

The Keston Magazine



News of your Parish and Village
Keston CE Primary School

Tel: 01689 858399

www.keston.bromley.sch.uk

In God's hands we love, learn and grow



Headteacher: [Name] BEd (Hons), NPQH



June/July 2025

Keston Parish Church

Church Road, Keston, BR2 6HT www.kestonparishchurch.org.uk



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Friends of Keston Common

High Elms Country Park 01689 862815
friendsofkestoncommon.chessck.co.uk

Keston Residents' Road Safety Group

krrsg@hotmail.com

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him
Romans 15:13

Thought for the month



St David's Cathedral

Finding joy in troubled times

The state of the world as it currently stands makes my heart weep. Powerful leaders of powerful countries playing fast and loose with the lives of ordinary, honest, hardworking folk. Large companies unashamedly pursuing strategies which maximise profits while foodbanks and school breakfast clubs become the new norm and the number of children living in poverty escalates to unprecedented levels. Accelerating climate change threatens the survival chances of small island communities as sea levels rise and wars destroy the stability and peace of vulnerable communities, forcing people to flee their homelands in search of safety and security in sometimes hostile countries. So many people are hurting in our world today.

In these dark and dismal times, surrounded by such brokenness, we can legitimately ask, 'How can we be joyful when the odds seem unassailable and the situation bleak?' As humans our brains tend to focus on the negative, a survival instinct that scans for potential threats. Constantly on edge, it limits our ability to notice and appreciate the

seemingly 'little' things that lift us up. Yet notice we must lest we spiral into a cycle of stress, perceiving even small challenges as threats.

The message of joy is vital for us today. Positive emotions that bring a sense of happiness, peace and hope restore balance and well-being. Henri Nouwen writes, 'joy does not simply happen to us. We have to choose joy and keep choosing it every day.' By slowing down our busy lives, making meaningful connections with one another and actively taking time to seek out the awe in nature, our mindset changes for the better.

Joy is a gift of the Spirit. It is not simply that short-lived, fleeting happiness that comes out of earthly highs. It is the lasting sense of knowing we are loved by a God who blesses us abundantly each day and keeps his promise to prosper and sustain us through good and the bad. Whatever the world throws up, God is with us and the joy comes from recognising that we are not alone in shouldering those burdens.

Recently I went on a pilgrimage to St David's in Wales, where Dewi Sant (St David), patron Saint of Wales was born and lived. Surrounded by the natural beauty of this secluded coastline I came to understand the grandeur of God's creation and my own small place within the grand scheme of things. God is present in this troubled world. God has its back. I can and need only do the little things to join in his saving work. I share with you the key strap line of his teaching, **'Be joyful. Keep the faith. Do the little things.'**

Rev'd Belinda Beckhelling

From the Editor

I must say I am enjoying the warmer weather and have planted out some of my vegetables. It seems that watering the tubs and new plants is the order of the day – I cannot remember when it last rained. Perhaps it was in February when it didn't stop! At least we have the luxury of piped water, (as well as water butts), rather than having to go to a pump, like the one featured on page 14, which must have been quite a trek for both Keston and Downe residents. You can also read about the hidden life in the water at Keston ponds in the article about Quekett microscopical club who will be visiting again in June and base themselves in the Village hall after collecting their samples.

We have just seen pictures of the white smoke billowing out of the Sistine Chapel chimney and heard of the decision to appoint Robert Francis Prevost as Pope Leo XIV. However, we will have to wait until the Autumn at the earliest to find out who the next Archbishop of Canterbury is going to be. I recently came across the C of E strapline: 'A Christian presence in every community', which of course includes Keston even though it is the smallest parish in Rochester Diocese. There is much happening at your parish church, we offer a variety of services and events for all ages which may be of interest.

Sally Churchus



Cover Story

After 21 years as Head Teacher at Keston CE Primary Julia Evison, (on the right of the cover photo), is retiring in the summer. Aquinas Church of England Education Trust has appointed Mrs Dawn Ardern, (on the left of the photo), to be the next Head Teacher at Keston CE Primary. Dawn is very much looking forward to her new role and is currently working with Julia to ensure a smooth handover.

At the moment, Mrs Ardern is an Associate Aquinas Head of School in the Trust Central Team and was previously a senior leader at St George's CE Primary, another local Trust school.

Keston Village Residents' Association new Website



The KVRA has a new website full of information about the village including traffic news, airport updates and upcoming social events like the hugely successful KestFest which will take place this year on Saturday the 7th June. For all the latest news and so much more be sure to visit www.kvra.co.uk.

Where has the time gone?



After teaching full time for over 40 years, my overwhelming feeling is, where has the time gone? I'm not sure why I chose teaching as a career as I had expected to start with M&S in retail management. However, I changed my mind, studied for a BEd at Christ Church College Canterbury and didn't look back.

I began my career in Harlesden where I taught for three years, returning to Bromley at Midfield and then at St. Joseph's. Shortly after JC, my son, was born we moved to Singapore for two years, which I loved, and where I taught part-time as a PE teacher at Tanglin International School. On returning to the UK, I was appointed Deputy Head of Pickhurst Infants before joining Keston in September 2004 as Head.

Inevitably I have seen many changes in education. Some have been for the better, some less so. Sadly the ever

increasing budgetary constraints within schools are now a constant challenge. My priority, in making any decision as Head, has always been putting the children first.

One of the greatest challenges we have all faced in recent years is, of course, the pandemic. Trying to keep up with the endless government guidelines, (which were often superseded within days), was exhausting at times, but I was hugely proud of my staff in their sharing of my determination to keep school open throughout, particularly for our keyworker and vulnerable families.

PE has always been my passion. I strongly believe that it's vital for all children to participate in as many different sports as possible through which they learn lifelong skills in team participation, leadership and how to win (and lose!) graciously. I am very proud that so many children from Keston have represented Bromley at the London Youth Games. As I overheard one of the Admin team say some years ago during a phone call "If it's a competition within a 30 mile radius – even if it's tiddlywinks – Keston will be entered!"

**I will miss everyone but,
most of all, I'll miss seeing
the children's smiles**

Forest School is another passion of mine, (spiders notwithstanding!), and I was among the first cohort of Bromley teachers to be trained many years ago.

I have very much enjoyed and appreciated the school's relationship with the church and the support we

have had from both present and past Incumbents. I know I leave the school in excellent hands in this respect with Rev'd Belinda.

I'm looking forward to retirement although people who know me realise I won't be relaxing! Going to the gym, long dog walks, ongoing cottage renovations and decoration, gardening, cooking, trips to the theatre, a much-anticipated flower arranging course and hopefully a chance to re-ignite my passion for fine art are all on the cards!

Thank you to all present and past families, local residents and colleagues who have made my career so rewarding. I will miss everyone but, most of all, I'll miss seeing the children's smiles when I'm on the gate each morning.

Julia Evison, Head Teacher,
Keston CE Primary

Halls for Hire



Keston Church Hall (above)

Next to Keston church, this beautiful hall with kitchen is suitable for children's parties, baby showers, family and friends celebrations, work team building days, training events, smaller wedding receptions, dance or drama groups, exercise classes etc. There is also a smaller room upstairs. More information from Tricia on 01689 854373 or on the church website www.kestonparishchurch.org.uk

Keston Village Hall (below)

Situated in the centre of the village, this large hall and kitchen is a good venue for parties, charity galas and wedding receptions – there is a package available for the latter. The smaller Jubilee room downstairs is also available for hire. Please see www.kestonvillagehall.org.uk



My Faith Journey



I cannot remember a time when my faith was not a part of my daily life.

I grew up attending St Barnabas Church in Gillingham with my family. While not connected by blood, this expanded my family massively – through my baptism I was made a member of the family of God which spans all Christians throughout the world. However, I also gained a large number of ‘grandparents’ from the congregation. Even as a child, I knew that I was welcome – as I started school and found the joy of maths, this was nurtured by the, then, Churchwarden, Frank, who used to bring a stool over each Sunday so I could help count the collection.

From a very early age, I attended Sunday School and, by the time I was five, I was helping in the worship as a Server (carrying the cross and candles in the service and helping to lay the altar for Communion). I was Confirmed at age 10, and this was a very special

service for me. A chance to say for myself that this is my faith, I believe in God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and to make for myself the promises that my parents made 10 years earlier at my baptism.

As an adult, my faith has remained a central part of my being and has sustained me when times have been tough. I have been tested at times and felt uncertain, but when I return to God in prayer or through the companionship of collective worship, I find a sense of peace and the comfort of knowing I am deeply loved.

For me, the Christian faith is not just an internal belief system nor simply attending church. It is through living the faith that we become true believers. This has led me to take on voluntary roles, some within the church, and others in the wider community – spreading the love of Christ to those who have not heard yet the message, through actions not preaching. I am a trustee of a shelter providing support to homeless and vulnerably housed individuals, for if we do not help those in need with practical support first, how can they feel truly loved?

As I write this, I am awaiting the birth of my first child, and God willing, look forward to bringing my child to church to become not just a part of the wider Christian family but also a member of the Keston church family. I pray that they may find as warm a welcome as I did and grow up knowing the love of God in learning and action too.

Natasha Beckhelling

If evolution really works, how come mothers only have two hands?

More Than Meets the Eye



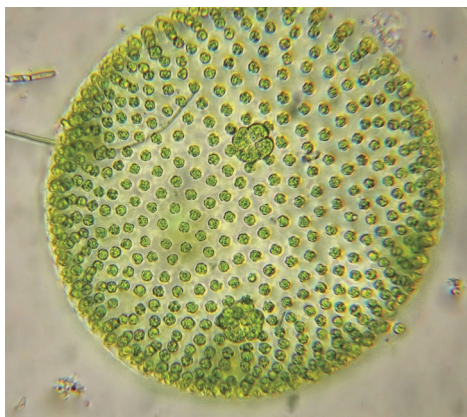
Nigel Ashby with plankton net
photo by Alan Wood

Last summer you may have thought it odd to see a few grown ups with kiddies' fishing nets or even turkey basters pond dipping in Keston Ponds. They were members of Quekett Microscopical Club on a day's visit to find out about the microscopic life within the waters. On Saturday 21st June this year, they will be there again and will then take their samples back to their base in the Jubilee room of Keston Village Hall, where drops of water will be mounted onto slides. Their array of microscopes set up there will be revealing the tiny creatures and plants that last year showed how wonderfully healthy the life of the ponds is, and will



Jane Linstead with pipette
photo by Alan Wood

be using cameras mounted on the microscopes to photograph it. Members of the public are welcome to come and try out the microscopes and to chat to and watch members at work. Last year they were very happy to see *Volvox*, the holy grail of findings! It is a chlorophyte green algae that forms spherical colonies of up to 50,000 cells. For those in the know, other pond life found included rotifers, copepods, Cladocera (water fleas), ostracods, desmids, bryozoans, *Vorticella*, *Ceratium*, *Dinobryon* and *Hydra oligactis* plus mayfly nymphs and newt tadpoles.



Volvox by David Linstead

Bromley resident, David Linstead, has been a frequent visitor to Keston ponds over many years and was awarded Celebrated Member for his work and contributions to the organisation in 2023. He hopes to be at Keston again this year and exhibit some of his amazing and beautiful photomicrographs.

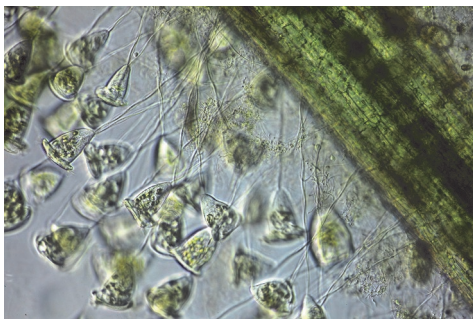
On Saturday 16th and Sunday 17th August Quekett will also be running a weekend at Down House – where of



David Linstead with trinocular
Zeiss Standard microscope
photo by Alan Wood

course Charles Darwin would have used microscopes. He was a contemporary of Professor John Quekett, a famous Victorian microscopist, after whom the organisation is named. As well as a historical exhibition of microscopes there will be a hands on opportunity to use microscopes to look at pollen and seeds plus other items, with the exhibition based in Darwin's shed. There will be fun for children too!

Quekett Microscopical Club exists for those who are interested in microscopes and microscopy, and to promote the use of microscopes. It is a registered charity



Vorticella (a ciliated protozoan)
by David Linstead

which was founded in 1865 and is the longest continuously running organisation dedicated to microscopy in the world. Membership is open to everyone from beginner to advanced amateur together with professional microscopists. As well as regular club meetings, lectures and workshops based at the Natural History Museum in London, (and some on Zoom), there are regional meetings and regular publications. Please see www.quekett.org for more information, including a programme of events. Anyone interested is welcome to come to an event as a guest by emailing Lisa on secretary@quekett.org.

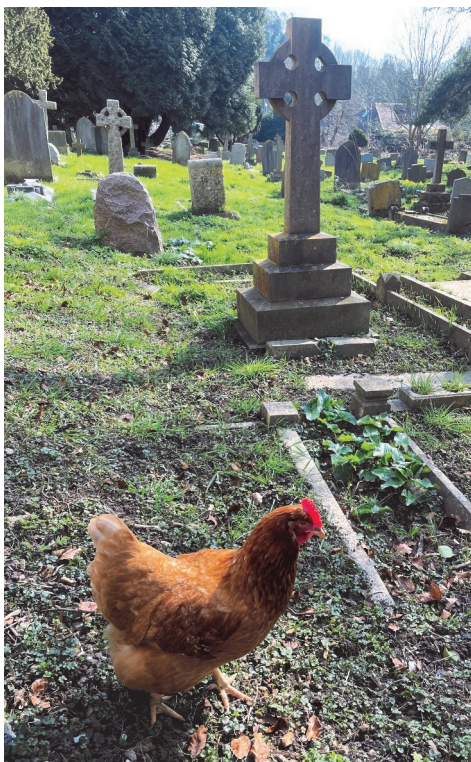


Group photo at Keston Ponds 1922. No signs of suits, ties or hats nowadays, but the plankton nets look very similar to the ones now in use. Quekett has records of their findings at Keston stretching back a long time.

These local visits from members of Quekett are a great opportunity to see the flora and fauna of Keston that cannot be seen with the naked eye – and the enthusiasm of members is infectious!

Sally Churchus, with help from members Lisa and Nigel Ashby

Chicken in the Churchyard



We were surprised to see this after our 10am Sunday Service on 9th March. Captions were invited and those sent in included the following:

- Q: Why did the chicken cross the churchyard? A: They wanted to get to the 'other side'!
- Pax o Bygraves
- KPC (Keston Parish Church)/KFC
- Don't want to ruffle anyone's feathers
- Don't chicken out
- I hope Henny Penny's name was added to the attendance list?
- I wouldn't even bother to cross the road if I were you, you could end up in the churchyard
- Church is egg-actly the place where I want to be!
- I wonder if I will be next in the pecking order...
- Anyone for a roast chicken lunch?
- It will be an Easter egg hunt with a twist this year

From the Registers

Baptisms

| | |
|---------------|--|
| 23rd February | Ollie Andrew Fitzpatrick (born 25/10/2024) |
| 4th May | James Henry Field (born 4/5/2020) |

Funerals

| | |
|--------------|--|
| 17th January | John Hills (aged 79 years) |
| 7th February | Jo Blake (aged 91 years) |
| 4th April | Margarethe Knox Blackman (aged 87 years) |

Burial of Ashes

| | |
|------------|--------------------------------------|
| 23rd March | Andrew Charles Hyett (aged 61 years) |
| 29th March | Doreen Smith (aged 83 years) |

Church Services



Sunday 4th May VE Day 80th anniversary service at Keston Parish Church

First Sunday in the month

8.00am Holy Communion using Book of Common Prayer (1662)

10.00am Celebrational Worship (non Communion)

All other Sundays

10am Holy Communion

Every Monday

7.40am Morning Prayer

8.00am Holy Communion (said)

Second Saturday in the month

11.20am Healing and Wholeness Service

Anointing/Laying on of hands offered and with
the option of Holy Communion (wafer only)

Confirmation Service

Sunday 1st June

4.00pm Holy Communion with Bishop Simon Burton-Jones

Thanksgiving for Holy Communion (Corpus Christi)

Thursday 19th June

3.00pm Holy Communion

Death of Pope Francis

Excerpts from the statement by The Archbishop of York following the news of the death of Pope Francis

“‘Let us walk together, work together, pray together.’ These are the words Pope Francis said to me when we met in 2023. They sum up his vision for the church, both the Roman Catholic Church but also ecumenically.

Francis’s whole life and ministry was centred on Jesus who comes among us, not to be served, but to serve. We saw that in Francis’s service of the poor, his love of neighbour especially the displaced, migrant, the asylum seeker, his deep compassion for the well-being of the earth and his desire to build the church in new ways. Francis showed us how to follow Jesus, and encouraged us to go and do likewise.

His encyclicals and teachings were supported by his deeds and actions. His whole life was instantly recognisable as those of one who followed Jesus.

Pope Francis was acutely aware of the divisions between our churches, and I remember the powerful work he did with the then Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, and the Moderator of the Church of Scotland in promoting peacebuilding in South Sudan.

I remember, in the brief times I spent with him, how this holy man of God was also witty, lively, good to be with, and the warmth of his personality and interest in others shone out from him. May he rest in peace and rise in glory.”



Image by manfred Kindlinger from Pixabay

O Lord, Support Us

O Lord, support us all the day long,
until the shadows lengthen and the evening comes,
and the busy world is hushed,
and the fever of life is over,
and our work is done.

Then, Lord, in your mercy grant us a safe lodging,
and a holy rest, and peace at the last;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Welcome for St Christopher's Fun Walkers



Over 200 St Christopher's Fun Walkers appreciated stopping at Keston Parish church for refreshments, water refills, to use the toilets or light a candle and say a prayer in memory of a loved one. Walkers doing the 5.5 mile route passed the church and what a cheerful lot they were! Sunday 11th May was a perfect dry and sunny day for the event, indeed many welcomed a few moments to cool down inside the church. Well done to all the walkers, each with their own story, for supporting such a worthy cause. In addition, walkers donated over £100 to St Christopher's during their visit.

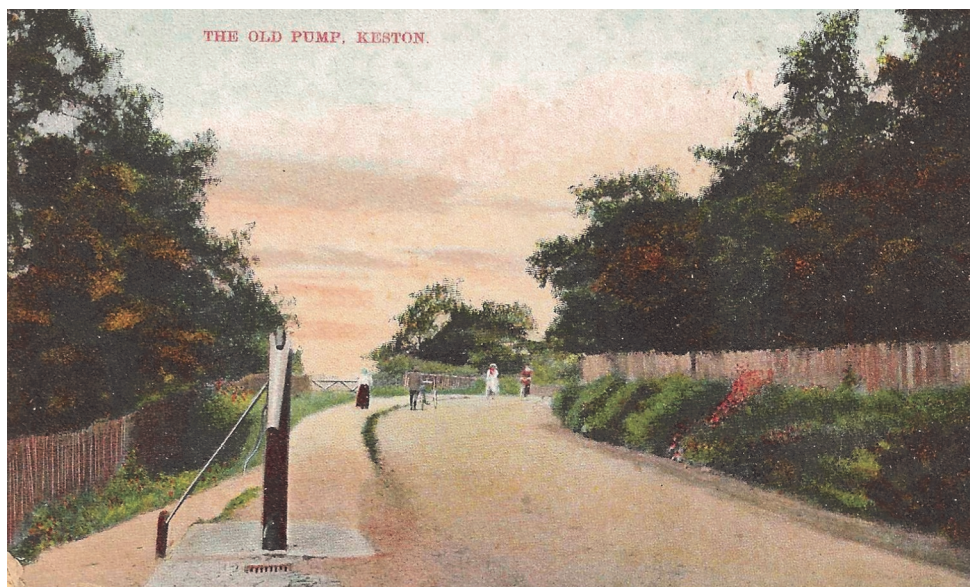
Dame Cicely Saunders founded St Christopher's in 1967 as the first hospice linking expert pain and symptom control, as well as practical,

emotional, social and spiritual support for the dying person and their family. Cicely's strong Christian faith was a fundamental factor in her vision to establish a home for the dying and remained an anchor throughout her life.

Sally Churchus



Archdeacon's Well



At a bend in the road between Keston Common and the Parish Church, just above War Bank, there still exists the Archdeacon's Well, made "for the Public Good, April, 1735", by Rev. Archdeacon Christopher Clarke, at that time Rector of the Parish of Keston. It is a square well about five feet deep, and constructed of brick, but now covered over by a flagstone. The spring is of pure water, and is abundant even in periods of long drought, when all the water sources are exhausted at Down, and the inhabitants of which place come hither to draw. (*From Antiquarian Jottings by G. Clinch 1889*).

In the past, Leaves Green and other villages suffered from water shortages in periods of dry weather as described by Charles Darwin, writing to his friend Sir John Lubbock at High Elms during a dry summer, when he remarked that the house well was so low the family could draw just one large bucket per day. In

1727 this perennial problem persuaded Archdeacon Clarke to convert the spring on Westerham Road into a well fitted with a hand pump to serve the people of both Keston and Downe. It was used regularly before being closed and sealed in 1926 following the tarring of the Westerham Road and the rise in motor traffic which had resulted in pollution of the water. The hand pump remained intact until a military vehicle demolished it in the early 1940s after which all evidence of the Well's existence was removed: today the only evidence of its original location is a drain cover set in the pavement on Westerham Road near the footpath to Jackass Lane. Walkers prepared to take this steep public footpath from Archdeacon Clarke's well to Jackass Lane will see the tiny stream on the left of the footpath as it appears from underneath the road embankment. After flowing for 100 yards down the steep

slope and arriving at the disused chicken sheds at Keston Court farm it disappears into the ground having arrived at porous chalk soils.

Fascinating archaeological and historical evidence confirms regular use of this spring as a source of water for at least 2,000 years. Covenants contained in a lease granted to Alice Heywood of Hayes by Sir Henry Farnaby-Lennard on 19th December 1907 applied strict conditions for her use of water taken from Archdeacon Clarke's Well which was linked to her property by means of pipes feeding a water tank in her grounds. Another covenant required her to purchase, *'a galvanised iron drinking trough with a ball valve'* the lid to be fitted with *'a substantial padlock'*. The trough was to be placed at the bottom of the steep footpath near the gate with access to Jackass Lane. The Lord of the Manor was clearly aware there was no surface water at the bottom of the hill and expected his lessee to maintain a constant supply for use by animals



grazing the field and ensure other people could not make use of it. Mrs Heywood's lease for nine acres of land at Warbank included the site of the Roman Villa and archaeologists have found evidence that the Romans linked this same spring to their Villa farmstead via pipes exactly as Alice Heywood did some 1800 years later. Prior to this, Iron Age builders of Holwood fort would certainly have made use of the spring well over two thousand years ago.

(From A History of Keston by Tudor Davies)

And with thanks to Edward Williams for the photos of old postcards.



Postcard dated 1917. The simple construction of the well head is shown and the location can be pin-pointed by the stile, the path from which leads to Jackass Lane, emerging directly opposite Blackness Lane.



In Summer Hols

10 am - 12 noon

Tuesday 29th July

Keston Parish Church Hall
Church Road BR2 6HT

10 am Welcome drinks and snacks

10.15 am Crafts and activities

for all ages and interests

11.30 am Celebration with music

11.45 am Lunch (provided)

Everyone gets to enjoy doing crafts,
learning about the God who loves us,
and share a meal together

Diddy Dinos



My name is Ms Barbara Boisard and, along with my team, I am delighted to have recently opened Diddy Dinos Pre-School. Nestled in the heart of Keston village, within the grounds of Keston CE Primary School, Diddy Dinos is a brand new, term time only Early Years setting designed to nurture children's curiosity, creativity and love for nature. We cater for children aged from two to four years old using a play-based approach to learning as well as preparing them for eventually joining their reception class, whether at Keston or elsewhere.

I have worked in Early Years Education for the last 22 years and currently run Diddy Dinos at St John's CE Primary School in Penge. We were delighted to receive an Outstanding grading from Ofsted in January 2025 which was a real team accolade.

We believe that young children should build their confidence through play, discovery, and fun! We are passionate about offering different experiences to our little ones such as visits from talented artists and musicians, animal encounters, parties to celebrate our Parents and Grandparents' Day, Leavers

Ceremony, Easter fun, Father Christmas and reading sessions with the older primary children – the list is endless!

Our indoor space is warm, calm and inviting. It consists of two large open-plan rooms, two bathrooms and our own kitchen. We decorated the setting using a soft, earthy palette-with a complimenting dinosaur theme of course! We are big on nature here at Diddy and love to bring the outdoors indoors with an array of plants and wooden toys, furniture.

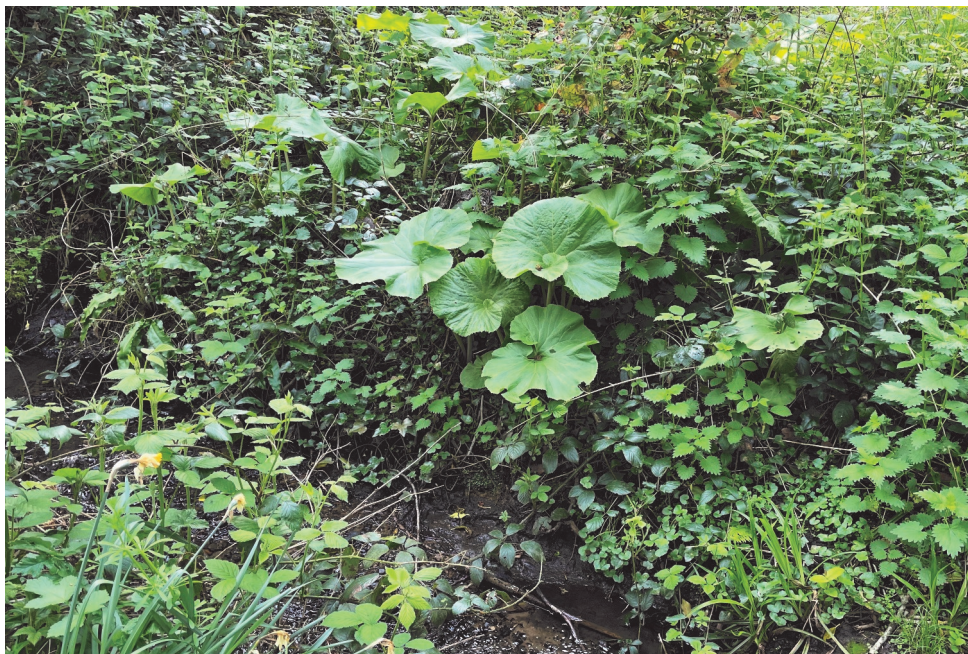
Our garden is an integral part of our setting and can be accessed directly from our main room. Our outdoor space includes different areas for the children to discover and enjoy such as the mud kitchen, the reading den, the allotment, the cars and bikes space, diggers and construction, climbing frame and slide as well as our sweet blue-eyed bunny, Zuko! The children are encouraged to care for Zuko by feeding him each day, reading to him and petting him.

Although we are not connected to Keston Primary, we have a strong relationship with them and are excited about using some of their facilities such as the astro, main hall and the Forest school area.

If you would like a visit please contact me at management@diddydinos.co.uk or on 07392 348024.



Butterbur



You may have noticed the large, rhubarb like leaves of Butterbur growing near a stream on Keston Common. They prefer moist environments like river banks and it's leaves are the largest of any plant native to Britain – up to a metre wide! It's name is derived from the fact that the leaves used to be used to wrap pats of butter and keep them clean and cool.

It spreads by underground rhizomes and in Spring, just before the leaves come, its strange pinkish purple flowers are a good source of nectar early in the year for bees. The male plants were once cultivated by bee keepers for this reason – the hives were put in Butterbur beds over the Winter so that when the bees emerged in March there was plenty of nectar available.

Butterbur has been used for its medicinal properties for over 2,000 years, including for the plague. Currently extract is used in some countries for migraine prevention and treatment for hay fever (not having the sedative effects of antihistamines), although its interactions with other medications is not well known. But please do not try this at home!

Sally Churchus



What I Do



After Covid, as the Chairman of Keston Village Residents Association I wanted to host an event for Keston residents to come together and celebrate after so many months in lockdown. The Queen's Jubilee was going to be celebrated in June 2022 and so KestFest was born.

I am very fortunate to have a great event subcommittee, John Wiltshire, Gail Spencer and Hilary Ryder. Together we start our preparation for KestFest well in advance, booking the Common with Idverde in January of the year KestFest is to take place, and send out a save the date to all stall holders and food vendors. The returned booking forms and payments are logged and if we need to approach new vendors, we do. By mid-May a plot plan is sent out to all with details of where they will be on the day, timings for set up and any parking and site restrictions.

I always apply for Commonsides Road closure, we plan it to coincide with the Big Lunch date so the Council waive the

fees. Idverde send quite a few compliance forms – we have to apply for a Temporary Events Licence, let the Safer Neighbourhood police know, have a full site evacuation plan, a Risk Assessment plan, Event Management Plan and Public liability. We also ask all food vendors to supply their food hygiene rating and any hygiene training certificates and we also need the kiddies' rides safety inspection certificates.

In addition, we have to book the stage and the bands. We are lucky to have local artist Caroline Jackson and her band, along with Harry Sargent and his band Achilles Heel. We need to hire a generator for the bands, which I normally collect the day before.

Posters and banners are designed and put up at least six weeks in advance, and local businesses are asked if they would contribute a raffle prize. The KVVRA have their own stall – we sell raffle tickets, have a Tombola and Hook a Duck for the little ones, normally manned by myself, Hilary and her husband Richard.

The day before the event John, Gail, Hilary and I mark out the pitches with numbers, so stall holders know where to go. On the day, together with a couple of committee members, I close the road at about 8am. I open the Common by unlocking and putting down the posts so that the cars can get on, then the subcommittee and a few volunteers set up the Central arena for the Morris Men and Dog Show. We set out lots of rubbish bins for the customers to use and monitor them throughout the day.

As the stallholders start to arrive, we direct them to their space and once they have set up we escort them back off the Common to park in the car park. Some do leave their cars onsite if there is sufficient space. We do the same in reverse at the end of the day. We also take down our stall, collect all the rubbish and take down the arena, fortunately now that we hire the stage it is taken down for us. The road is re-opened at 6pm and the Common is usually back to normal at about 8pm. After approximately 24,000 steps, I get home at 8.30ish and fall into a chair!

We are always looking for volunteers to help on the day, if you can spare an hour or so then please email kestonvillagera@gmail.com.

We hope you can come along and join in the fun on 7th June.

Shelley Sturdy

What's On

• Prayer Walks

1st Tues & 3rd Wed 9.30am

The Green opposite Greyhound pub

We usually return about 11am. Well behaved dogs welcome too!

• Men's pub social

3rd Wed 7pm The Greyhound

Join us for chat and drinks, plus a meal for those who want it. More details from Martin Becker on 07484 609102.

• Keston Book Club

1st Wed 7pm The Fox

More information from 07503 268001 or angelahollamby@gmail.com.

• Friends of Keston Common Walk

1st Wed 2pm from Keston Village Sign opposite The Greyhound

Walks last up to 2 hours. Well behaved dogs welcome. Good footwear advised.

• New Keston WI

2nd Wed 1.30pm-3.30pm

Keston Church Hall

Contact Helen Best on 07715 880889.

• Mental Wellbeing Coffee Morning

Sat 5th July 10am-12 noon

Keston Church Hall

Come for chat over tea/coffee and cake. We will hear tips about how we can keep ourselves well.

• Book Reading Fellowship

Mon 14th July 2pm Gravel Road

Come and discuss books with some Christian content that you have read over tea/coffee and cake. Please let Sally Churchus know on 020 8462 8750 or editor@kestonparishchurch.org.uk if you would like to come.



Richard's Ramblings



The King's Arms circa 1905 with flock of geese belonging to the pub, a well known sight

When 'me and the missus' first moved to the Keston 'outpost' of Leaves Green, back in the early 70s, one of the things that delighted us was the attractive weather-boarded pub at the top of the Green. We'd seen it on several occasions when we used to come this way from Blackheath on our Lambretta Scooter. I'd worked out a route to Rainham (in Kent) to visit my parents which took us past the famous war-time airfield.

Once we had moved here one of the first things we did, when time allowed, was to walk up the lane and have a celebratory drink. It was in October and it was raining! Several weeks later our friends, a German couple, from Blackheath, came and visited us. We showed them around the house and garden and before they departed we all visited the pub. On the return to the house, as we ambled down the lane, my friend said, (with much envy and a German accent), 'How did you manage to find such an interesting place with a pub close by?'.

Well, over a period of time, things change, landlords come and go and the pub trade goes up and down. It is without question that the drink/drive laws have brought about the demise of many public houses. One reason the Kings Arms was popular was the support it received from the squaddies at the RAF station. When RAF Biggin Hill closed it affected many pubs in the area. None more so then the King's Arms as it was the nearest. How sad it has looked in recent times. Unloved and forlorn with rubbish dumped on the forecourt, weeds growing in the parking area – pass my violin...

But what's this I hear? It's to be opened again – and to someone I know! A month or two ago, when I came back from a morning walk with the 'the dog' I met a car coming down the lane from the main road. It duly stopped and the lady driver, whilst patting 'the dog', announced (with enthusiasm) "I'm opening the pub!". And so it has come to pass.

Richard Geiger

Magazine Deadline

Please send material for the August/September issue of The Keston Magazine to the Editor, Sally Churchus, before Wednesday 2nd July by email to: editor@kestonparishchurch.org.uk or contact her to discuss ideas on Tel: 020 8462 8750. Thank you.

Laughlines

☺ Good Quote

A certain bishop had a fondness for using Bible quotations whenever he visited a function. When he arrived to open a new Maternity Home the organisers thought: "Now we have him stumped." However, after a few well-chosen words, the bishop smiled

and said: "I know you are waiting for a quotation, so here it is: 'We shall not all sleep, but we shall be changed!'"

☺ Garden Produce

A toddler was found in the garden by the steps, chewing on a slug. After the initial surge of disgust his mother asked, "Well . . . what does it taste like?" "The worms by the garage," was the reply.

☺ Aspirin

Had a slight headache this morning but felt much better after following the instructions on the aspirin bottle: "Take two and keep away from children."

☺ Well

My friend said 'Cheer up, you could be stuck in a hole full of water underground!' I know he means well.

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