

Great Kingshill
Residents' Association
Newsletter



Autumn 2023



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Front cover photograph by Chris Goodfellow:
Clematis vitalba (Old Man's Beard)

Welcome to the Autumn edition of the GKRA Newsletter

Dear Reader,

By the time you read this we will be heading towards the end of September and autumn will be approaching fast. The GKRA will have had their AGM and so the Officers shown below may well have changed as this will have gone to press before the meeting. We now have a few new members on the GKRA committee, but would love to have more representatives from the village. Please consider joining us so that you can make a difference to your local community.

On Friday 3rd November the GKRA are very pleased to be running the bonfire and firework display again. We have had some additional offers to help run the event, but we could always do with more! It is a lot of work for a small group of people to organise the evening. Please buy your tickets in advance from the SPAR or Cryer's Hill Post Office. See more details about helping and attending on page 14.

In this edition we have some interesting pieces on the local environment by our regular contributor Tony Marshall, an update on a year of the GK Hub and an ex-resident reminiscing on a return visit to the village after a very long time away.

Looking forward to hearing from you. New contributors are always very welcome. Copy for the winter edition is required by early November 2023 please.

Jackie

gkra.newsletter@gmail.com

RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION OFFICERS (to Sept 2023)

CHAIRMAN	John Golledge	chairman@greatkingshill.org
SECRETARY	Shirley Challis	shirleyannchallis@gmail.com
TREASURER	John Holwill	john.holwill@gmail.com

Diary of Events

Friday 3rd November

Bonfire and Fireworks (details - page 14)

Please look out for posters around the village and on the notice board by the pedestrian crossing for more details and confirmation of dates and times.

Chairman's Report

I hope you all had a good summer despite the somewhat erratic weather – first it was unseasonably hot then unseasonably wet! At the time of writing things seem to have stabilised here, if not yet in many other areas of the world. Whilst we may lament the loss of our summer holidays, our thoughts must go out to those who have lost their homes and in some cases even their lives in the wildfires brought on by climate change.

And now to the Association. I feel a bit of a fraud writing this as a 'Chairman's Report' as by the time you read this, I no longer expect to be the Chairman! Our Annual General Meeting is being held on 3rd September and it is not my intention to stand for re-election. I first took over as Chairman in 2018 and whilst we no longer have the absolute limit of 3 years on the time in this position that the constitution used to require, I feel very strongly that the Association must not appear to be run by one person, and for this reason, having been Chairman for 5 years I am going to stand aside (whether or not there is anyone else who wishes to stand.) Having said that, I will continue to serve on the committee and assist with matters such as Planning Applications, Speedwatch and community events as I have over the past few years. These are all important areas for the village and I would encourage as many of you as possible to join me in helping to make our village the place we would want it to be.

The next village event we have scheduled is the firework display on 3rd November. I know there were a lot of people disappointed when we did

not run this last year, so we have decided to bring it back for 2023, but its continued presence in the calendar will depend on enough volunteers coming forward to share the burden of organising it, which has fallen very heavily on just a few people over the past few years. Whilst this is our next official event, there are of course many other things you can do in the village, be it the Friday coffee mornings, Chequers Folk, line dancing in the village hall or simply walking through our wonderful countryside, I would encourage you to get out and socialise with your neighbours, doing the things that you enjoy.

Another area we are seeking help in, is the social media for the Association. We have effectively been without a webmaster for over two years now, despite a couple of short-term people in post and this can be seen in a reduction in mailings, lack of new content on our webpage and virtual cessation of facebook activity. If this is somewhere you feel you could help, please do get in touch.

All that remains for me as Chairman is to wish you all well and hope to see you around the village over the coming years.

John Golledge

Chairman – Great Kingshill Residents Association



Great Kingshill
Residents' Association

If you would like to see more village events, or would like to become more actively involved in the village, then please join us

Meetings held on the 1st Monday of the month (except August) at the Parish Council office at 7.30pm

**Come along and meet the team
or email gkra.newsletter@gmail.com**



Great Kingshill Village Hall Your Community Centre

I hope everyone has managed to stay warm during our Summer! At least the weather held good for the village's Coronation celebrations on the common – the only dry day of that bank holiday weekend.

By the time you read this we will have held our AGM meeting and will be going through the process of appointing a new committee to run the hall next year. The committee is confirmed at the AGM, and at their first meeting (26th September) they agree who will take on the key roles of Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary. We have been fortunate to have two new volunteers coming onto the committee: Katie Hemmings and Nicolle Marchant. Welcome!

After six years as Chairman I will be stepping down from the role. Looking back over that time, thanks to an excellent and balanced committee and with responsible financial management, we have achieved so much: surviving through COVID, installing solar panels, undertaking major refurbishments of the kitchen, the toilets and the main hall floor, installing a professional PA/AV system, decorating the small hall, roof repairs after the theft of lead from the three dormer windows, making an attractive garden at the front, helping other local groups, introducing a new online booking system and a new locking/security system, hosting Remembrance and Christmas services, as well as dealing with bees, rats and ants – there's always something to do when running a building!

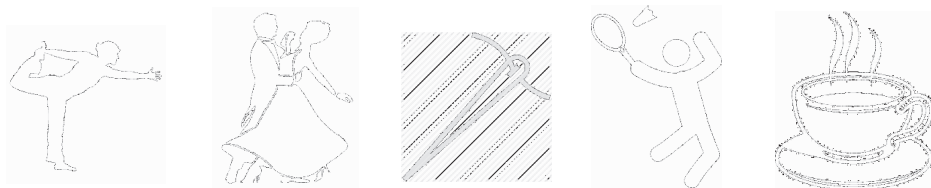
My wife Jill is retiring from the committee, and I'd like to take this opportunity of thanking her for doing a great job as Village Hall Secretary – and covering many issues beyond the formal committee matters.

The purpose of the village hall is to provide a venue for community

events and activities, at a reasonable cost, working as a charity, and I'm confident the new committee will continue to do just that.

For booking enquiries, please e-mail bookings@gkvillagehall.org, or for more about the hall and a list of what's on, see www.gkvillagehall.org.

Peter Jackling, Chairman, Great Kingshill Village Hall



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Commonplace

As the curator of the natural history records for Prestwood Nature I am sometimes asked “So what is the commonest species round here?” Perhaps “sometimes” is a bit of an exaggeration, but I can absolutely affirm that I did once ask myself that question. Anyway, there may be some interest in the answer.

As a matter of fact it is not that easy to give an assured answer, as is usual with all “simple questions”. You have to hedge it around with so many caveats and obfuscations that no-one can penetrate such a barrier to get to the open field on the other side (if such a field exists, I necessarily add as a caveat).

Let us just look at the records. The largest number of records of a single species is for Pedunculate Oak *Quercus robur*. But what about all those beechwoods, you ask. There lies the problem. There are so many beech trees around that hardly anyone bothers to say they have seen one. “Hey folks, I’ve just seen a beech tree! Come and look at it!” So the more common something is, the less likely anyone is to make a record of it. How often do you see a Pyramidal Orchid? Pretty rarely, probably. When people do see one they are quite likely to report it. So we have 79 records of Pyramidal Orchid and just 73 for, say, Daisy Bellis perennis. All one can say, then, is that Pyramidal Orchid is more commonly reported than Daisy; but no way is it actually more common. And what about our only local primate, even if it is an alien species, *Homo sapiens*? Not one person has reported seeing one recently. I thought this was a major omission, so I looked out the window just now and saw one prowling along the street. So now it’s in the records. It can definitely be confirmed that this species still exists. It would not seem to be very common, though. I looked in the Domesday Book and added two more records for the species, as they are reported living and breeding in both Great Hampden and Great Missenden in 1086. That makes it the longest-recorded species in the area! But still only three records.

Let us return to that great old English oak-tree. There are several possible ways an oak-tree might get into our records. Somebody might

think it worthwhile to let me know of its presence somewhere in the area at some particular date. As you see one in most hedgerows and the odd one in most woods, it is unlikely that you would bother, unless it is remarkable in some way – perhaps it looks exceptionally large and old, for instance, or it stands in the way of a new development and everyone is up in arms to defend its right to existence, or more likely someone has already cut it down and everyone is raging about an act they never did anything to prevent anyway. The other main way is from a plant survey carried out in a particular place. Probably all our woods have been surveyed at some time and, as most of them contain at least one oak, then that's quite a few records. But that would not make it more common than any other familiar tree. Where the oak rises to the top is that we have carried out a survey of all our largest, and thus oldest, trees, measuring them all, plotting their location and taking their picture. It so happens that the tree most likely to grow to an exceptional age and thus get into the records is the Great Old English Oak!

Even if the oak is not our commonest species, it still deserves a special place, not only for the beauty and magnificence of a healthy full-grown oak, one of the greatest sights in nature, but also because it supports more other life than any of our other plants (or animals for that matter) – each mature tree supports hundreds of different species of insect, mammal, spider, bird, fungus, mite, lichen or whatever. It is a bio-diverse habitat all of its own. Ecologically, it provides shade (increasingly important these days), carbon absorption, water management and air pollution reduction, a veritable environmental regulation machine and one that costs us nothing. If not our commonest species, it is certainly a candidate for our most important.

To return to the main issue, nobody tells me they have seen a Hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*, either, but we have carried out a lot of hedge surveys now and it grows in almost every one of them, which again is a lot of records. Oaks often grow in hedgerows too, but not so often, so the Hawthorn ends up with 374 records, hardly short of the number of recorded oaks, even though it never grows large enough to feature in the veteran tree survey.

So the records tell us that Oak and Hawthorn are pretty common, but

they do not answer the question – what is the commonest species? For one thing, just to take the hedgerows again, hawthorn is likely to feature as a large number (hundreds?) of individual plants in one hedge (counts as one record) and oaks will usually be just one or two (still counts as one record). Then again, in our hedge surveys we only record the woody species. We do not include Stinging Nettle *Urtica dioica*, for instance, even though there may not be a hedge without it. So we get lots of records of shrubs and trees, but many fewer of the smaller plants. And when we do get records of common plants from targeted scientific surveys, they take no account of frequency – so if a site contains thousands of nettle plants and three stems of pyramidal orchid, they will both get one record.

I know what you are going to ask now (I was dreading it coming) – what use are our records? Well, actually they are quite useful for some things. They tell us where rarer species have been seen at some time, and when they were last seen, so we can pick out places that most need protection. They tell us the ecological make-up of some sites (when there are plenty of records) so that we can classify them into different types, such as a woodland with the old woodland indicators as against one that lacks them. They keep us up-to-date on how most local species are faring – are they reported more or less often these days? Without such records it would be impossible to assess how well our environment is faring, or to make any decisions on, say, appropriate management or how important a site is to try to protect it from destruction.

Our records tell us a lot, but (sigh) they do not tell us what is most common. Within specific groups of species, where there is likely to be a roughly equal chance of being recorded for each one, we can do rather better. I am on pretty safe ground if, from our records, which give 349 instances of the Meadow Brown *Maniola jurtina* butterfly, I assert that this is our commonest butterfly. With 193 records the commonest amphibian is the Common Frog *Rana temporaria*. Our commonest reptile is probably the Slow-worm *Anguis fragilis*, although Grass Snake *Natrix natrix* is only one point behind. As to birds, we have a whole suite that have 100 records (Robin) or almost 100 (Wood pigeon, Wren, Blackbird, Blue tit, Great tit, Magpie) – but are they more often reported because they come to our gardens? As for mammals, we might have

few direct records, but every single record in our database, which runs to over 47,000, implies that a human primate was there to observe it. Who can doubt, then, that *Homo sapiens* is the commonest local mammal? The commonest beetle would seem to be the Seven-spot Ladybird *Coccinella 7-punctata* with 162 records, but is that because it is easily recognised and most people know it? That is certainly the case – taking into account abundance and frequency seen, and judging by personal experience, I would estimate that a tiny black pollen beetle *Meligethes aeneus* (53 records, all from myself or beetle experts) is quite probably our commonest beetle.

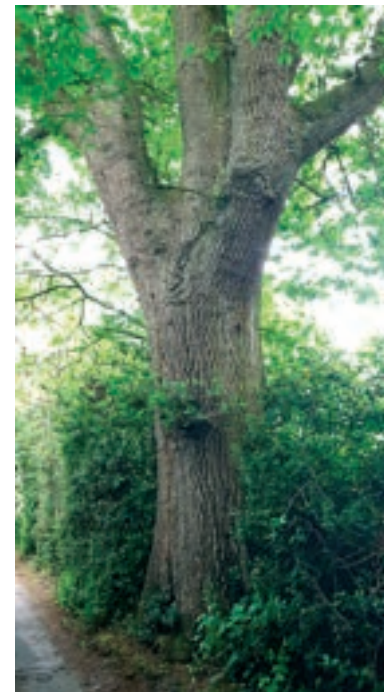
In actual fact, the smaller a creature is, the commoner it may be. Take that tiny moth that lays eggs in the leaves of Horse Chestnut. Each leaf on a tree may have several caterpillars mining it, and just about every horse chestnut will be infected, so that's untold billions. The same goes for many other leaf-mining species. But there are other species that live wholly in the soil and that we hardly ever see, tiny organisms – micro-fungi, nematodes, springtails, worms – who knows how many of them there are, when hardly anyone can even tell one species from another. But the prize, in the end, must go to the bacteria: they are hardly ever recorded, it takes a specialist with special equipment to identify them, they evolve rapidly, they are so minute that billions can exist in a square metre of soil, and they are universal, some of them even inhabiting our bodies and assisting with vital processes such as digestion.

You could argue that, in terms of total body-mass, such microscopic creatures, despite their overwhelming numbers, may not amount to so much. But then you are changing the definition of "common" from frequency to dominance. To measure that needs weighing all creatures as well as counting them. I am not sure that bacteria would lose out even then, but assuming they might, then it is probable that the dominant plant would be some species of grass, quite probably Rye-grass *Lolium perenne*, because I do not think any of our trees would turn out to be frequent enough to make their superior weight felt. And as for fauna, who can doubt it is *Homo sapiens*? We have depleted numbers of all larger mammals to such an extent there is nothing left to compete.

Tony Marshall



Small hunter-gatherer party of primates surprised in a local wood. There may be some living near you!



Our largest local oak in Glade Wood near Prestwood



Another magnificent oak along Pipers Lane (photo Karen van Oostrum)

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Great Kingshill
Residents' Association



FIREWORKS & BONFIRE

Friday 3rd November 2023

Corner of Pipers Ln / Cockpit Rd

Gates open 6pm, bonfire lighting 6.30pm, fireworks 7pm

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Pictures from the GK Village Hub



**Co-founders:
Lynn and Debra**



**Penelope the
Pebble Python**



**Coronation Post-Box
topper**



**Cleaning the
railings at
Cockpit Hole**

See GK Village Hub article on page 27



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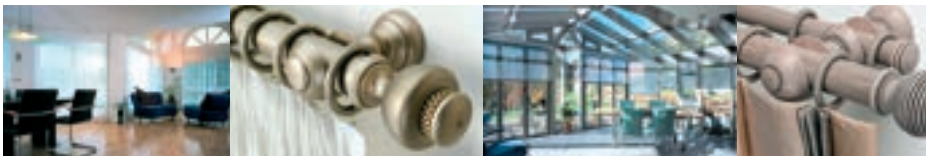
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Cycling with the Chiltern Hills Group

Join your local Cycling UK group this autumn

Chiltern Hills Cycling UK group offers both led rides and coffee pots every Sunday. Now autumn is here it's time enjoy the slightly cooler days, coffee stops and make new friends with bike rides in the countryside that surrounds our local area. There is sure to be something for everyone of all ages who wants to get out with both pedal bikes and e-bikers welcome. If you do not wish to do a full ride then you are welcome to come part way. Cafes such as the Hughenden Valley Coffee Shop, Hildreths at Prestwood, The Potters Arms at Winchmore Hill and Costa in Great Missenden regularly feature in the club rides list so you are never far from home.

Chiltern Hills Cycling UK have a regular Zoom social on the 1st Thursday of each month from 8pm and a meet up clubroom at Little Kingshill Baptist Church on the 3rd Thursday from 8 - 10pm (Except July & August).

Web: www.southbuckscycling.org.uk
E-mail: publicity@southbuckscycling.org.uk

More general information about Cycling UK and becoming a member can be found on our national site.

www.cyclinguk.org

Visit To Great Kingshill

"Who's the old geezer sitting by the scoreboard?" My daughter had inadvertently chosen the day of the Club v President's XI cricket match for us to visit my birth-place. We could have not chosen better timing.

I was returning "home" for the first time in twenty-three years and it appeared that the Free Clan had all decided to visit at the same time. My nephew Andrew, his wife Di and his two youngsters Luke and Sam were visiting from New-Zealand and my nephew Nigel, his Mother and three children, Tom, Caitlin and Max who live locally were also present. So it really was a gathering of the "Clan Free" and the Cricket pavilion made a perfect backdrop.

My first and immediate impression was of the trees surrounding the Common. The village had lost the five old elms on the Wycombe side of the Common to the war effort and as the village appeared bereft my Father had organised the replacements on the Common as a Coronation gift to Queen Elizabeth II.

The two lime trees planted opposite the shop appeared enormous and were certainly providing the shade my father craved for his premises. The loss of the trees on the side of the old allotments was compensated by the much enlarged area of the Common. I felt the formal children's area also fitted in so naturally and the proposed modifications to the Pavilion will further add distinction to the area within the village.

However I was disappointed not to see the Club Flag fluttering. With such a splendid sporting backdrop I am sure the old Warrior King would wish to be seen surveying and claiming his domain!

Reg Free

Update To Great Kingshill Bus Service Bus route 41 to be extended to Amersham from August 27

See Carousel website for more information and revised timetable:
<https://www.carouselbuses.co.uk/services/CSLB/41>



Since its inception in February 2017, Hughenden Street Association has championed several key causes that have our community at the core. It might be helping to reduce social isolation, for example our very popular Pub Lunches which recently were extended to include the Full Moon at Little Kingshill. Other activities include raising awareness of scams and how to avoid them. One particular cause has been the promotion of community activities organised by like-minded local community groups. In Great Kingshill we work closely with the Village Hub, and it has been exciting to see how well this group has become an integral part of the Great Kingshill community.

Hughenden Street Association (HSA) also promotes the work of Wycombe District Dementia Action to raise awareness of this dreadful disease and ways to live well with dementia. We are delighted that Buckinghamshire Council has recently confirmed that it is keen to support this cause and we will be working with like-minded community groups across Wycombe District to ensure that all support is targeted, and duplication is kept to a minimum. The Association recently promoted the Tea and Tales Together events led by Cue34 Outreach and supported by organisations including Buckinghamshire Council. This joint pilot programme with Hughenden Manor is part of a Social Prescribing initiative. A simple definition of 'social prescribing' is: It is an approach that connects people to activities, groups, and services in their community to meet the practical, social, and emotional needs that affect their health and wellbeing. Source: NHS England. Something that definitely resonates with HSA!

If you would like to find out more about Hughenden Street Association then do get in touch (hughendensa@gmail.com) and if you would like to receive our weekly electronic newsletter then using the same email address and we will add you to the distribution list.

Hope you have a lovely summer and that the sun remembers to shine!

Hilda Stearn

Communications Coordinator
Hughenden Street Association



CHAMELEON SINGLES GROUP

Over the summer many of our events moved to the great outdoors! We recently went to an outdoor film screening and in June went on a day trip to Guernsey. A trip to Salisbury is also being planned plus later in the summer a day out to the coast. The warmer days also marked the start of the BBQ season and the group's members have enjoyed two so far in members' gardens. Both managed to avoid the rain and were well attended!

Our walks took to an early start on 21st June with our sunrise walk to mark the longest day of the year. This was followed by a well-deserved breakfast at Park Parade in Hazlemere. Future walks will perhaps not have the 4:30am start but at least the sun did shine through eventually.

At-home evenings, take-away food nights and the occasional Quiz Night also feature in Chameleon's bi-monthly events programme. The Pub Night on the last Thursday of the month has currently moved to The Crown at Hazlemere due to refurbishment at The Dolphin, now The Dolphin Eye. Along with the Lunch Club on the second Friday these events are ideal if you are a newcomer giving a chance to meet others in an informal atmosphere.

If you are single, 40-60's, looking for a great social life and new friends then why not give Chameleon Singles Group a try? There are no strangers at Chameleon, just new friends to be made. The group has several local people from Great Kingshill, Widmer End, Hazlemere, Prestwood and the surrounding areas and you would be very welcome too.

To find out more call contact Terrie on 01494 445816, Trevor on 01494 529067 or e-mail: info@chameleonsingles.org.uk.

Visit the group on-line at www.chameleonsingles.org.uk or search Facebook.



On 18th of July the Council held a very successful meeting at St Michael & All Angels Church in Hughenden Valley. What a special place for our meeting to take place, by the resting place of Benjamin Disraeli, Prime Minister to England from 1874 to 1880 and uncle to Hughenden Parish Council's very first Chairman, Coningsby Disraeli who chaired the inaugural meeting of the Council in 1894.

As we discussed many ideas for improvements to be made throughout the parish and within the Council, a sense of excitement and pride could be felt amongst Councillors and members of the public who were present.

The Council confirmed its support for Hughenden Valley Village Hall by pledging to contribute £9600 towards to cost of resurfacing the carpark and agreed to replace a multi-play unit at Hughenden playground, next to the village shop. Removal and installation will be confirmed soon and we will keep our residents informed. Plans for playgrounds in Templewood and Great Kingshill are in discussion by our Playground Working Group and if you would like to know more about this please contact the Clerk.

We know that Cockpit Hole in Great Kingshill has been of great interest to our residents for some time so we have decided to ask the Chiltern Rangers to produce a site-management plan for us to turn this into a more enjoyable and useable space for us all and we hope to be able to share this with you all soon. A proposal to turn the old bus stop on the Great Kingshill Common into a community space was also approved. A group of volunteers will soon turn this unused space into a place for residents to share books, artwork and notices!

The Garden of Rest at Four Ashes is a special place for many from within the Hughenden Parish and beyond and has grown in popularity over recent years. We have now approved the landscaping of the next field to allow for more ashes burials. Work should begin soon. Our contractors

will be aware of any internments occurring during this time and will be mindful not to disturb the peace. Please note that works will go ahead outside of these ceremonies and residents will still have full access to the Garden of Rest between 5am and 9pm.

Our office hours and calendar of meetings have both been adjusted to allow our officers and staff time to settle in and catch up whilst we recruit. The office will now be open to the public from Monday to Wednesday 9am to 12pm or by appointment but you can call us any time, any day, and leave a message if you can't get through – someone will get back to you as soon as possible. The calendar of meetings for the remainder of the year can be found on our website. We are looking for a Deputy Clerk/ Parish Custodian, Responsible Financial Officer and a Parish Ranger. Job descriptions can be found on the website or by contacting the Clerk.

The Council has appointed Marilyn Heybourn as our new Burials & Allotments administrator. Welcome Marilyn! She will be working 2 days per week and be the first point of contact for resident enquires regarding burials and allotments. To get in touch with Marilyn regarding either of these areas please email burials@hughenden-pc.gov.uk or allotments@hughenden-pc.gov.uk.

As mentioned in the Clerk's last update, we are creating site-management plans for all of our open spaces. The Councillors discussed this at length and will be releasing a statement to follow up on this in the coming weeks.

Finally, the Council has now secured a contract for the maintenance of its hedges and fields across the parish and contractors will begin work on these from 1st of August to allow bird nesting season to run its course.

If you are interested in becoming a Councillor and being part of something special, please get in touch!

Alice Fisher
HPC Clerk

GK Village Hub Celebrations

Can it really be one year since we launched a dedicated community FB page for Great Kingshill residents to connect and share ideas specific to our village? Our aim was to nurture community engagement and, like a tree, branch out to reach every road in GK. We all have something to contribute to improving village life and by coming together we are making GK a thriving place to live. So far, 450 villagers have joined and are actively engaging on a wide range of local topics and ideas plus sharing some stunning images of our village. We have members from nearly every road within Great Kingshill. If you would like to join us on FB, search for Great Kingshill Village Hub. We would love you to join in the conversation. If you are already a member, thank you for helping us to nurture the GREAT in Great Kingshill.

This was the first part of our journey and we are excited to be taking our next step, which is engaging with villagers who are not on social media and may be unaware of who we are. Could that be you? We are delighted that HPC gave approval for us to use the disused bus shelter on Missenden Road, which is in a prime position to communicate and has so many possibilities! It has been painted and decorated and is now a community focal point which houses an open noticeboard for villagers to use. A summer pop-up book swap display proved popular but as the weather closes in will be moved back inside. The monthly Sunday Swap Shop will return in a slightly tweaked format due to limited attendance in the first part of the year. We will keep you updated on revised venue and day/time via the noticeboard and FB.

Many of you will be familiar with GKRA which is run by a dedicated committee who organise well attended and established annual events like the firework display and quiz nights and are a formal recognised organisation. They also oversee planning and Speedwatch. So how does the Village Hub differ? The main difference is we are not a formal entity or a committee but launched to provide a platform for a village voice to share ideas on ways to improve GK life by collaborating within our community. We believe having both groups is a positive change and enhances our village.

Our highlights have included our first festive community event and supporting the GKRA Coronation Celebrations. Both days were attended by villagers of all ages and these opportunities for our community to come together in celebration was a joy to see.

We are also very proud of our GK Postbox Topper Ladies who are about to start creating their 9th and 10th toppers and festive bunting, none having previous experience! These have been made with love to enhance our village which have certainly generated lots of smiles and positive comments. If you fancy picking up your knitting needles or crochet hook and would like to join our small and friendly group, call Lynn Martin on 07939 394330.

Did you notice the sparkling white railings at Cockpit Hole? Amazing results achieved by a few villagers rolling up their sleeves and cleaning for several hours. This was another highlight for us, as several people had mentioned it was an area needing a bit of TLC, so we put out a plea for help which was answered and eight of us worked side by side, literally. Hard work but rewarding with laughs along the way. Other villagers donated plants, tubs and soil to help brighten up the area for us all to enjoy. Little things can make a huge difference. More activities scheduled in the near future – watch this space.....

Did you notice our summer activity which saw the arrival of Penelope the Pebble Python in the village? She was located in the children's playground and was created with painted pebbles added by children and adults alike from GK. Hopefully she may become a permanent resident!

Save the date for our next festive community event in the village hall on Sunday 17 December.

Lynn Martin and Debra Kaye

Co-Founders of Great Kingshill Village Hub

gkvillagehub@gmail.com

See related photos on page 16

Be protected, be connected, be part of Neighbourhood Watch!

In today's fast-paced world, where technology has made it easier to connect with people across the globe, it is paradoxically becoming increasingly common for individuals to feel disconnected from those who live closest to them: their neighbours. While online resources on crime prevention exist, nothing can replace the value of knowing your neighbours and actively working together to create a safe and supportive environment.

A NW scheme is proven to reduce crimes such as burglaries, vandalism, cons & scams, and car crime. So, if there is no scheme in your road, why not volunteer to be a NW Coordinator and help to protect your home and community? It might take just a couple of hours per month, but it could make a real difference to you and your neighbours.

What can a scheme Coordinator do?

Distribute (usually by email) the Thames Valley Alert messages – these email bulletins from the police report on crimes, crime threats, forewarn of known scams, and they are an invaluable way of keeping abreast of issues. By establishing a communication network among neighbours, it becomes easier to share information about suspicious activities, warn others of potential dangers and engage in open dialogue with the neighbourhood policing teams regarding any specific concerns that you and your neighbours may have.

Advise households on simple security measures such as property markings, how to deal with cybercrime, car crime, bogus callers, and rogue traders – NW and Thames Valley Police websites have lots of information on all of this.

Encourage neighbours to report any suspicious activity to the police, either by calling 999 if a crime is taking place, or 101 for non-emergency calls

Reducing loneliness and isolation. These emotions can leave vulnerable individuals, especially the elderly, more susceptible to falling victim to scams. The prospect of making conversation with another person can make them more willing to open the door to a stranger, or engage in a phone conversation with an unknown caller, or respond to emails or letters.

Email: office@wdnhwatch.plus.com Facebook: [@wycombenhw](https://www.facebook.com/wycombenhw)
Instagram: [@wycombenhw](https://www.instagram.com/wycombenhw)



Hughenden Community Support Trust

Charity Number 248607

I would like to introduce you to this local charity whose objects are:

- (1) the relief of persons resident in the area of benefit who are in need, hardship or distress.
- (2) the trustees may relieve persons in need by:
 - (a) making grants of money to them; or
 - (b) providing or paying for goods, services or facilities for them; or
 - (c) making grants of money to other persons or bodies who provide goods, services or facilities to those in need.

We are in a position where we can offer grants for residents in our area of benefit, Hughenden Parish, who may need a little help, e.g. school trips, special equipment, respite care, etc., particularly, in these difficult times. Grants have to be awarded to those in need who cannot afford such items.

Application forms for grants can be obtained from the Hon. Secretary by email to lyn.marchant@btinternet.com or to the address below.

Registered address :

Hon. Secretary

"Brambles"

Grange Road

Widmer End

Buckinghamshire HP15 6AD

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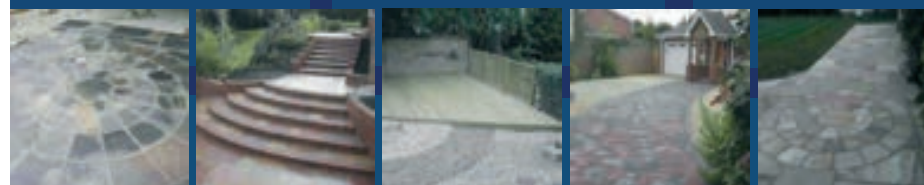
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