

Great Kingshill Residents' Association *Newsletter*



Summer 2023



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Front cover photograph: Coronation Celebrations May 7th
by John Grover

Welcome to the Summer edition of the GKRA Newsletter

Dear Reader,

Hearing from my colleagues and friends in the village it sounds as though the Coronation Celebrations on the common were a great success - I just really wish that I could have been there! In this edition you will find some photographs that I hope reflect the day. We would really like to say a huge thanks to the group of villagers that helped organise it, and ran stalls and activities. A special mention to David Bekaert who both helped organise and provided the entertainment by singing for the entire time! Also a big thank you to the many local businesses that supported the event with prizes, printing and more: SPAR, Hildreths, Lounge India, Basil and Thyme, and Keegan White. Thank you to Hot Dogs Training that ran a very successful dog show, to Philip Green and Sons for providing the fairground rides, the Cricket Club for providing the bar and BBQ, the Village Hall for hosting the art competition and providing tables for use on the day, and Pipers Corner School for providing gazebos and equipment for the races. Thank you also to those that came along and made the day such a success!

In Richard Coleman's obituary in this edition it is noticeable how many events GKRA used to be able to run when it had more members. Please consider joining us if you would like to see more events in the village once again.

Looking forward to hearing from you. Copy for the Autumn edition is required by early August 2023.

Jackie

gkra.newsletter@gmail.com

RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

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

Diary of Events

Sunday 3rd September

GKRA and Village Hall Joint AGMs
at the Village Hall from 7.30

Friday 3rd November

Bonfire and Fireworks

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

Chairman's Report

Welcome to the Summer edition of the Great Kingshill Residents' Association magazine!

As we went to press, it was just a few weeks since the Coronation of King Charles III and it was great to see so many of you on the common for the village celebration on the Sunday. By any measure it was a very successful occasion and my thanks must go out to all who helped to make it happen – my colleagues on the Residents' Association committee, The Village Hall committee, The Cricket Club, Pipers Corner School and all the other individuals and groups who helped plan and put on the event or brought their activities to the field to make it into such a great community occasion.

For those of you who came across to the quiet side of the field, you may have noticed that on the GKRA stand we were selling off the last of the village books "Great Kingshill in Words and Pictures" at a knockdown price of £5.00. We still have a few of these left so if you don't have one yet, please do get in touch and I will happily take your money to reduce the stock currently residing in my loft!

The other main item we were promoting on the GKRA stand is our mailing list. It is quite some time since I last mentioned this and it struck me that some people who are new to the village may not be aware of it. We send

out occasional notices and updates about happenings in the village to those who have opted in to receive them (probably slightly less than half the village at present) – so do let us know if you would like to be included, this can be done using the contact form on the village website (you did know about that didn't you?). On average we only normally send out one or two e-mails a month and we never pass on names or details to any third party or allow commercial bodies to spam you by using our mailing list.

We are now rapidly coming into the summer holiday season, so I want to wish you all a happy summer with friends and family and hope you return refreshed in time for the autumn, raring to go and keen to join in with village events, the first of which will be our AGM in the village hall on Sunday 3rd September.

John Golledge

Chairman – Great Kingshill Residents' Association
(but only until September – next year it could be YOU!)



Great Kingshill
Residents' Association

If you enjoyed the Coronation Celebrations and 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

A successful installation of solar panels at the hall in April now means that our electricity costs are, to all intents and purposes, zero. In addition to the environmental benefits, this will help us keep costs down for future generations of hirers.

The next project will probably be decorating the small hall and entrance area, although we are likely to leave the main hall as it is. The PA/AV system is also being reviewed to keep up with changes to input formats, and we will probably replace the old fluorescent tube lighting with LED this year.

For the excellent Coronation celebrations at the start of May the hall was kindly decorated with some lovely bunting of knitted flags and crowns, and the hall hosted the popular children's art competition – the winning entries will be displayed in the hall for another couple of months.

Meanwhile I need to make a further appeal for new volunteers to act as Trustees for the Hall charity and help maintain this valuable community resource. Join the team! Please see the accompanying flyer, or get in touch with me direct on 07957 220649.

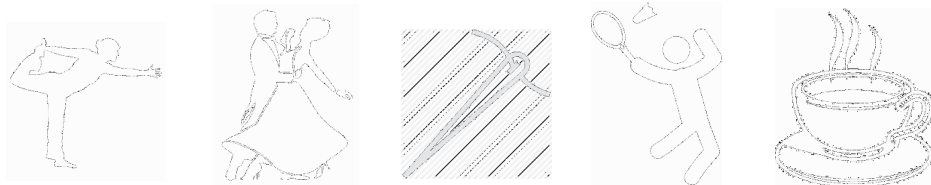
The hall continues to provide the setting for many community classes and activities: www.gkvillagehall.org/whats-on or the posters in the hall and on the village notice board. The Friday morning (10:45am) coffee group provide an 'open-to-all' opportunity to meet and chat.

For enquiries, e-mail bookings@gkvillagehall.org

Please join us for our AGM on Sunday 3rd September at 7.30pm.

Here's hoping for a lovely summer!

Peter Jackling, Chairman, Great Kingshill Village Hall



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Great Kingshill Coronation Celebrations

To mark the occasion of the Coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla Great Kingshill Residents' Association held a celebration on the Common on Sunday 7th May. It was a wonderful success judging by the number of residents who came along, many of whom stayed on into the evening. The band, headed up by local musician David Bekaert, entertained us throughout the afternoon.

The mood was made even better by the surprisingly good weather as well as an excellent BBQ prepared by the Great Kingshill Cricket Club. We also had traditional games such as sack, egg and spoon races. The dog show run by Hot Dog Training proved very popular, as did the fairground rides. In addition stalls run by local residents added to the overall fun of the day and as a lasting memory of the event a time capsule will be buried on the Common.

The event met the aim of the GKRA which was to hold a not for profit event for residents to celebrate the coronation, 70 years after the last such celebration on the Common. With money from the Tombola and generous contributions from some of the stallholders it is hoped that it will break even.

GKRA would like to thank the team of volunteers from the village who helped make it all happen - we couldn't have done it without you! Another notable contribution came from local businesses who donated prizes and their time towards making the day one to remember, and finally a huge thank you to the GK Village Hub for the publicity.

GKRA would be interested in the enthusiasm of residents for holding a summer event on a regular basis - please let us know by emailing gkra.newsletter@gmail.com. We would also welcome new members to the GKRA committee (we meet on the 1st Monday of each month) - we really need more people to help if we are going to organise events such as these in the future.

GKRA would like to thank the following for all of their support:

Pipers Corner School, GK Village Hall, Keegan White, SPAR, GK Cricket Club, Lounge India, Basil and Thyme, Hildreths, Beeks Construction, Nathans Fruit and Veg, 3d Aluminium as well as many individuals who contributed to the tombola.



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Community Speedwatch

Community Speedwatch (CSW) is a road safety initiative to reduce traffic speeding on local roads, particularly through villages and built-up areas. The scheme enables volunteers to work within their community to raise awareness of the dangers of speeding and to promote safer driving. Breaking the speed limit increases the likelihood of an accident and the severity of any accident that occurs.

Community teams undergo a training session and police assess each site to ensure safety at the roadside. They verify and record the registration number of vehicles seen to break the speed limit. The appearance of the team at the roadside may be enough of a deterrent for many motorists to slow down.

Speeding motorists will receive a letter from the police explaining the potential risks and consequences of their behaviour. If the vehicle is seen and recorded again a second and final letter will be sent. Persistent offenders may be targeted further. Speeding drivers are not prosecuted or fined as a direct result of CSW activity, but it is hoped that the letters vehicle drivers receive may make them continue to reduce their speeds at all times.

If you are over 18 and are interested in volunteering, just a few hours a month, please send an email to stan.jones@hughenden-pc.gov.uk or have a look at the CommunitySpeedwatch.org.uk website to learn more about the scheme.

Coronation Art Competition Winners

Reception	Imogen Ryalis	PCS
Year 1	Hayden Joy	GKCS
Year 2	Esme Annetts-Onyefuru	GKCS
Year 3	Seanna Hopton	PCS
Year 4	Beatrix Pavey	PCS
Year 5	Areej Anwar	PCS
Year 6	Daisy Moakes	GKCS

Congratulations to all of the winners but a huge thank you to everyone who took part - what a wonderful exhibition your pictures made!

Small Beginnings

As the Earth cooled and settled down, life began in the oceans, about 4,000 million years ago, as single-celled organisms that could fuel themselves and reproduce. These cells in some circumstances could combine to form more complex organisms with a division of labour between different kinds of cells, so that no one cell could survive on its own, but was dependent on its relationship with the others. All life today is composed of such cells. They are so small that the human body contains about 100 trillion of them, with a bewildering diversity of specialised functions.

Many types of uni-cellular and simple multi-cellular forms of life evolved in our oceans, some of which have given rise to classes of organisms that we now recognise as bacteria, algae, fungi (like yeasts), and protozoa. The formation of continents allowed some of these organisms gradually to colonise land. This was a difficult step, as such organisms need a liquid medium in which to move and to provide the basics of life like water and nutrients. More complex membranes had to evolve to protect the organisms from the sun and physical damage, but these membranes also had to be able to absorb and release gases and other substances. The first land-colonisers utilised wet environments like permanently moist soil and brackish or fresh water pools, or regularly watered areas like sea-shores. Living on purely dry land came very much later, requiring tough skins, specialist locomotion (to walk from one water-hole to the next) or "roots" that could reach down to underground moist layers. In fact, life on totally dry land is impossible. Deserts are only inhabitable insofar as they get occasional rain or moisture-laden air. Life was designed in water and it cannot survive without it.

Simple organisms like these did not disappear as life evolved more complex and larger forms. Life on earth is in fact dominated by them, much more common than the plants and animals we regularly notice and think of as "life". Bacteria, algae, protozoa and fungi are predominantly invisible to our insensitive eyes, but they are still basic to life today, just as they have been throughout evolution. Most are beautiful, but only if you can observe them through a microscope with a thousand times magnification. They are a hidden, and largely forgotten, world. Our bodies incorporate bacteria and fungi to carry out many of the functions we find necessary to survive - controlling invaders, assisting digestion, decomposing waste, daily maintenance as cells die or malfunction.

Apart from those organisms that live inside plants and animals, vastly more live independent lives in the seas, fresh water, within the soil, or even on terrestrial surfaces that are regularly moist and shaded. Some of these, even a few single-cell organisms, have grown to sizes we can actually see. We are used to seeing algae as seaweeds when holidaying on the coast. There are many microscopic algae even in our inland territory, in soil and freshwater, but there are some visible ones to be found, too, in the open air. You cannot walk through a wood without noticing that the trunks of most trees have large patches of green or red. These are caused by “green algae” that grow on the bark. Green algae have cells that can manufacture chlorophyll by photo-synthesis, just like plants, so that they can survive on sunlight and air, plus of course water and a few nutrients absorbed from the tree-bark. The green patina you see on trees around Kingshill is *Desmococcus olivaceus* (at least that is currently its most generally accepted name, the nomenclature and even the classification of these terrestrial algae being in need of sorting out). The reddish orange one is *Trentepohlia aurea*. Despite its appearance it is still a “green” alga, the green chlorophyll being obscured by strong carotinoid pigments (like those that colour carrots). *See top two photos.*

Another alga occasionally seen lives in the soil. If you leave a plant-pot full of acid soil in a permanently wet place, green moss will usually grow on the surface and within this moss may be seen shiny globules of a more khaki green that are the alga *Nostoc commune*. After very heavy rains this alga may emerge temporarily on bare cultivated soil as much larger seaweed-like brownish slimy fronds known as “Witches’ Butter”. It is indeed edible, but you would not fancy it.

Several green algae are also involved in lichens that are easily observed on trees, pavements, walls, roofs and tombstones. A lichen is a complex organism involving symbiosis between a fungus and an alga. The fungi are incapable of manufacturing sugars and so need to share those manufactured by the algae, but they provide structure, protection from the elements, and certain nutrients like salts for the algae. In some cases the algae are replaced, or joined, by cyanobacteria, that perform similar functions. For the most part the algae and fungi involved in these lichens can no longer survive separately, although they must have originally evolved from independent organisms. An exception is *Trentepohlia* which is involved in most encrusting lichens (the flat white, grey or black patches that are common on both stone and bark) but, as we have seen, can also exist by

itself. Even when *Trentepohlia* is free-living on the trunk of a tree it is often associated with a number of bacteria and other microscopic organisms in what is often known as a “bio-slime”. Such close assemblages are probably the context in which more complex organisms like lichens could evolve. Another complex organism that can sometimes be observed in woods is the slime-mould. These are combinations of amoebae, bacteria and algae, sometimes brightly coloured, that can actually travel for several metres across twigs, grass, etc, changing colour and form as the patch slowly moves. They are evanescent, seldom lasting more than a day nor two, but can be quite striking. The one most people see and that makes itself quite obvious is the unfortunately-named “Dog Vomit Slime-mould” *Fuligo septica*. Once thought to be a branch of the fungi they are now classified as a branch of amoebae, which live most of the time independently and unobserved, but form these temporary associations in the process of reproduction.



Desmococcus olivaceus



Trentepohlia aurea



Fuligo septica
on wood (left)
and moving
across the turf
(right).



There is much more going on out there that we know little about. It is said that all life emerged from the “primordial slime”. To a large extent, it is still there, bubbling with possibilities of new life forms.

Tony Marshall

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Coronation Celebrations on the Common **Sunday 7th May 2023**





Photos by John Grover





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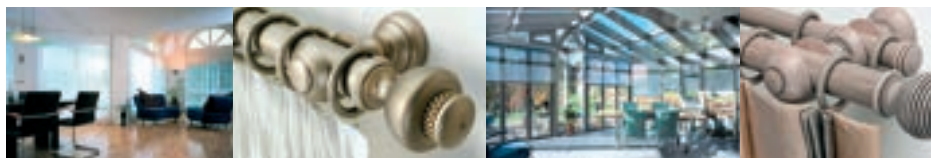


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Reporting scams and fraud

In today's digital age, where we rely heavily on technology for communication, shopping, and financial transactions, it has become increasingly important to be vigilant against scams and other fraudulent activities. Unfortunately, scammers are always coming up with new ways to try and trick people out of their money and personal information. Thankfully, there are a number of organisations and agencies that are dedicated to helping people stay safe and report scams when they occur. In this article, we'll take a look at some of the most important contacts you should be aware of when it comes to reporting scams and other crimes.

Action Fraud - Action Fraud is the UK's national fraud and cybercrime reporting centre. They are the central point of contact for reporting fraud and cybercrime incidents and they can also provide advice on how to protect yourself from scams and fraud.

Helpline: 0300 123 2040.

Textphone: 0300 123 2050

www.actionfraud.police.uk

Friends Against Scams - A National Trading Standards Scams Team initiative, which aims to protect and prevent people from becoming victims of scams by empowering people to take a stand against scams.

www.friendsagainstscams.org.uk

Buckinghamshire & Surrey Trading Standards - Information about the latest scams, product recalls and alerts about rogue traders that may be in your area.

Telephone: 0300 123 2329

Textphone (via Text Relay): 18001 0808 223 1133

<https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/business/trading-standards>

Get Safe Online - Government-backed website that provides information

and advice on online safety and security. They also have a reporting centre for reporting online crime and a helpline for victims of online abuse.

www.getsafeonline.org

Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) - They provide useful information on bogus investments and fraud and advice on choosing a financial adviser.

Phone: 0800 111 6768

www.fca.org.uk

Victims First - Dedicated to making sure that all victims and witnesses receive the support they need to cope and recover from the impact of the crime. You can make an online referral through their website.

Phone: 0300 1234 148

www.victims-first.org.uk

Think Jessica - Making people aware of the danger, and financial implications, of scams which target people in their own homes.

Email: advice@thinkjessica.com

www.thinkjessica.com

By reporting scams and fraud, you can play your part in protecting yourself and your community from these crimes.

Learn more about prevention and other crimes by joining Neighbourhood Watch!

GK Village Hub Sunday Swap Shop

2nd Sunday in the month 10.30-11.30

**July and August venue - look out for posters
around the village**

Come along and swap your books and puzzles!



How resilient is your community? Are you aged between 18 and 35?

Let's begin by defining 'community resilience'. For Hughenden Street Association (HSA) this is captured in our Vision Statement:

For community life in Hughenden Parish to become better connected, supportive/supported, stronger and friendlier so that all residents are involved in it to the level they desire. This means working to create safer and connected communities encouraging residents to identify the needs of their neighbours to help them engage in the community. The Association has a key role to play in helping develop links to existing facilities whilst also working to support community groups to reach out to as many residents as possible.

What this means in practice is something that HSA keeps under constant review. At the moment, the Association provides a weekly e-newsletter, has a Facebook page, hosts monthly pub lunches with regular speakers on key topics especially scams, well-being and safety matters, access to useful information sources including the Bucks Directory and a point of contact via our Ward Leaders. In addition, the good partnership with residents' associations and other local groups including St Michael' & All Angels, Great Kingshill Village Hub and the Hughenden Valley Climate Group help to promote our common agenda of making our communities more resilient.

The Association works collaboratively with Buckinghamshire Council via the Northwest Chilterns Community Board participating in several of its working groups including the Community Resilience Working Group where there was a very useful discussion on the priorities for 2023/24. It was concluded that we need to explore what the younger adult residents of Hughenden see as their priorities and what groups including the Association can do to support their delivery. This could be acting as an advocate at the Community Board or working with other interested community groups to deliver specific projects. This is where we need advice from this group of residents.

Recognising that we need to begin by defining 'younger residents': the Association is interested in hearing from young adults to mid-30s. At a gestimate using Local Insight data (2018) provided by Buckinghamshire Council this will

be around 13% of the Hughenden population i.e., 1,000+ residents across the four wards of Great Kingshill, Hughenden Valley & Bryant's Bottom, Naphill & Walter's Ash, and Widmer End. Members of the Community Resilience Working Group will be convening over the next few weeks, and we would be delighted to have direct input from this key group of residents.

If you would like to be part of the conversation, then do get in touch. All you will be committing to is sharing your views as this is an essential starting point. You may belong to a group working with the residents we are keen to talk to, and it would be good to work together, thereby minimising any potential duplication of activities as well as creating new projects drawing on the collective resources available. Email: hughendensa@gmail.com We look forward to hearing from YOU!

Hilda
Hilda Stearn
Communications Coordinator
Hughenden Street Association

Identity Theft

It is unfortunately the case that identity theft is on the increase. Identity theft is when a person's personal details are stolen and used to commit crime. The most common types of identity fraud involve the use of compromised credit and debit card details. You might not realise you are a victim until a bill arrives for something you didn't buy, or you experience problems with your credit rating.

Here are some steps you can take to minimise the chance of this happening to you:

- 1) Shred. Never throw any paperwork away that will identify you as an individual. This includes letters containing your name and address.
- 2) Avoid using public wi-fi for certain types of transactions such as mobile banking.
- 3) A bank will never ask for your Pin, either over the phone or via email.
- 4) You can buy cheap Card Defenders to avoid your cards being skimmed.
- 5) If you have an external letter box from which papers can be taken easily, change it to a secure one.
- 6) Use complex passwords.
- 7) Protect mobile devices from access using face or finger print recognition.



On the 25th of April, Hughenden Parish Council hosted its Annual Parish Meeting at Great Kingshill Village Hall. Cllr Simon Kearey presented a summary of the Council year to members of the public, including its Nature Recovery Projects and an update on Road Safety throughout the parish.

The Annual Meeting of Council on the 16th of May began with the election of our new Chair, Cllr Stan Jones and Vice-Chair, Cllr Debra Main. Councillors thanked Cllr Gareth Cadwallader and Simon Kearey for all their hard work as Chair and Vice-Chair respectively and our new committees were established.

Hughenden Parish Council Committees 2023/34

HR Committee:

Chair: Cllr Usha Prashar
Cllr Debra Main
Cllr Jill Armshaw
Cllr Gareth Cadwallader

Environment & Services Committee:

Chair: Cllr Gareth Cadwallader
Cllr Jill Armshaw
Cllr Marc Byrom
Cllr Chris Janes
Cllr Sam Thomas
Cllr Usha Prashar

Finance Committee :

Chair: Cllr Debra Main
Cllr Stan Jones

Cllr Marc Byrom
Cllr Sam Thomas

The Council are looking forward to making some positive improvements to the Parish and have appointed me as new Clerk and Proper Officer to continue implementing these positive changes. If you would like to contact any of our new committees, please send your enquiry to clerk@hughenden-pc.gov.uk or call our office on 01494 715 296 to make a personal appointment.

Alice Fisher
Clerk
Hughenden Parish Council

Fix My Street

Dear residents of Hughenden Parish:

How do you feel about our footpaths and road surface conditions?

I ask this question as a representative of the Road Safety Working Group for Hughenden Parish and I am concerned about such issues.

For example, a road marking at the junction of Primrose Hill with Windmill Lane had recently be highlighted by the following link www.fixmystreet.com . This reporting method has several options to express your concerns: you can identify a location and give exact position where you feel repairs are essential to protect not only residents who walk around our roads but also mums with buggies and seniors in wheelchairs or mobility scooters.

Several pavements have limited widths due to overgrown hedges and trees overhanging these can also be highlighted.

If you able, please add a photograph of your concern as this helps to identify your feelings. Once you have sent in your street worry you will receive an email response from Transport for Buckinghamshire and they will add it to their list of things to do. The more residents who show concern on “fixmystreet” the more likely they will be addressed.
John Marchant RSWG Member.

Do You Know Your Exercise Guidelines For Health?

Adults should do some type of physical activity every day to maintain general health. Exercising, even just once or twice a week, can reduce the risk of stroke or heart disease and other health conditions. Adults should aim to:

- Do some kind of strengthening activity that works the legs, hips, back, abdominal area, chest, arms and shoulders at least twice a week.
- Do at least 2 ½ hours of moderate intensity (getting the heart rate up and a little out of breath) or an hour and 15 minutes of vigorous intensity activity a week.
- Reduce your time spent sitting and move around at regular intervals throughout the day (breaking up long periods) with some kind of activity.
- Exercise or move every day or spread it evenly over 4-5 days a week.

Exercise doesn't have to be in the gym or in an exercise class. It's important to find something you enjoy doing so you will do it consistently. For cardiovascular exercise you may prefer cycling, brisk walking, swimming, and dancing. For more vigorous activities choose running, team sports, skipping, aerobics or martial arts. These activities will raise your heart rate and you will get out of breath, but not too much that you are unable to talk. Cardiovascular exercise will strengthen your heart muscle to maintain heart strength and avoid heart related diseases.

There are many different ways to strengthen your muscles other than in the gym. Carrying heavy shopping bags/items in the home, use your own body weight/resistance bands or hand weights at home, heavy gardening/DIY or lifting and carrying children. Anything that feels heavy enough, that you could repeat around 8-12 times to the point of fatigue will build new muscle strength. Then rest and repeat.

It is important if you have a health condition, are pregnant or are new to exercise that you check with a health professional before you begin any kind of fitness regime. Choose a beginner's program to start you off.

I promise you that regular exercise will give you more energy, make you feel happier, keep your joints mobile and your muscles strong, make daily life easier, keep age related diseases at bay and help you grow old with vitality.

If you would like any further advice on fitness and wellbeing please feel free to get in touch www.onyxhealthandfitness.co.uk onyxhealthandfitness@gmail.com or find me on Facebook or Instagram @onyxhealthandfitness. I run a few classes in the village hall which you are very welcome to come and try for free. Many thanks for reading,

Alison.

Richard Coleman

At the end of January, we heard the sad news that Richard Coleman had died. Richard was a key member of the Residents' Association for many years, serving as Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer as well as being on the Events Committee. His time on GKRA coincided with many events being organised for the village including the Bonfire and Firework displays, Quiz Nights, Wine Tasting Evenings, Fancy-Dress Dinners and the Village Fetes and Beer Festivals. Not only that but it was also an extremely challenging time for the village, regarding road safety, speeding and planning applications. Richard's leadership was always to the fore; GKRA under his stewardship was able to ensure new footpaths in Pipers Lane and Cockpit Road as well as the refurbishment of Cockpit Hole. He and others attended the Public Inquiry that ensured the rejection of the Aviagen application to build 28 houses in Cockpit Road on the Turkey Farm site.

Richard was always keen to "muck in" and help with anything that needed doing, be that building a bonfire, washing up after a dinner or entertaining others with his extravagant fancy dress costumes and dry wit.

After the death of his wife, Jo, Richard became an active member and eventually the National Chair of the Motor Neurone Disease Association; fundraising and organising events to help find a cure for this debilitating condition. He continued in this role until his death.

I am sure that many of you will agree that we in Great Kingshill have lost an exceptional member of our community, and that he will be fondly remembered by us all.



Richard with Fern Brittain at the 2012 Beer Festival.

Pipers Corner School HOPE Students

“CLIMATE CRISIS...WHAT CRISIS?”

In 18th Century England, people did not listen to ‘natural philosophers’, who warned us about the effects of the Industrial Revolution. The citizens of industrialisation were distracted by its glamour and the exhilarating pace of it all didn’t give people a single second to think about possible environmental repercussions.

Now, from the perspective of a 21st Century Environmentalist, it is evident that people are still not listening, putting us all in a detrimental position. The list of our contributions to the climate crisis is endless, and will inevitably affect everyone. However, people only tend to focus on the long-term effects of the crisis, which seems so far away that the people who want to act are put off taking serious steps towards environmental justice. Take the example of a Welsh sheep farmer, who, due to the last couple of boiling summers, had nothing growing in their fields, and thus, nothing for their sheep to eat. The farmer has had to use their winter feed, causing them to spend more on winter sheep feed and therefore increase the price of their lamb to their customers.

So...what does our future look like? Is there a future? And what repercussions will today’s youth face in their adulthood?

In the midst of COP26 in Glasgow, World Leaders, business leaders and prominent scientific authorities promised steps in the right direction, over 100 countries signed up, pledging major steps towards reducing our pollution and carbon footprint. However, two years later at COP27 in Cairo, it was found that very few countries had made any progress. In the UK, we spend billions of pounds on building new power stations, but reports show that as a nation we waste approximately 40% of the energy we are producing. There are lots of things we can do as individuals at home and here at Pipers.

The list of simple, yet beneficial means of fighting the crisis is endless.

Here are just a few of the things you can proactively do to conserve energy:

- 1) Turn off all non-essential electrical appliances including lights when not in use.
- 2) Do not leave appliances on standby, including at the end of the day. Computers left on standby for one hour use as much electricity as it takes to photocopy 100 A4 sheets of paper.
- 3) Keep the heating on a lower setting - just turning it down by one degree makes an environmental and financial difference.
- 4) Change to energy saving LED light bulbs which last up to 12 times longer than traditional light bulbs and often use less energy. Make the changes when the conventional bulbs need replacing.
- 5) Please make sure dishwashers are full before switching on.
- 6) Understand that REDUCE and REUSE come before RECYCLE.
- 7) Do not buy furniture made from tropical hardwood.
- 8) Give unwanted goods and items to community groups and charities rather than let them go to landfill.
- 9) Reduce your carbon footprint by buying British grown and produced food.
- 10) Block and fix draughts around doors and windows.
- 11) Set your printers to double sided printing.
- 12) Inform and encourage family and friends.

If we all take these little steps in the right direction together, it becomes a big step in creating a sustainable future.

By Delilah C, Year 13, Pipers Corner School.



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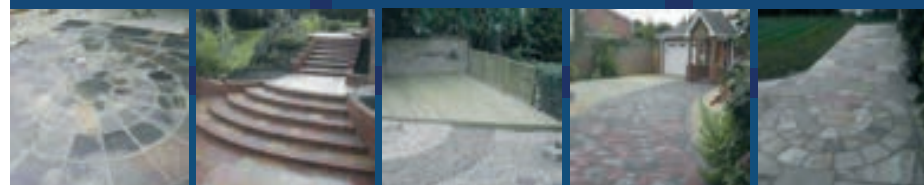
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