

The

Keston Magazine

News of your Parish and Village



October/November 2025

Keston Parish Church

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

Keston Residents' Road Safety Group

krrsg@hotmail.com

Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. Hebrews 13:2

Thought for the month



Hospitality

Hospitality is the bedrock of human relationships. Most of human activity in this world centres around the core ideologies concerning hospitality, whether these are social situations, leisure activities or business or work contexts. Friends and families gather to eat, chat and share stories. People are employed to facilitate hospitality, whether through food outlets, internet cafés or as planners. True hospitality though is not simply about serving up the finest meal or offering platitudes around the most opulently decorated or laden table, in the most exotic venue. It is not an opportunity to wax lyrical about one's own achievements. It is not just about a gathering of like-minded people but often requires the inclusion of people different to ourselves. It is not about simply tolerating these others but genuinely accepting who they are.

'People will forget what you said, forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.' Wise, heartfelt words from Maya Angelou, an acclaimed American poet, memoirist and civil rights activist, who suffered great trauma from an early age. The quality of the welcome is clearly the key indicator of what good hospitality looks like.

When Jesus visited his good friends Martha and Mary, Martha busied herself preparing to feed everyone, and Mary, contrary to the custom of the day, sat at Jesus feet with the men of the household, hanging on his every word. Jesus must surely have felt really welcome in this household. As Jesus generously fed the 5,000 he still invites us at every Eucharist to break bread and drink wine with him. No one is excluded. No one is made to feel unwelcome or an outsider. At Keston Communion is given to anyone who approaches the Lord's table and asks.

At harvest time, as Summer turns to Autumn, it is impossible to miss the abundance of God's hospitality gifted to us in the treasures of the earth, sea and sky, carefully designed to bless us and make us feel loved and cared for. While the world hoards food, as millions go hungry; while nations build walls to protect borders as thousands face persecution and starvation in their own homeland, while hundreds and hundreds use food banks in our own country to feed their children, God opens up his hands and generously gives more than is needed to feed and care for the entire world indiscriminately. The question is 'to what extent are we prepared to be hospitable to our neighbour in need and share?'

Rev'd Belinda Beckhelling

Come along and join our Harvest Service at 10am on 5th October (donations to the food bank welcome) and our Harvest Lunch at 12noon – bring a dish if you can, share stories and enjoy fellowship. You will be most welcome.

From the Editor



This month you may be interested to read about the young men who wanted to swim in the ponds so pulled down the notices prohibiting it and ended up in court (Page 14). The similarity struck me when I read a WhatsApp message this week about young men fishing in the Conservation pond ie. lake 3 who were politely asked not to, (notices are up about it), and gave a load of verbal abuse back. The events are nearly 150 years apart!

During my time as editor of the magazine I have been privileged and enjoyed meeting a huge variety of different people and listened to their stories. This month that includes an amazing man in his nineties who recalled his father's life, and also a lovely lady whom I met at the Mental Health Coffee Mornings who volunteers at the Biggin Hill Memorial Museum and has a love of flying like I do. I really enjoy that speed along the runway and the moment the plane leaves the ground, so exhilarating and wonderful to look down at all the fields and houses and then sea below. The window seat is my favourite of course. I'm back from holiday now, and the washing and ironing are done but there is plenty to look forward to this Autumn, featured within the magazine.

Sally Churchus

Cover Story

I took this photo during a Prayer Walk in the middle of November last year. The sun was low and the Autumn colours looked really beautiful. Readers will recognise where it was taken as they walk along the path from Lakes Road towards the ponds, past the school, over the first little wooden bridge/walkway and then look to the right hand side of the second bridge where the little stream crosses the path.

Sally Churchus

Harvest Festival Donations

10am Sunday 5th October

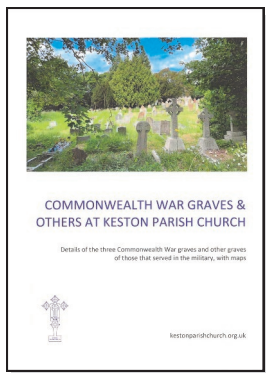
Please bring your cash donations for Welcare in Bromley, (a family support charity), and also food for Bromley Borough Foodbank. Items they need are: tinned tomatoes, tinned cold meat/ fish, tinned fruit/veg, cooking sauces, coffee, UHT milk, sugar, long life fruit juice. They have plenty pasta, biscuits and tea. Thank you.

Autumn

The patchwork quilt of sunlight
On the lawn is paler now.
The shadows of the trees are softer too.
The golden leaves drift down,
carpeting the grass.
The evenings are shorter,
The mornings darker.
The days cooler, clothes warmer.

Tony Hyett

Commonwealth War Graves at Keston



A 12 page A4 booklet is now available with details of the three Commonwealth War Graves at Keston Parish Churchyard as well as four other graves of men who died in service. Maps are included to show where they can be found, plus details about the men. The booklets are available in church for a suggested donation of £2.50 to cover printing costs, or from Sally Churchus Tel: 020 8462 8750 or email editor@kestonparishchurch.org.uk. The information is also available on the church website kestonparishchurch.org.uk so it can be viewed on mobile phones for those with good eyesight!

Thanks for Magazine donations

Thank you to everyone who kindly donated towards the cost of printing The Keston Magazine, it is much appreciated. Donations of articles and information for inclusion would be most welcome too!

KVRA Needs You!

Hilary Ryder has been a Keston Village Residents' Association committee member for 15 years and for the past seven years has been our Treasurer. She will be retiring at the end of the year, so we are urgently looking for someone to become our new Treasurer.

Our bank account is online and most payments are electronic. However, when we hold events such as KestFest there can be cash that has to be banked but this can easily be done at the local Post Office. Hilary has devised a simple spreadsheet method for accounting which she will show the new Treasurer. From this information she produces basic financial reports for the committee and for the AGM. The committee meets quarterly in the village. If you can help, please contact me, Shelley Sturdy, Chair KVRA by email on kestonvillagera@gmail.com. Thank you.



Keston Youth Council... 50 years on



On the 20th July a small and very select group of '60 somethings' were to be found reminiscing in a Keston pub. Amazingly, most were immediately recognisable as their teenage selves. They had gathered, organised by their previous Chair, John Garwood, to celebrate a 50th anniversary.

In the mid-seventies, having outgrown the Sunday School and Discovery groups which had been part of their early years, Keston Youth Council was reborn. Many of the group were newly Confirmed and keen to continue meeting together to socialise and provide outreach for the church into the local community. Eric Rogers gently guided the group but they were mostly left to their own devices. The Youth Council held regular meetings in the upper room of St. Audrey's Rooms, (Olive's Mill), and kept comprehensive minutes of their activities. Unfortunately (or fortunately!) this was a rather cold, dark space so the main business was dealt with as quickly as possible and many members, (those that were or who looked old enough!) adjourned to the pub to finish the planning.

Among the many activities remembered were the sponsored fasts; 24 hours without eating, whilst preparing a 'hunger lunch' for members of the

congregation who made a donation for a simple meal of bread. The funds raised were sent to support famine relief agencies and, of course, no crumbs were ever devoured by the hungry fasters!

A less popular and regular commitment was a visit to Conisborough. The elderly residents often seemed more irritated than pleased to see teenagers and it was never a surprise when members 'forgot' they were on the rota for that month.

They were also highly visible around the parish at community events: Among the first back from 'Beating the Bounds' to devour the best sandwiches and cake... Carol singing... Litter-picking... Manning a stall at Countryside Day. This was an opportunity to be 'ahead of the curve' environmentally speaking: Tim Dwyer, still an engineer, set up a dripping tap one hot July with a poster reading 'Drip, drip, drip ... Save every drop.' How things change – now it's AI using all the water.

Perhaps most important was the 'community' of the Youth Council itself: different ages, different schools but plenty in common. They enjoyed parties, cooking Sunday breakfasts, trips to the theatre and the coast and friendships that have clearly stood the test of time.

Claire Becker

My Faith Journey



My journey of faith began in childhood, growing up in a Catholic family. From an early age, I attended Saturday religious education classes at my local church, where I learned about Catholic doctrine, the Sacraments, and the life of Jesus. I actively participated in Sunday Mass and church events, which grounded my understanding of faith and nurtured a strong sense of belonging and community.

As a teenager, I began teaching religion to primary school children at the same parish school. That experience deepened my commitment, helping me to internalize the teachings I was passing on and reinforcing my sense of purpose within the faith.

At university, I joined a Catholic student group that met every Saturday to reflect on the Gospel. We studied the Scriptures, shared interpretations, and discussed how each passage related to our lives. Those conversations became a

turning point: I began to see faith not only as a personal belief but as a call to action. Compassion, love, and spirituality became the pillars of how I aspired to live. They began to shape the way I related to others and saw the world around me.

This conviction was, and remains, rooted in the powerful words of Matthew 25:35–36:

“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.”

In 1988, moved by that call to serve, I joined the Italian Red Cross as a volunteer. I remained active for nearly a decade, caring for the sick, wounded, traumatized, and vulnerable – both in my home country and abroad. During the Kosovo war, I participated in a humanitarian mission to evacuate refugees, mainly children, elderly people, and women, to safety.

I still remember the morning I left for that mission. My grandmother asked me, “Why are you doing this?” I’ve carried that question with me ever since. The answer, as I’ve come to understand it, is simple yet profound: because another human being needs my help – especially in moments of crisis, loss, and suffering. That conviction endures to this day.

For the past thirty-four years, I have practiced medicine – psychiatry and addiction – serving people from all walks of life: young and old, rich and poor, from diverse cultural and personal backgrounds. I have walked alongside

many through their struggles, their pain, and their darkest thoughts – sacred encounters marked by trust, vulnerability, and the shared search for healing.

My guiding ethos has always been to offer hope, to help my patients find meaning and a renewed sense of purpose. As St. Augustine wrote in *Confessions*, true happiness is not found in material wealth or external success, but in an interior peace – one that arises from a relationship with God.

Today, my faith continues to guide and sustain me. The principles of compassion and love found in Scripture are not abstract ideals, but living truths that I strive to embody in my work and daily life. Serving the vulnerable remains the most tangible expression of my spirituality.

Irene Guerrini

Prayer

*No prayer is too hard
for Him to answer;
No need too great
for Him to supply;
No passion too strong
for Him to subdue;
No temptation too powerful
for Him to deliver from;
No misery too deep
for Him to relieve.*

Arthur Pink (1889-1952)

Volunteers Needed

Are you looking for a rewarding way to give back to your community? Kent Association for the Blind is seeking friendly, reliable volunteers near Biggin Hill to support visually impaired adults through a range of flexible and fulfilling roles. We have several opportunities available, including:



- Befrienders – Offer companionship and conversation to reduce loneliness and isolation.
- Drivers – Help transport clients to appointments, groups, or social events.
- Event Helpers – Support us at fundraising and awareness events.

No previous experience is needed – just a willingness to help and a kind heart. We provide full training and ongoing support to all our volunteers.

Please note: A Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check will be required for certain roles, such as befriending.

By volunteering with us, you'll be directly improving the lives of visually impaired people and joining a warm, welcoming community that values your time and support.

Interested? Call 020 8464 8406 or email pam.anderson@kab.org.uk to find out more. Thank you.

Pam Anderson,
Volunteer Coordinator, Bromley



**Kent
Association
for the
Blind**

Obituary

Reginald 'Reg' Still

11th July 1921 - 25th May 2025



Reg was a resident of Keston for 54 years, moving into the village in 1958. He was born in Surbiton, Surrey, and grew up in Brockley, S.E. London. The family would sometimes enjoy a day trip out to Keston Ponds and it was always a distant dream to one day live in Keston.

Reg spent the war years in the RAF stationed in the Far East. He trained as an aero engine fitter and first worked on Wellington bombers operating from RAF Feltwell in Norfolk before being called up for service overseas where he worked on Spitfires and Lancasters in Egypt. While there he was able to visit many of the sites mentioned in the New Testament and was inspired to undertake Confirmation classes led by their Padre and was Confirmed in Cairo Cathedral.

While away Reg wrote home when he could and was also corresponding with Joy who was a close family friend. They had grown up together – their mothers were great friends and Joy and Reg were born just two weeks apart. The story goes that they first met in the pram!

They were married in 1950 in St. Mary's Church in Hayes and moved in

with Joy's widowed mother in Hayes Lane opposite what was then a dairy farm. Eight years later and by now with two year old twin daughters Elizabeth and Rosemary they had the opportunity to purchase their own home. Joy's brother, Roy Hickman, was a renowned architect and designed 'Timberley' with their three generational family in mind. Hettie sold her property in Hayes and moved with Joy and Reg into her own Granny flat. Timberley was built into the side of an overgrown hillside on the corner of Fox Lane and Leafy Grove with no steps or levels of any kind. Reg created the garden from scratch and with his creative practicality constructed every step and levelled every lawn.

When in 1973 Burmah-Castrol relocated from London to Swindon in Wiltshire the prospect of leaving this beautiful home they had created was unbearable, and so Reg commuted on a weekly basis for the next five years before he had the opportunity to take voluntary redundancy at the age of 57! He wasn't idle for long – he became Secretary of Keston Village Hall and also took on the role of Burmah Pension Liaison Officer.

Sadly Joy's health declined and Reg became her full-time carer for 15 years before her passing in 2010. In 2012 and with a heavy heart he moved from Keston into a bungalow behind his daughter in Orpington and with family support enjoyed independent living for the next 11 years before his own health deteriorated. He finally moved into a care home in 2023 and passed away peacefully in May this year after a short illness. A life well lived!

Elizabeth Brown

Messy Church



“Thank you so much for today, Poppy and Wilf had a wonderful time. I’m always so impressed at how well organised you all are as well as how thoughtful and high quality the activities are. The lunch was delightful and the cakes were delicious. I also loved the service where the children were able to wave their creations and join with the

service. A massive thank you to all the volunteers and everyone involved in making the event such a wonderful event – your dedication is clear”.

Rebecca Strong

Don’t miss our next Messy Church at 10am on Tuesday 21st October at Keston Church Hall. Everyone welcome.

From the Registers

Baptisms

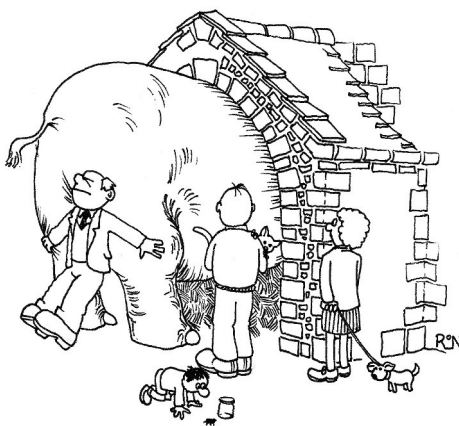
6th July Beatrice Lynch
(born 1st September 2024)

6th July Clementine Lynch
(born 1st September 2024)

13th July Maeva Olive Mitchell
(born 31st December 2024)

Burial of Ashes

19th July Frank Edward Netscher
(aged 94 years)



*Eventually they decided to hold
the Pet Service outdoors*

Church Services



First Sunday in the month

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

10.00am Celebrational Worship (non Communion)

All other Sundays

10.00am Holy Communion

Every Monday

7.40am Morning Prayer

8.00am Holy Communion (said)

Second Saturday in the month

11.20am Healing & Wholeness Service
Anointing/Laying on of hands offered and with the option of Holy Communion (wafer only)

Pet Service

3.00pm Saturday 4th October

Informal non Communion service with blessings for pets (please ensure your pets are safe and under control!)
Collection going to Foal Farm

Harvest Festival

Sunday 5th October

8.00am Holy Communion using Book of Common Prayer

10.00am Non Communion service
Followed by a Bring and Share meal with overseas charity raffle

All Saints

3.00pm Saturday 1st November

Holy Communion

Service for the Bereaved

3.00pm Sunday 2nd November

A short service of hymns and prayers followed by tea and cakes in the hall

Remembrance

Sunday 9th November

8.00am Holy Communion using Book of Common Prayer

10.00am Short non Communion Service, then meeting at the War Memorial at 10.45am for Act of Remembrance

My Father and the First World War



My father took part in the 1908 Olympics in White City, London, including in the Opening ceremony – it was the first time the games had been held in London. Charles Edmund Marshall was born in 1893. After his death I found a sash amongst his keepsakes which showed that from 1907 to 1910 he had been in numerous gymnastic displays at the Albert Hall, Guildhall and Brighton. This helped explain the fact that as a child we had just been able to walk into a gymnasium and everyone seemed to know him.

Before the First World War he was employed as a compositor at a printers, and had worked on German, Latin and French textbooks. He was a member of the Boys Brigade in which he ran the ambulance service, so at the start of the war, aged 21, he joined the Royal Medical Corps as a stretcher bearer with No.2 Field Ambulance – and later No. 9 due to requests for strong young men

able to lift a guardsman. Being able to speak French enabled him to be the interpreter for the unit in Belgium.

His unit was on duty during the Battle of Mons, (23rd August 1914), when a huge number of British servicemen lost their lives. However, it did buy the Allies time but the work must have been unimaginably hard both mentally and physically. In 1916, Charles was present at the Battle of the Somme.

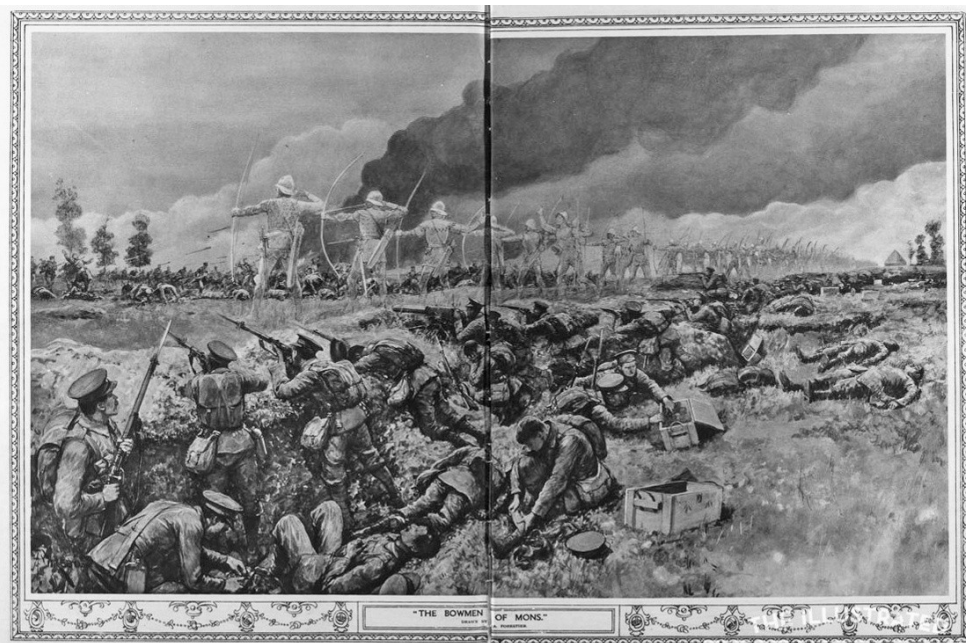
The ambulance unit moved about with the infantry to be on hand to deal with the wounded. Slightly wounded men were treated speedily so that they could return to the front line and time could be found to look after the seriously wounded. Charles became highly proficient at first aid and this kind of medical work, which later became useful to his family on more than one occasion.

A patient with Rabies needed to get from Belgium to a hospital in Paris and someone was needed to accompany them. Charles volunteered and spent the entire journey standing on the step at the back of the ambulance with his hands tied to the door handle. However, it did allow him a 48 hour visit to Paris!

After the war, John asked his father if he had seen the Angel of Mons, and he said he



A section of Charles' sash



The Ghostly Bowman of Mons fight the Germans from *Illustrated London News* November 29th 1915

had whilst carrying a stretcher over a makeshift bridge. John then asked how he knew it was an angel and Charles replied that they had no mud on their boots. John never knew whether he was pulling his leg or not. Although a fictional story about the Angels of Mons by Arthur Machen was exposed in 1915 and he admitted it as such, it had been taken up by newspapers and church magazine editors! However, real evidence of visions from actual named serving soldiers during the debate stated

that they saw visions of phantom cavalymen rather than angels or bowmen, which occurred during the retreat. These may have been hallucinations but who knows – there will never be concrete proof for angels.

During the war, my father was awarded a number of medals, including the Military Medal, which have been passed down to the family. However, I don't want to make him out to be a hero as he was just one of many who played their part.

John Marshall/Sally Churchus



Vandalism at Keston Ponds... in 1883!



Caesar's well about 1900

The Bromley Record for November 1883 reported on the prosecution of three men for damaging a noticeboard at Keston Ponds. The column reads:

“At the Petty Sessions held at Bromley, ... William Taylor, of Bickley, Thomas Bellfield and John Bellfield, of Oakley Road, were summoned for damaging ... a notice board, the property of the Earl of Derby”.

In 1883 Edward Henry Stanley, 15th Earl of Derby, was the owner of Holwood House and the surrounding estate. He was also Secretary of State for the Colonies in Gladstone's administration.

“Mr Baggallay in opening the case, said that 18 months ago Lord Derby purchased the Holwood Estate, Keston, and the three ponds which adjoined the Keston Common on the other side of the road. ...”

“For many years persons had bathed in the ponds, but it had always been objected to by the owner of Holwood House, because the supply of water to Holwood was procured from the ponds.”

“The objection to the bathing was also grounded on the great nuisance caused, particularly on Sundays, and also on the fact that several fatal accidents had occurred there, one being so recently as in August.”

The *Bromley Record* for August 1883 recorded the death by drowning in Keston Ponds of a 15 year old, Charles Cole, a groom in the employ of Mrs Bonham-Carter at Ravensbourne House.

“Lord Derby thought it a duty to take some steps to inform the public that they were not to bathe there, and notice boards were erected warning persons



Keston Ponds (top pond) 1880 with the windmill in the distance across the open heath

against it. The question of damage was very slight, and of course did not affect Lord Derby, who only wished to protect the public.”

“Mr Horne Payne (for the defence) said that what was done was in the assertion of a public right. The public ever since the ponds had existed had bathed in them. The defendants had

bathed in the ponds for 20 years; in fact, these ponds formed the only convenience for bathing in existence for several miles around.”

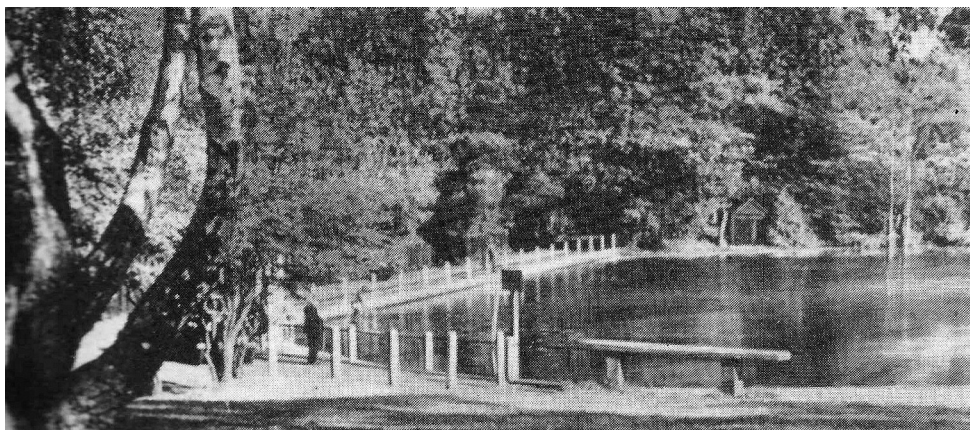
“Mr. Baggalay said that ... they were not summoned for a trespass ... but for wilfully damaging that which did not belong to them. It was for the defendants to prove that they had a bona-fide right on which to ground their action.”

“John Bowen, woodreeve to Lord Derby, (a “woodreeve” was an overseer of a piece of woodland), ... said that he had known the pond for over 50 years, and during the whole of that time bathing had been carried on by the public. The owner of Holwood had, however, tried to stop it, and he had known his father on more than one occasion to throw the bathers’ clothes into the water after them.”

“The Bench inflicted a penalty of 7s. in each case.”

Terry Pyle

Photos courtesy of Edward Williams



The boat-house can be seen on the far side of the lake. This housed the small boat which was essential when swimmers, attracted to the delights of open air bathing got into difficulties. Date of photo unknown.

Mushrooms Growing on Wood

As mushrooms growing on the ground are often short lived, in a limited season of fruiting, it needs some luck to find them at their best. However, there are some long lasting fungi growing on wood that may be seen all year round, which can be quite common and very striking. Many of these can be seen around the woods in Keston and Hayes, and even on street trees.

Known as bracket fungi, they have different strategies for obtaining their nutrients from their host. Some are virulent parasites of living trees, and when they appear as fruiting bodies, that tree is already doomed. Others are saprotrophs, providing a vital service of breaking down dead wood.



Chicken of the Wood, Lakes Road

The Chicken of the Wood *Laetiporus sulphureus* is a deadly parasite, easily spotted with its bright sulphur-yellow colour. It is mostly found on deciduous trees and once the tree has fallen, it will continue to grow on the dead wood.

Other common bracket fungi, such as the Artist's Bracket *Ganoderma applanatum*, are mildly parasitic, and it may be years before it will kill the host tree.



Artist's Bracket

The Beefsteak fungus *Fistulina hepatica* is common on Oak. If you cut through the flesh of this fungus, it certainly does look like a slice of prime beef. Timber that has been infected with this parasite is greatly valued by wood turners and cabinet makers, who sometimes refer to it as 'Brown Oak'.

Fungi have been food for humans for millennia, and in some countries they have also been a staple in the medicine chest. Over the last 40 years, new scientific research on the healing properties of some species has raised hopes that these discoveries will pave the way for a fusion of modern drugs and more natural ingredients from the fungal kingdom.



Beefsteak fungus

One well studied species is the Lacquered Bracket *Ganoderma lucidum*, known as Reishi Mushroom in the Orient. This is now being cultivated and sold as a supplement, with claims that it helps boost the immune system and offers alternative anti-cancer therapies. This is not common in the UK, is mainly found on oak and beech and should not be foraged.

The widespread Birch Polypore *Fomitopsis betulina* has medicinal properties and practical applications too. Known also as the Razor strop fungus, it can be used to sharpen blades and also provides a field dressing when the skin is peeled in strips. Some of this fungus was found with the 5,000 year old frozen Iceman in the Alps, perhaps used as a tinder for starting fires.



Razor strop fungus

The Turkey Tail *Trametes versicolor* is found everywhere on dead wood and can be very brightly coloured. It has been used in traditional Asian medicine for centuries for the immune system, and increasingly in Western integrative oncology as an adjuvant therapy, particularly for breast cancer.

A similar fungus is the Yellowing Curtain Crust *Stereum submentosum* which



Yellowing Curtain Crust in Holwood
on Beech log

can be separated from the Turkey Tail by its smooth underside with no pores.

You will be very lucky to find the Bearded Tooth or Lion's Mane Fungus *Hericiun erinacens* in the UK. It is very rare and a protected species. However, it is now cultivated extensively for its culinary and medicinal properties and current research has highlighted potential benefits of improving cognitive functions, anti-inflammatory effects and anti-microbial activity.

Bob Harrop

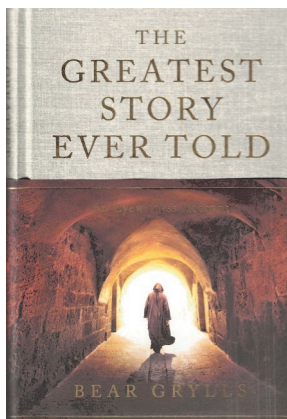


Lion's Mane Fungus

Book Review

The Greatest Story Ever Told

by Bear Grylls



This book is the story of Jesus's life, written as a thriller. It is told from the perspective of five different people that knew him well. Grylls is one of the most famous adventurers in the world and has written over 100 books, but this one was different, he said "I literally woke up one morning and knew I was going to write this thing, with utter conviction" and "I couldn't have not written it". Although he is a high profile personality, he has a quiet but real faith and admits he hasn't got all the answers.

Despite being told by my family that it was hardly holiday reading, I really

enjoyed it. It was pacy, easy reading with very short chapters. Grylls wanted the book to be faithful to the Gospel stories and there's no dialogue from Jesus that is made up, it is all in the New Testament. However, the words were not that familiar to me as they were from versions of the Bible using everyday language, but sometimes different translations bring a fresh perspective. The way the book was written, chronologically and in the cultural setting of the time really brings the story to life.

The thing I didn't like was the use of Hebrew, Greek and Aramaic names for people and places, it wasn't really necessary – for instance Jesus is referred to as Yeshua. They can be figured out though, and there is information at the end of the book. Grylls wrote the last words on the back cover before he'd even started the book, 'May the light and love of the Almighty fill your life with truth, peace and strength. Nothing can ever steal Christ's presence from you...'

I'm not surprised it's a No.1 *Sunday Times* bestseller. It will appeal to believers and non-believers alike and would make a great present.

Sally Churchus

Brainteasers

- A husband and wife have a total age of 91. The husband is now twice as old as his wife was when he was as old as she is now. How old are they now?
- What's a 12 letter word that contains 6 alternate letter "A"s? You'll see it in a supermarket.

Questions from Charles Nove on Magic Classical radio and answers on p22.

What I Do



It was in 2017 when I first read an article in the local paper about a museum being built near St George's RAF Chapel in Biggin Hill. It spiked my interest and I kept the article to remind me to maintain its progress.

Around 18 months later, I found a stall at the annual Airshow promoting the museum which was due to open the following year, so I took a volunteer sheet and made my application. Happily I was accepted, did my training and started 'working' there from the beginning in February 2019. Not that it feels like work at all, I love it!

At the start, my role varied from welcoming at the front desk, working in the shop, and helping with admin tasks for the director. After a while I took Health & Safety and Food Hygiene Courses, which enabled me to assist in the onsite Nightingale café when needed. I then took a break in 2022 for personal reasons, but happily was able to return in 2023.

At present, my 'spot' is mostly on the front desk, which incorporates welcoming visitors, showing the directional route around the museum, answering queries and questions directly

or on the phone, taking payments and anything else that the day throws up!

We also have different volunteer subgroups, who do additional jobs to their usual day slot, which include building maintenance, garden maintenance, special events. So far I have painted the supplies store in camouflage (twice!), I check and maintain the First Aid boxes monthly, and this year painted large papier-mâché eggs for the Easter Egg hunt.

I have always been drawn to things to do with WW2, so it seems right that I have ended up here at one of the most famous Fighter Stations of that time.

My love of aircraft started when I was young and my Dad would take me to the local Ringway, (now Manchester), Airport to watch the aircraft land and take off. We could almost reach the runway along the roadside in those days and I found it exhilarating.

I had my first flight at 16 when I went to visit my German penfriend, I couldn't believe the feeling of take off, and the views once up there were spectacular! I think I caught the bug right there, as after I finished school I applied to be a ground hostess at the airport with BA so I could be in the mix. Unfortunately I wasn't successful for that, but they asked if I'd like to be an air stewardess with them! I was blown away, but was happy to accept and started my training course with them in Feb 1977. I went on to fly for another eight years and it was truly wonderful.

So this brings me back to the beginning and why I love to be involved at the Biggin Hill Memorial Museum and Chapel.

Pam Russell

Richard's Ramblings



Track near the start of Richard's walk
Photo taken on Parish Walk in May

WOOPS!... what's happened to Summer? Yesterday was bright and sunny – today the monsoon has arrived! I'm writing this on Tuesday 3rd September. For about a month we've had no rain at all, was this Summer going to be another 1976?

On Saturday 30th August I was up early and 'the dog' and I decided we needed a good walk. We headed up the track on the other side of the main road opposite the King's Arms pub. (Now up and running, as they say). This track meets up with Ashmore Lane which ends at Tim Lathrope's Stables. From there it becomes a footpath dropping down to Furze Bottom*, or branching left to eventually arrive half way down Saltbox Hill.

We took the former and enjoying the glorious morning sunshine met the stile over which I clambered and 'the dog' ducked. (Weird word?). From thence we

headed right towards the 'fruit farm' (as woz) at the lower end of Blackness Lane. This long track is incredibly chalky with large ruts to be navigated.

Now, I've travelled this route many times and I'm convinced it was once an established thoroughfare. Had I turned left at the stile it would have taken me through a wood of mixed pine and deciduous trees, climbing steadily to emerge on the road from New Addington to Biggin Hill.

Crossing this road it plunges into Jewel's Wood. All this time the track is of constant width as if it was once an established lane. At the other side of Jewel's Wood it carries on in a straight line across an open field to emerge onto a lane at a little settlement of houses called Fairchildes Cottages**. (Not far from The White Bear pub). Here it becomes a tarmac road which will take you across what was a Roman road to Fickleshole. It becomes a footpath again called Railpit Lane (why?), eventually joining Beddlestead Lane and heading towards Chelsham.

*Pronounced Fuzzy Bottom by our children

**If I remember correctly there's even a little school there

Richard Geiger



Track that then becomes footpath dropping down to Furze Bottom

What's On

Prayer Walks

First Tuesday & Third Wednesday 9.30am

The Green opposite Greyhound pub

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

Men's pub social

Third Wednesday 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

First Wednesday 7pm The Fox

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

Friends of Keston Common Walk

First Wednesday 2pm from Keston Village

Sign opposite The Greyhound

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

New Keston WI

Second Wednesday 1.30pm-3.30pm

Keston Church Hall

Contact Helen Best on 07715 880889.

Harvest Bring and Share meal

Sunday 5th October 12 noon

Keston Church Hall

Bring a dish of food to share – either a main course or dessert, plus your own drinks and glasses. There will be a raffle in aid of an overseas charity.

Quiz Night

With Fish & Chip Supper

Saturday 15th November

6.30pm for 7pm Keston Church Hall

Tickets £16 from Chris Tel: 07988 712873



Mental Wellbeing Coffee Morning

Saturday 18th October 10am-12 noon

Keston Church Hall

Come for a chat over tea/coffee and cake with Irene Guerrini, a mental health professional, at hand. We will hear tips about how we can keep ourselves well.

Book Reading Fellowship

Monday 1st December 2pm Gravel Rd

Come and discuss books with some Christian content that you have read over tea/coffee and cake. If you want to come, please let Sally Churchus know on Tel: 020 8462 8750 or email editor@kestonparishchurch.org.uk.

GOD – If You exist – make Yourself known to me

St. Augustine of Hippo

Magazine Deadline

Please send material for the December/January issue of The Keston Magazine to the Editor, Sally Churchus, before Wednesday 5th November by email to: editor@kestonparishchurch.org.uk or contact her to discuss ideas on Tel: 020 8462 8750. Thank you.

Laughlines

☺ Unseen

A small girl greeting her father on his return from a journey by air and learning that he had flown above the clouds, asked if he had seen God. "Well, no," said her father, "you can't see God like that because He doesn't have a body." "Oh," she said, with pity and disappointment, "only head and legs?"

☺ Drink order

I was on a flight, off on holiday. The cabin crew member asked what I wanted to drink. "Water". "Still?" "Well, I haven't changed my mind..."

☺ The Map

Yesterday I bought a world map and pinned it to the kitchen wall. I gave my wife a dart and said to her "Throw this and wherever it lands, I'm taking you for a holiday". It turns out that we are spending three weeks behind the fridge!

☺ New machine

Just been to the gym at work because they've got a new machine in. Only used it for half an hour as I started to feel sick. It's great, though. It does everything – KitKats, Mars bars, Snickers, crisps, the lot.

Answers: Husband 52, wife 39. Tarnasalata

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