



The

Keston Magazine

News of your Parish and Village



October/November 2026

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*As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat,
summer and winter, day and night will never cease. Genesis 8:22*

Thought for the month



The Water of Life

Have you been looking at a lawn which is brown, dry and withered? Do you have plants whose leaves were wilting, crumpled and crispy; trees where the apples began to drop prematurely; earth that is still parched and cracked? The Met Office tells us that the Summer of 2026 is UK's hottest ever. Drought, wild fires and flash flooding seem to be the order of the day in much of Southern England and Wales. Creation seems to be groaning under the stress of months of no rain. Rivers are running dry and crops are failing. Much of our wildlife risks being endangered. The increased frequency of heatwaves, which looks set to continue with human-induced climate change over successive summers, puts a strain on life as we know it.

Water is essential for life. Our physical wellbeing, even our very existence, depends on it. On average, water makes up about 60-70% of the human body. Humans require water for nearly every bodily function. When 2% of body weight is lost, thirst, the first stage of dehydration kicks in. It is thought that typically a person can survive on average three to five days without water

before dehydration and organ failure occurs. Without water we cannot survive.

In the creation narrative, God uses water as a foundational element to bring forth life. As God separates the waters to make the heavens and earth, he brings about order from chaos. The water cycle, which transcends global boundaries touching every corner of the earth, promotes ecological balance by God's design. He gives us abundant water as a means by which all creation is nurtured, sustained and blessed, even in the most barren of places. It is the lifeline by which we are connected to one another and to God.

Water is symbolic of the spiritual life that flows from God. The psalmist writes, "*As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, my God.*" (Psalm 42:1). In baptism, it cleanses, renews and transforms. Through Jesus's redemptive work it offers a new start, wherever our lives have taken us in the past. Jesus gives us this living water which quenches a thirst that arises from deep inside our very souls, a thirst that can only be satisfied by the presence of God in our lives.

In the face of a spiritual drought, we can be encouraged that in scripture water is often tied to miraculous acts performed by God. These miracles serve as signs of God's power and His ability to change circumstances. It takes a small amount of rain for the decaying, withered grass to spring up with green shoots of life and growth, revealing that nothing is impossible for God.

Rev'd Belinda Beckhelling

From the Editor



With a hosepipe ban still in place, at least we have now had some rain for our gardens although it is looking somewhat Autumnal. We have read about and watched with sadness in our hearts the plight of those caught up in the floods and mudslide in Nepal and have decided to take up a retiring collection on the next two Sundays at church to try and help in some small way.

You may recall Deepak and Susannah Aryal with their two little girls, who used to run the Village Stores, were from Nepal. Unfortunately, they have had some friends and family members involved and are devastated.

I first heard about the Keston Ponds Project when I attended the Open Meeting in the church hall in February, but the plans have now progressed and the most recent ones are included on the centre pages, albeit with rather small writing due to being reduced to A4 size. Debra van Jaarsveldt from Bromley Council, who is in charge of the project, has written a bit about it on the following pages as work will soon be starting.

I hope you enjoy the variety of articles in this issue, and find the details of the many upcoming events helpful.

Sally Churchus

Cover Story



Last year, I took the cover photo of the Harvest Festival arrangement on the shelf in the church porch from above. Thank you to Terri Rugg who created it using flowers mainly from her own garden, a few dahlias from Shelley Sturdy's garden, and the hops and pumpkin from the Lavender farm at Eynsford. Thank you also to the other flower arrangers who decorate the church so beautifully, week by week as well as for special festivals.

Harvest Festival Donations

10am Sunday 4th 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: cereals, tinned cold meats, long life desserts and fruit juice, squash, sweets, laundry detergent, shampoo, shower gel and shaving foam/gel. They have plenty of pasta and rice. Thank you.

Keston Art Show Saturday 28th November 10am-5pm



A day of colour and community awaits at the village hall as 20 local artists come together for a one-day show. On display will be a vibrant and diverse collection of paintings with a wide range of styles, subjects, and techniques from delicate inks and watercolours to bold contemporary pieces, from small box-framed explosions of colour to large formal oils – and a stall with fine locally made ceramics.

I am a member of the Croydon Art Society and was born and raised just across the Common in Hayes. I often go for walks through the woods and past the Keston Village Hall and always thought that Keston would be the ideal place to hold an art show. So, last year, with the help of my friends from the society and other talented local participants, I put together an exhibition which was, by all accounts, a resounding success. And so I am delighted to announce a second exhibition this year.

The event provides a perfect opportunity to meet the artists, discuss their work, and perhaps find a favourite piece to take home. For my part, I

always love visiting art fairs and when I purchase a piece it means so much more to me if I have chatted with the artist and understood their motivations and techniques – art is all very personal.

You will find tremendous variety in the work exhibited – and in addition to original works, there will be prints and cards and even jigsaw puzzles. With free entry and a welcoming atmosphere, the one-day show promises to be a lively and memorable celebration of local artistic talent. Coffee, tea and biccies will be on sale with all proceeds from refreshments going to charity. I do hope you can join us!

Derrick Ireland



‘The Reading Room’ by Derrick Ireland

Spinnaker Trust



The donations made during Keston Parish church Messy church sessions go towards this charity. Celebrating 40 years

this year, its mission is to inspire Primary School children to engage with the Christian faith and explore its beliefs and values. They visit Primary Schools to deliver Christian Collective Worship (Assemblies) and RE lessons. Their unique style and enthusiasm for Christian schoolwork comes from their diverse, creative and energetic team of 45 volunteers and staff – practicing Christians from various denominations who visit schools weekly in London and SE England. They also seek to provide

teachers and others with the tools they need to deliver outstanding lessons and Assemblies.

Pupils are fortunate that Spinnaker are able to visit Keston CE Primary School, and that as Rector of Keston (and also an ex Headteacher), Rev'd Belinda takes Assemblies at the school every fortnight as well as services for special festivals such as Harvest, plus some RE lessons.



One of the recent fun activities at Keston Messy Church with the theme of Jonah and the whale.



Messy CHURCH

Tuesday 27th October
10 am - 12 noon
Keston Parish Church Hall
Church Road BR2 6HT

10am Welcome drinks/snacks
10.15am Crafts and Activities
11.30am Celebration with music
11.45am Lunch (provided)

Everyone welcome



Keston Baby & Toddler Group

Keston Church Hall
Every Friday 11am-1pm

Songs, story, space and time with other small and big people

My Favourite Hymn



One of my favourite hymns is ‘Make Me a Channel of your Peace’. I listen to it many times to remind me how to live my life in faith, especially when life gets busy and a bit challenging. Its soft melody calms me so I can hear God’s small voice encouraging me to channel my God given skills in the best way I can to the glory of God. I often get goosebumps when it comes up at church, and when this happens I want to believe that maybe God is speaking to me personally, letting me know he is with me always.

The hymn is based on a prayer attributed, (perhaps incorrectly), to St. Francis of Assisi who was an Italian Catholic friar and preacher. Though he was never ordained to the Catholic priesthood, Francis is one of the most venerated religious figures in history. He is best known for his love of nature and animals, his life of extreme poverty and founding the Franciscan Order.

The prayer text circulated widely across Europe during World War I and World War II as a popular prayer for peace. It was put to music in 1967 by Sebastian Temple who grew up in South Africa and later moved to London, where he worked for the BBC on news

broadcasts relating to South Africa. Sebastian converted to Catholicism and spent much of his time composing music for worship.

A popular hymn today, it has been chosen as the anthem of the Royal British Legion and is usually sung in the Royal Albert Hall, London, at the annual November Remembrance Day service. It was also chosen for the funeral of Princess Diana in 1997.

Why don’t you look it up on Spotify or your chosen music platform and use the lyrics below to sing along?

Anna Bailey

Make me a channel of Your peace;
Where there is hatred, let me bring
Your love;
Where there is injury, Your pardon, Lord,
And where there’s doubt, true faith in You.

CHORUS:

*O Master, grant that I may never seek
So much to be consoled as to console,
To be understood as to understand,
To be loved as to love with all my soul.*

Make me a channel of Your peace;
Where there’s despair in life, let me
bring hope;
Where there is darkness, only light,
And where there’s sadness, ever joy.

(Chorus only after first 2 verses)

Make me a channel of Your peace;
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
In giving of ourselves that we receive,
And in dying that we’re born to eternal
life.

All Hallows Eve – or Holy Evening



Photo of family pumpkins by Chris Mead

Modern Halloween celebrations have their roots with the Celtic peoples of pre-Christian times. In those long-ago days, on the last night of October, the Celts celebrated the Festival of Samhain, or 'Summer's End'. The priests, or Druids, performed ceremonies to thank and honour the sun. For there was a very dark side to all this: Samhain also signalled the onset of winter, a time when it was feared that unfriendly ghosts, nature-spirits, and witches roamed the earth, creating mischief. So the Druid priests lit great bonfires and performed magic rites to ward off or appease these dark supernatural powers.

Then the Romans arrived, and brought their Harvest Festival which honoured the Goddess Pomona with gifts of apples and nuts. The two festivals slowly merged.

When Christianity arrived still later, it began to replace the Roman and Druid religions. 1st November – All Saints' Day – was dedicated to all Christian Martyrs and Saints who had died. It was called 'All Hallows' Day'. The evening before became an evening of prayer and preparation and was called 'All Hallows' Eve', The Holy Evening, later shortened to 'Halloween'.

For many centuries, however, fear of the supernatural remained strong. During the Middle Ages, animal costumes and frightening masks were worn to ward off the evil spirits of darkness on Halloween. Magic words and charms were used to keep away bad luck, and everybody believed that witches rode about on broomsticks. Fortune telling was popular, as was predicting the future by the use of nuts and apples – Halloween is still sometimes known as Nutcrack Night or Snap-Apple Night.

Today, Christians have learned to turn to prayer instead of charms to overcome the powers of darkness. And the deeper, true meaning of All Hallows' Eve should not be forgotten. As Christians, we all draw closer to Christ when we remember and give thanks for our loved ones and for others who have gone before us through the gates of death.

Parish Pump

Service for the Bereaved

3pm Sunday 1st November

Everyone is invited to a short service of hymns and prayers with the chance to light a candle in memory of a loved one, and a list of their names will be read out. If you would like someone's name added to the list please email Tricia on hallbookings@kestonparishchurch.org.uk. After the service tea and cakes will be served in the church hall.



The Joy of Singing for Fun



Choir just before Friends and Family concert in July

Back in August 2013, my mother whom I had cared for at home for some time, died. As we do at these times of change in our lives, I had wondered about what I could do, to get out and about more and follow some interests that had been put on hold during this time. I vaguely thought about joining a choir.

Within a couple of weeks, a brightly coloured leaflet came through the door from Carers Bromley, (the charity that supported Carers at that time), advertising a new group 'Singing for fun' for Carers. It was starting that September, very close to my home.

This was the beginning of an amazing, refreshing time with our little choir... which is now 13 years old, and has the name 'Carers in Harmony'. As we know, there is a incredible bond created by singing together, but more than that, within our little choir there is the most wonderful feeling of caring for and supporting each other. Some of our members are still Carers, and some have now lost their loved ones, but we are each able to listen, to care and to support each other. Those who

are on their own now find it easy to plan and do things together, when they feel like it, and some lasting friendships have been made.

We meet on Monday mornings at Hayes Free church from 10am until 12.00. We sing unaccompanied 'acapella', and sing a lovely mix of music from folk songs to the Beatles and beyond. We have a wonderful Musical Director in Sheila Arden, who is well known locally for her Musical Productions. She is inspirational and very forgiving of our mistakes! We give occasional concerts for friends and family, and to local groups and Care Homes, which has been rewarding and fun.

At the moment, we only have about 15 members and we would love to have some more! If you would like to come and try (without obligation) we would be **delighted** to see you. Please talk to me or get in touch with plumellaruss@gmail.com.

As our publicity states "Come for the music, stay for the friendship".

Angela Godfrey

From the Registers

Baptisms

5th July

Mila Eve Douglas (born 3rd July 2022)

22nd August

Viviane Lyra Toomer

(born 22nd October 2025)

Wedding

29th August

Charles George Stoneham and

Ella Louise Farebrother

Interment of Ashes

11th July

Denis Woodward (aged 90 years)

Maureen Thelma Woodward

(aged 95 years)

14th July

Rosemary Alison Cogswell

(aged 93 years)

30th August

Bruce John Laurence Skittrell

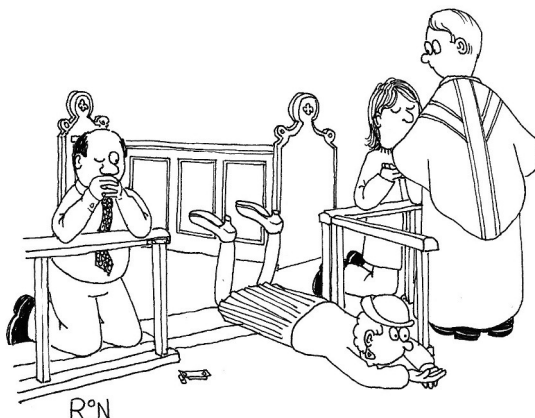
(aged 82 years)



Charlie and Ella Stoneham

Ella and Charlie first met at the Twickenham Rugby Sevens in 2022, and three years later, Charlie proposed in Buenos Aires, Argentina, on the very first day of their holiday. Fittingly, the proposal took place during a 10km run – a memorable start to what would become an even more memorable trip!

Charlie is originally from Keston, where his parents still live, and he even attended nursery at the church. With such a strong connection to the village and the church from an early age, Keston Parish Church was the obvious choice for them to celebrate their wedding day.



Terry made a note to fix the bolt

Church Services



Don Coward at the War Memorial 2025

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

Third Sunday in the month

10.00am Holy Communion with Sunday School for children

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 3rd 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 4th October

8.00am Holy Communion using Book of Common Prayer

10.00am Non Communion service with Harvest donations, see p4.
Followed by a Bring and Share meal at 12 noon, see p21.

Service for the Bereaved

3.00pm Sunday 1st November

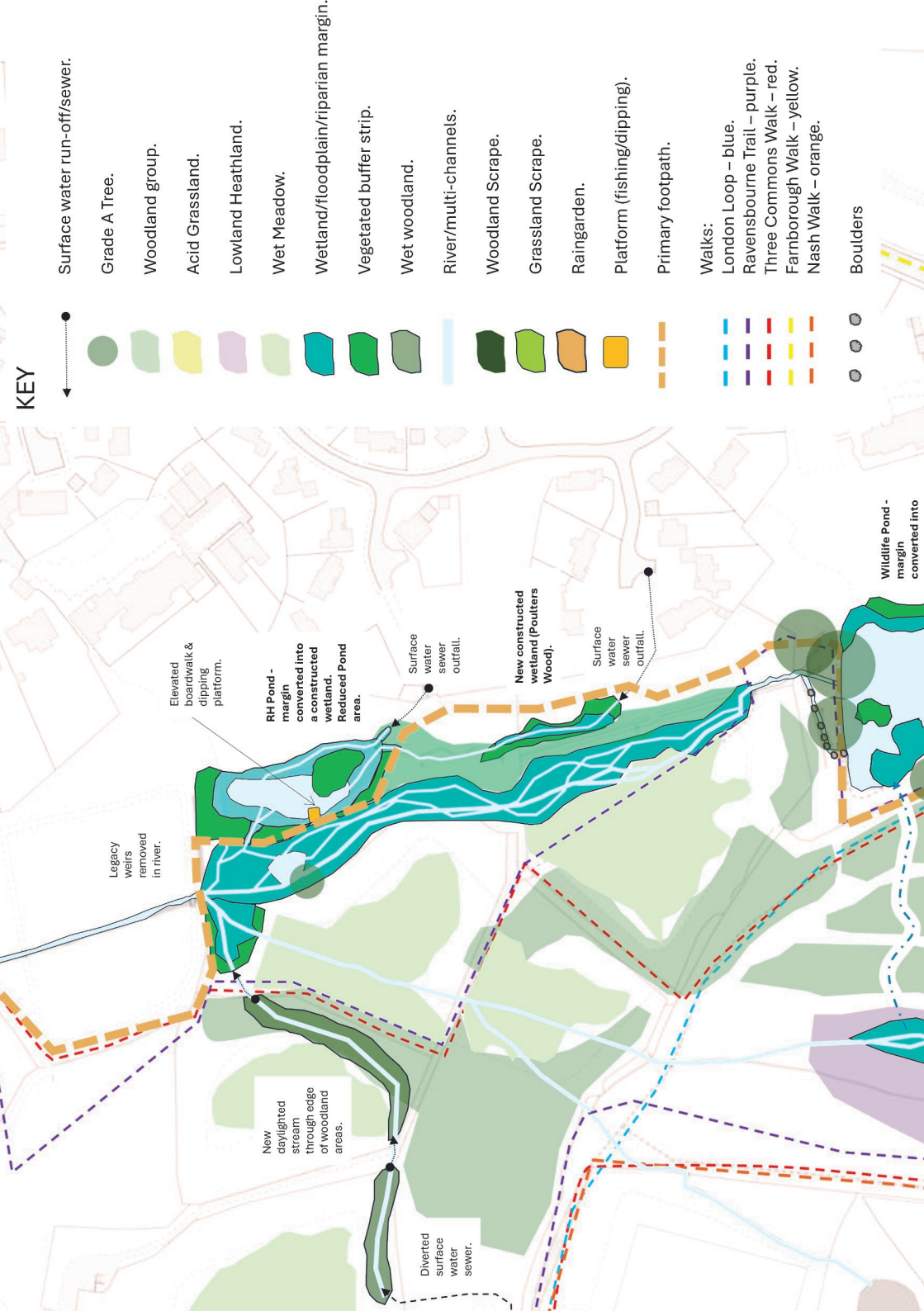
A short service of hymns and prayers followed by tea and cakes in the hall.
If you would like a loved one's name added to the list to be read out during the service, please email Tricia on hallbookings@kestonparishchurch.org.uk

Remembrance

Sunday 8th November

8.00am Holy Communion using Book of Common Prayer

9.45am Short non Communion Service, then meeting at the War Memorial at 10.45am for Act of Remembrance



KEY

Surface water run-off/sewer.

Grade A Tree.

Woodland group.

Acid Grassland.

Lowland Heathland.

Wet Meadow.

Wetland/floodplain/riparian margin.

Vegetated buffer strip.

Wet woodland.

River/multi-channels.

Woodland Scrape.

Grassland Scrape.

Raingarden.

Platform (fishing/dipping).

Primary footpath.

Walks:

London Loop – blue.
Ravensbourne Trail – purple.
Three Commons Walk – red.
Farnborough Walk – yellow.
Nash Walk – orange.

Boulders

Legacy weirs removed in river.

Elevated boardwalk & dipping platform.

New daylighted stream through edge of woodland areas.

Diverted surface water sewer.

Surface water sewer outfall.

New constructed wetland (Poulters Wood).

Surface water sewer outfall.

Wildlife Pond - margin converted into

Keston Ponds Project



riparian edging.
Reduced Pond
area.

New
wetland
margins,
fishing
platforms,
woodland
and
grassland
scrapes.

Main
Public
Pond

Top
Pond

Enhanced
drainage
features.

New
corridors
linking bog
to wetland.

The Bog

The Valley
Mire.

Restored
Ceasars Well.

Enhanced
drainage
features.

Car
Park

Keston Ponds Project to Start



The Keston Ponds Project, led by Bromley Council in partnership with the Friends of Keston Common, is moving from feasibility towards delivery. The programme is designed to restore natural water processes, improve water quality, create and connect valuable habitats, and make the landscape more resilient.

The Council has identified a specialist contractor for the works, subject to completion of the formal contract award and mobilisation process. The first phase, planned to start in Winter 2026/Spring 2027, is included in the Council's capital programme and fully funded through external funding sources. The remaining phases are not currently funded and will only be delivered if further external funding and the necessary approvals are secured.

What the first phase will deliver:

The funded first phase will focus on Ravensbourne House Pond, the River Ravensbourne and Fishponds car park. It will include:

- Ravensbourne House Pond and river restoration: re-profiling selected banks and floodplain features, managing accumulated silt, and restoring more natural connections between the pond, river and surrounding wetland area.
- New and enhanced wetland habitat: wetland scrapes and naturalised river features. These features will create varied conditions for plants, invertebrates, fish, birds and other wildlife.
- Improved water quality and flow management: measures to slow water, manage sediment and help the river and wetlands function more naturally, while reducing the impact of polluted surface-water runoff.
- Westerham Road car park rain gardens: sustainable drainage features will intercept, slow and filter surface water before it reaches the ponds and watercourses. Targeted vegetation management: removal of

invasive plants and selective vegetation and tree works where needed to improve habitat condition, increase diversity and provide sufficient light for wetland plants.

- A replacement boardwalk, and a pond-dipping platform, at the Ravensbourne House Pond.
- Environmental protection during construction: ecological exclusion zones, pollution-prevention controls, water-quality monitoring and specialist ecological supervision will be used to protect the Site of Special Scientific Interest.

Remaining phases not yet funded:

The remaining phases of the wider restoration programme are not currently funded. These include potential works at Caesar's Well and the Top Pond, the Main Public Pond and the Wildlife Pond. Subject to the availability of future funding and the necessary approvals, these phases could include desilting, fish swims and landscape enhancements.

These remaining phases will only proceed if sufficient external funding is secured. This phased approach allows the Council to begin delivering the funded restoration works while continuing to pursue funding for the rest of the programme.

Protecting a special landscape:

Keston Common is both environmentally sensitive and historically important. Delivery must comply with the requirements of the Site of Special Scientific Interest and relevant statutory consents. The Council and contractor will continue to work

with Natural England, the Environment Agency and Historic England. The programme will also take account of seasonal constraints, including nesting birds and fish-spawning periods, and will be adapted if high water, flooding or adverse weather affects site conditions.

*There may be
temporary fencing,
signed diversions or
restricted access*

Because the works will take place in a live public open space, there may be temporary fencing, signed diversions or restricted access around active work areas. Site controls and regular inspections will be used to protect visitors, wildlife and the workforce.

Keeping residents informed:

Before the main site works begin, Bromley Council and its partners will hold a public engagement event where residents can view the proposals, speak to the project team and ask questions about the construction programme and access arrangements.

Dates, locations and further project updates will be published as mobilisation and statutory approvals progress.

Debra van Jaarsveldt
Keston Ponds Project Manager
Carbon Management and Green Space
London Borough of Bromley



My Visit to Ly-ee-Moon



The Ly-ee-Moon house, Church Road, Upper Norwood (from newspaper dated 15 Jan 1960)
www.michaelmcfadyenscuba.info

In 1952 I visited an old man at the exotically named Gothic period mansion called Ly-ee-Moon* near my home in Upper Norwood. I say old because I was only five years of age, and everyone and everything was bigger and older and more important than me. My father took me, he had returned from the campaign under General Slim in the strategy to remove the Japanese from Burma. He was very tall, six foot three inches and I always had huge difficulty in keeping up with his striding walk.

As we approached the house and climbed the stone steps the massive front door creaked open to reveal a formally dressed gentleman who proffered a hand in greeting, changing it to a salute, “Afternoon Captain”, “Hello Tom” my father replied. We entered a long dark corridor, as we walked towards a far open door I gasped at the encapsulated item located on the left hand wall – a huge stuffed and mounted tuna fish in a glass case. The rest of the visit is a blur to me save the comment that he liked drinking cold tea as he

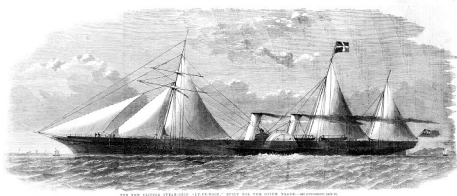
sipped from an antique china cup whilst sitting in his capacious living room.

I had to wait until 1998 to understand the significance of that day when in conversation my mother mentioned “Yes, Papa was absolutely furious when he heard the comment from the Vicar, he was so angry just before the War”. Papa was my mother’s father and was a massively patriotic man. “Yes, she continued” when he heard that b***** Nazi had called at Ly-ee-Moon he just exploded... what was Tom Shepherd thinking to allow that?” I gently probed for a little more detail, but the reply was, “You know, they don’t teach history these days... Molotov-Ribbentrop... they ganged up on Poland...”

As it happens I have always had a deep interest in history. I knew before the Second World War that Hitler had made Von Ribbentrop the German Ambassador and he resided at the Court of King James with his main brief being to cultivate people of influence and to



Joachim von Ribbentrop (1893-1946)
Foreign Minister of Nazi Germany



SS Ly-ee-Moon as depicted in
The Illustrated London News, 1860

keep Britain out of the fight. Hitler was impressed with Von Ribbentrop but he was much disliked in Nazi circles. He was also unpopular in the UK where he would use the Nazi salute whenever possible. He had little understanding of the UK's constitutional set up but would suck up to many, including the Prince of Wales.

The question in my mind since that short revelation was why had Von Ribbentrop gone to meet Tom, and the connection with my father. I

I gasped at the... huge stuffed and mounted tuna fish

knew my father was a patriotic soldier and so was Tom and he must have been involved in the strategy to dissemble the German desire to keep Britain out of the war. Tom was a freeman after the war in 1952 so he couldn't have been a Nazi sympathiser.

Maybe my father's expertise in horticulture was the reason for the visit, or was Tom with MI6? I have checked the internet since and found an account of an old gentleman at Ly-ee-Moon who answered the door to a paper boy, who revealed many years later that a nice old

chap gave him the choice of one of his many Colonial items as a souvenir. This indicates it might have been Tom whom I met with my father, who had been visited by Von Ribbentrop. Von Ribbentrop was convicted and sentenced to death at the Nuremberg trials for his role in starting World War II in Europe and enabling the Holocaust.

So there is my very tenuous connection with one of the 20th century's most infamous characters.

*Ly-ee-Moon was a paddle steamer built in 1859 in London, also sail rigged destined for the Opium trade. She was sunk in 1873, recovered, taken back to the UK where she was refitted with screw propulsion. The ship was wrecked in 1886 with tragic loss of 71 lives off Green Cape, New South Wales. The first Captain of Ly-ee-Moon, Norman Hill, built and named the Norwood house which I visited in 1952. It originally had a stained glass window showing Ly-ee-Moon, but this was destroyed during WWII. The house was sold in 1960 with another large house called 'Homelands' for development and pulled down. The road was named 'Homelands Drive' instead of the far more interesting Ly-ee-Moon.

Mike Gibson, member of
Keston Parish Church



Keston Buzzards

The majestic Buzzard can frequently be seen in the skies above Keston soaring high on thermals above our beautiful countryside, or spotted perched on a branch up in the trees. They have a distinctive cry, a wingspan of up to 4ft and amazing eyesight of up to a mile. If you're lucky you may even spot one taking flight from a field.

On 19th August, two, possibly juveniles were seen flying from tree to tree in the Ravensbourne meadows, calling.

The crows can occasionally be spotted chasing them away, protecting their territory and no doubt their young.

Terri Rugg/Sally Churchus



Photo of Buzzard by Bob Brewer on Unsplash

Partial Eclipse Photo on 12th August



Beautiful images on a house on Fox Lane during the partial eclipse. Thank you, Laurence Pierce.

What I Do



Janet with current trainee Olivia

Training Others

I love my career as a hairdresser, and many of you will know me as I have been in the village since 1994 when Next Ahead opened. After my own training in hair and beauty and working at a salon in Petts Wood, I eventually became the owner. At the age of 23 I had started training others at Erith and studying for a Teacher Training qualification. Over the years I have also taught at the London College of Fashion and was Head of Hairdressing at Havering Technical College.

It makes me sad that so few people are choosing to train to become hairdressers – it is a profession that will never be taken over by AI! You do need to be a creative ‘people’ person, though, and those that come to the salon know how much we genuinely care about our clients. A career in hairdressing doesn’t necessarily mean you have to stay working in a salon – there are other opportunities including working for the big companies such as L’Oréal or even working on cruise ships although that is not as well paid as salon work.

I have a real heart for training others, and have had trainees since Next Ahead opened, sometimes as many as three at a

time. Students range from children age 14 coming for a ‘taster’ day, to work experience students aged 15-16 who usually come for two weeks. Then there are those who are over 16 and choose a career in hairdressing. In order to do this they have to secure a job at a hairdressers before they are able to enrol on the two year course to gain a Level 2 NVQ. Modules include cutting, styling, colouring, perming, extensions and professional selling as well as health and safety of course. The work they do each week at the salon has to be photographed and sent in to the college for their portfolio. At the end of the two years, there is a half hour written exam and a six hour practical one! Trainees get paid for their working hours and get funding from the government for the course up to the age of 25 years. A big plus is that the training expenses do not have to be paid back like Uni ones. I try to offer another year at the salon to help consolidate their skills once they have qualified.

Many people may not realise that in order to help trainees, Next Ahead offer a free service on a Tuesday for all aspects of hairdressing skills from cuts and bouncy blow dries to highlighting and having your hair put up, although you will need to pay for the actual products used. The trainees are fully supervised but will take longer than someone with experience.

What I love about trainees is seeing them improve their skills, develop their own creativity and style and become successful, with a skill for life.

Janet Bentley, Next Ahead
17, Heathfield Road Tel: 01689 860548
As told to Sally Churchus

Our Budget Honeymoon



James and I met at a Fireman's party in Penge which I went to with a friend. I was just 20 and it was a bit of a journey and adventure for me as I lived in Waddon. However, we soon started courting, (there's something about a man in uniform!), and a year later when the opportunity to rent a flat came up we decided it would be lovely to get married and live there together.

However, we didn't have any money although I worked at Bailey Meters in Purley and James as a fireman based at Sutton. As my mother, Cecilia, and I attended the Catholic Church of St. Dominic's in Waddon that is where we were married in 1964. I bought my wedding dress from C&A, and my best friend and her friend were my two bridesmaids as they already had the dresses! After the service we had a simple reception at my mum's house.

Another fireman friend said they could lend us a tent, so we took them up on their offer and set off for our honeymoon in the West Country. Fortunately, James had a car so we drove there and we soon managed to find a campsite.

The weather was sunny, and as James was a good swimmer he headed off to the sea. However, I couldn't swim so decided to do some sunbathing. The next thing I knew I woke up, was violently sick and then carried by two strangers to the St. John's tent on the beach. I obviously had sunstroke and was dehydrated. The two men then walked up and down the beach with a loud hailer trying to find James, which eventually they did. I ended up in hospital on a drip in a dark room. Thankfully it wasn't too long before I was allowed to leave and go back to the campsite to enjoy the rest of our honeymoon.

We had borrowed a little camping stove so could have hot drinks, and heat up some tins of beans and we also had a couple of boxes of cereal that we had brought with us. We didn't have any money for meals or dinners out. We did enjoy a real treat though – a trip to the cinema to see *Lawrence of Arabia* featuring Peter O'Toole.

Each day a man used to come round to collect the campsite fee for the day but towards the end of the holiday we were very low on money and needed it for the petrol to get home and food on the way, so on the last few days we hid when he came round to avoid paying! At the end of the week we headed back home and returned to work, happily married!



Maureen Liddy
as told to
Sally Churchus

What's On

Prayer Walks

First Tuesday & Third Wednesday 9.30am

The Green opposite The Greyhound pub

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

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 on leads 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 4th 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.

Mental Wellbeing Coffee Morning

Saturday 7th November 10am-12 noon

Keston Church Hall

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

KVRA Christmas Fair

Saturday 14th November 1-5pm

Keston Village Hall

Shopping, food stalls, live music, Santa's Grotto and more! Entry £2.

Book Reading Fellowship

Monday 23rd November 2pm

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.

Keston School Christmas Fair

Saturday 28th November 12-3pm

Keston CE Primary School, Lakes Road

Further details available nearer the time.

Singers Wanted!

We would love to have some extra singers at Keston Church Carol service on December 20th at 6.30pm.

Rehearsals start in early November –

If you are interested please contact

David Cook on 07538 616972 or

davidcook89@hotmail.com. Thank you.

Quiz Night

With Fish & Chip Supper



Saturday 21st November

6.30pm for 7pm start

Keston Church Hall

Tickets £16 from Chris

Tel: 07988 712873

(Bring your own drinks & glasses)

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!

Magazine Deadline

Please send material for the December/January issue of The Keston Magazine to the Editor, Sally Churchus, before Wednesday 4th November by email to: editor@kestonparishchurch.org.uk or contact her to discuss ideas on Tel: 020 8462 8750. Thank you.

Laughlines

☺ Name

A Vicar (benevolently): "And what is your name, my little man?"
Small boy: "Well, that's the limit. It was you who baptised me!"

☺ Request

A clergyman phoned his Rural Dean. "I regret to have to inform you that my wife has just died. Could you please send me a substitute for the weekend?"

☺ Weight

Signing a register at a wedding, the groom had difficulty in making the ball point pen work.
"Put your weight on it," said the Vicar. So the groom complied 'John Smith (12 stone, four pounds)'.

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