visible name tag in your social media posts could give someone with nefarious intent a big clue especially if you used your pets moniker as a start.... By being strategic, if one area of your online presence is compromised through guess attacks, user error or discovered in a dark web data breach you don’t immediately give up your entire digital persona to hackers!

Of course there is no guarantee with computers, hardware, the data inside and passwords. However, there are some basic ways you can protect yourself. Never respond to unsolicited emails/texts/messages, and don’t click on suspicious links or give remote access. Beware anyone trying to get you to use your smartphone or computer from an unsolicited source. Always keep well backed up data, nothing lasts forever. If this sounds like gobbledygook you don’t understand or you require a Healthcheck, there are many local experienced professionals about. Perhaps you know a good technical friend. Don’t be afraid to ask for help if your IT knowledge is the stuff of fable and fairytales.

Robert Peacock



**Computer Soup** Ltd



# Crash, Bang – Trouble! By Chalkpit



Charlie at the controls of his Norton  
with his mates at Maidstone barracks

It was summer 1952 and my older brother Charles, (Charlie), was home on Embarkation leave from the barracks at Maidstone where he was serving with The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment. It was the last chance we would have together before he left for Overseas service, so we decided on a day's fishing! The obvious choice of location for us was the River Rother near Wittersham where we had spent many days fishing whilst on holiday with our aunt in nearby Peasmarsh. The next day was sunny and we set off on Charlie's Norton motorcycle with rods,

tackle box and a picnic lunch all strapped to my back! All went well, the roads were quiet early in the morning and the miles soon sped by. However, all was to change, as we left the pretty village of Lamberhurst the car in front of us did an unexpected right hand turn –bang, crash! Tangled together with fishing tackle, arms and legs my brother and I finished up on the grass area at the roadside! To our dismay, standing over us was a very large policeman with notebook and pencil at the ready! Once we had sorted ourselves out and luckily with no injuries apart from the odd bruise, the questions began and it soon became clear that Charlie only possessed a Provisional Licence and, at 12 years old, I clearly should not have been a passenger – a motoring offence! On being told a Court appearance at Maidstone would be required sometime in the future, my brother informed the policeman that he would not be able to attend as he would be somewhere at sea on board a troopship on his way to serve in Malaya with the West Kent's. This was where luck played it's part for the Sergeant had also been part of the campaign fighting in the jungle of Burma during the War with the same Regiment! Tearing the page from his notebook he informed us he was going to question the car driver and made it clear that while his back was turned we should disappear back the way we had come before wishing my brother "good luck and keep your head down!". We didn't need a second hint and fortunately the Norton had suffered only a few scratches and set off up the hill towards home. When we had gone far enough from the scene of the

accident we stopped for a break and a chat. It was decided not to waste the day and have to explain why we were home early and instead headed for Penshurst and the river there, where we spent the rest of the day fishing and chatting before returning home and saying nothing to our parents about the altercation at Lamberhurst!

The next day Charlie left for Maidstone before continuing on to Malaya where he was involved in fighting the Communist Terrorist organisation active at the time. He returned safely, after serving his two years as a National Serviceman, to our home in Leaves Green and his Norton which had been stored safely in the garage. It was one of many machines he went on to own and in time I too joined him with my own motorbike—happy days!

## Regular Events

### Prayer Walks

We meet on the Green opposite The Greyhound pub at 9.30am on the first Tuesday and third Wednesday in the month. We usually return about 11am. All welcome – including well behaved dogs.

### Men's pub social

Do join us at 7pm at The Greyhound on the third Wednesday of the month for social chat, a few drinks and a meal for those who want it. (You don't have to be a church goer to come). More details from Martin Becker on 07484 609102.

### Friends of Keston Common

Monthly walks continue on the 1st Wednesday in the month at 2pm under the village sign. All welcome.



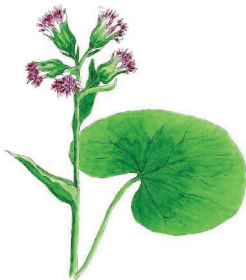
Start of the Prayer Walk on 1st February

# What I Do

## Wayside Wild Flower cards

During the first Coronavirus lockdown in 2020, when we were able to walk alone outside for exercise, I started walking along the lanes around Keston parish church. When walking there is always an abundance of nature to see and my life-long interest in wild flowers came to the fore.

At first, whilst still in the cold of winter, I noticed an unusual wild flower poking through the brambles on the bank opposite the church in Church Road. I was intrigued as to how this wild flower could bloom in such harsh wintry conditions. On researching in my



Winter Heliotrope

well worn wild flower books I found a reference to the Winter Heliotrope. Evidently the damp grassy banks of Church Road are just the right

conditions for this wild plant with its distinctive broad leaves and vanilla-scented, pinkish flowers. Botanical painting in water colours is another passion of mine, so with my mobile phone I was able to capture the image for future reference.

During my walks, in late winter and early spring I realised that the lanes are blessed with an array of colourful wild flowers such as snowdrops, cascading down to the road, violets and primroses peeping out from the grassy banks and wild garlic, with its pungent smell and

delicate flowers, growing along the wayside.

Throughout the seasons I observed and photographed many beautiful and interesting wild flowers. In late spring red campion, purple periwinkle, frogbit, bush vetch, bluebells, lesser celandine and cow parsley were in abundance. Early summer brought forth the flowers of purple toadflax, wild roses and brambles. White bryony and the ox eye daisy show their blooms in mid-summer, whilst herb robert, fox and cubs and a funny little flower called toothwort pops up amongst the tree roots in late summer. Hidden away, in a quiet corner, wild orchids also show off their beautiful and exotic flowers. The cooler months of November and December bring the shy flowers of ivy and holly, heralding winter.

After documenting and photographing all these wonderful wild flowers I put paint to paper and spent many happy hours trying to capture the character of each plant. This pastime helped me through the difficult times of lock-downs and restrictions caused by the Covid epidemic. This led me to think about others struggling at that time and about how I could use my paintings to contribute to the work of the many charities and



Violet



Frogbit





Church Rose

projects that needed funding. I decided that it would be achievable, with the help of my scanner,

computer and printer, to produce cards and notelets from my paintings and sell them to help with the funding for the Keston Church car park extension project and the much needed support for St. Christopher's hospice. I spent many interesting hours arranging and printing the images on to card, then labelling and collating into packs of various designs. There was a lot of interest, by friends and neighbours, in purchasing the packs of cards or notelets.

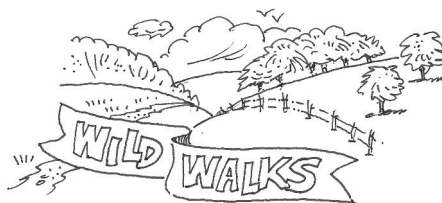


Fox and Cubs

This documenting of my observations of wild flowers in our lanes has not only raised a little money for deserving organisations, but has led me to make many new friends in my neighbourhood and to appreciate the delightful surroundings we live in.

Heather Washington

Packs of six cards are available for £4.50 from Heather. Please email her on [heatherarts@gmail.com](mailto:heatherarts@gmail.com) or phone 075760 28682 if you wish to order any. Thank you.



In the last issue, Richard mentioned that he found an old sauce bottle embossed with 'The original A1 thick sauce'. A bit of research on the internet revealed:

In 1824 a chef to King George IV, named Henderson William Brand, created the original sauce on which A.1. is based. It is said that the king declared it "A.1.", and the name was born. The term "A.1." originated as a ship insurance term in the UK to describe a "first rate" ship by Lloyd's of London. It went into commercial production under the Brand & Co. label in 1831, marketed as a condiment for "fish, meat and fowl".

It was introduced to Canada and then the US, where it was officially registered as a trademark in 1895. Beginning in the early 60s it was marketed as a steak sauce. In 1999, Kraft Foods acquired the licence for the A.1. brand in Canada and North America where it is widely available. The A.1. brand in the UK is currently owned by Premier Foods, but is not available everywhere.

A1 Steak Sauce is a brown sauce based on malt vinegar, dates, mango chutney and spices. The closest UK product is HP Sauce which is also based on malt vinegar but has more tanginess as it contains tamarind.

So... it is possible that the sauce bottle may have been used by the Canadians in the Leaves Green woods!

SC

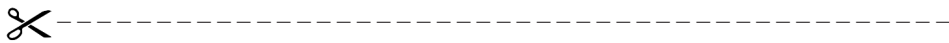
# New Book

## Archaeology on the Front Line 70 years of Rescue 1952-2022 across Kent and SE London by Brian Philp

This much awaited book is a second edition covering the first 50 years recorded in the, (sold-out), first edition, but adding another 20 years of Events and Sites up until 2022. With 300 pages it has 350 illustrations, the great majority in colour. It describes the battles, strategies and victories over this long period with sites saved by instant recording or preservation, often in the face of severe problems. These include the Roman forum in London, the Royal Abbey at Faversham, four Roman forts at Dover and Reculver, six Roman villas, two Saxon cemeteries, three palaces and four manor-houses. It also lists the many published reports that are an unmatched record of publications across the county, now totalling over 400. Many awards have followed this uniquely Kentish progress.

Whilst often amusing, but sometimes hard hitting, an important feature is the acknowledgement by name of over 240 key team-members, of the 2,000 who joined in the numerous training, excavation, presentation and reporting events. Nor are the cringe-worthy Gremlins left out!

The slightly anonymous character of this epic Kentish tale is the author, who started his archaeological career on 6th February, 1952 whilst at Bromley Grammar School. That day the Head declared “The King has died” and closed the school. Instead of leaving, Brian slipped into the library to discover a book on the Roman shore-forts. That began his long career with 40 years of excavation on the lost fort at Dover, his 18 years of excavation on the eroding fort at Reculver and 700 other projects. Hence **Archaeology on the Front Line!** Inevitably, our gracious Queen Elizabeth II became our monarch on the same day!



**Order from:**

Kent Archaeological Rescue Unit, 18 Highfield Avenue, Orpington, Kent. BR6 6LF.

**Price:** £20.00, plus £4 postage.

All those thanked in the text, or who were **Council for Kentish Archaeology** supporters, have rightly earned a 20% discount.

Name ..... Date .....

Address .....

.....

.....

My cheque for £.... is enclosed (Drawn to KARU)



# Magazine Deadline

Please send photos and articles for the June/July issue of The Keston Magazine to the Editor, Sally Churchus, by 6th May at the very latest via email to [editor@kestonparishchurch.org.uk](mailto:editor@kestonparishchurch.org.uk) or contact her to discuss ideas on 020 8462 8750. Thank you.

# Laughlines

## ☺ Password

I changed my password to “incorrect”. So whenever I forget what it is, the computer will tell me “Your password is incorrect”.

## ☺ With AGMs in mind...

A conference is a gathering of important people who singly can do nothing, but together can decide that nothing can be done.

## ☺ Expensive boat

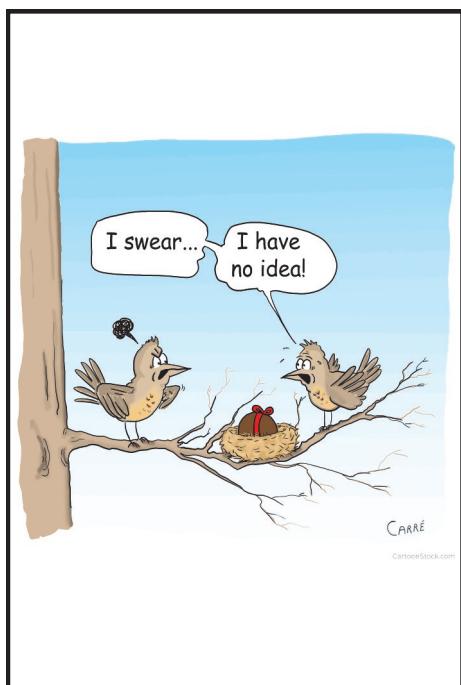
A vicar was planning an Easter pilgrimage to the Holy Land, and was aghast when she found it would cost her £50 an hour to rent a boat on the Sea of Galilee. She protested to the travel agent that the cost was ridiculous. ‘That might be true,’ replied the travel agent, ‘but you have to take into account that the Sea of Galilee is water on which our Lord himself walked’. ‘Well, at £50 an hour for a boat,’ she replied, ‘I am not surprised!’

## ☺ Nice

The nice thing about becoming forgetful is that you can hide your own Easter eggs.

## ☺ And finally...

We need to save the earth. It’s the only planet with chocolate.



# Parish Walk



Sunday 22nd May 2.15pm  
Meet in Keston Parish Church Car Park  
Church Road BR2 6HT  
Takes about 2 hrs finishing back at  
Keston Parish Church Hall for  
a cup of tea and cakes  
Well behaved dogs welcome





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