

Kippax Matters

September 2021



Where is this? (See p.9)



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KIPPAX CALENDARS 2022

Wow!!! Where do the years go? A big thank you to everybody who has sent in a photo for our 2022 calendar. We have had more photos submitted than before and the quality is high, this makes our job even harder.

This will be subject to any financial implications as we do not make a profit, in fact it is sometimes at a loss but we feel it's something that many residents look forward to.

To help cover the costs, we wondered if any individual or business would like to sponsor a month for £20? We would be interested in your thoughts. The calendar would hopefully be published by late September.

EDITORIAL

As I settle to write this we are still in the grip of a heatwave, it seemed to go on forever, I am not a fan of hot weather as it stops me doing things I want to do.

Then there were the floods in Germany, Netherlands and Belgium, these brought about a high number of deaths, the devastation looked shocking as the news unfolded on the television.

The wild forest fires in America, and the heat wave in Canada. All these events seem to point to one thing, CLIMATE CHANGE. When the world leaders meet in Glasgow this year, let's hope they agree on plans to tackle climate change.

I often think, as an individual, what can I do? I do use the bus, I recycle what I can, I try to buy local, have no foreign holidays (perhaps I am not quite ready to give them up!).

Please see page 10 which shows us ways that we, as a village can do our bit to help reduce these increasingly extreme weather happenings.

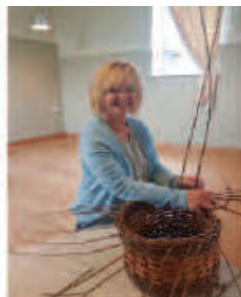
Look out for the GREAT BIG GREEN WEEK. This is a national celebration of community action 18th-26th September when communities across the country will join together. For more information go online and look for greatbiggreenweek.com

On the website there are guides to planting wildflowers, how to organise a litter pick (Wombles you are doing a great job already), suggested films to watch, books to read.....community planting, improved paths, new walks, reclaiming green spaces. We had no room this time to publish them here in the magazine.

I had a lovely walk around Fairburn Ings, at 7am in the morning, it is amazing how many people are up at that time on a Sunday. I had enrolled on a birdwatching course for beginners. We were given some great binoculars to use and saw many birds, and heard even more, I am not sure how much I will remember but it has made me appreciate that we are so lucky having all this nature near us, as well as places like the Lines, Billy Wood and St Aidan's. We walked to areas of Fairburn I had not been to before, not only do I need more courses on birds but also, I realised I didn't know the name of many wild flowers. I believe there is a wildflower walk there to enrol on, I might just give that a go too!

I must have one moan, and that's about the increase in dangerous driving that I have noticed since lockdown finished. The inability of drivers to stop at traffic lights when they are on RED! The failure of drivers at number recognition, as they don't seem to know what 20 or 30 mph means.

Finally, I went on a basket making course a few weeks ago, a belated Mother's Day treat. Surprisingly it was hard work and a long day, but I managed to make one.



Diana McEwan, one of the editors

PS If you want to help with any climate change plans in Kippax, we are hoping to start meeting as a group during the next few months and we would love to have members from all areas of the Kippax Community. Please contact: diana.mcewan@kippax-pc.gov.uk or juliaalmond@kippax-pc.gov.uk

KNIT AND NATTER



Thank you for making our Knit and Natter such a success, lots turned up for our meeting, and Matthew made it as safe as possible for us. You may have noticed that the café is now called Oliver's, but it is still the same friendly atmosphere it has always been.

We will try and meet every other Thursday 2pm until 4pm, everyone is welcome, and you don't have to be a knitter, you can just come for a chat. You will be made very welcome.

We have this month got a little project in mind, so watch out for the December Kippax Matters to see what we have planned.



Kathleen.



HELLO FROM YOUR KPC CHAIR

Firstly, a warm welcome to Helen Richardson who was Co-opted onto Kippax Parish Council in June. KPC now has its full quota of 16 Councillors.

Preparations are already underway organising the Christmas Lights switch on event which is planned to take place on Thursday 25th November 2021 so save the date in your diaries.

KPC have also started preparations for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations which take place next year (2nd – 4th June 2022)

There will be a lighting of the beacon on Cheney Basin on Thursday evening.

Also a picnic in the park event is planned for the Sunday afternoon.

More details will be published nearer the date.

Recently KPC have approved purchasing two benches for Billy Wood, two defibrillators for the village and two speed indicating devices for Gibson Lane and Longdike Lane.

Hopefully by the time this is published in the magazine residents around Kippax Common will have received a consultation document regarding what KPC could provide on the Common, whether it's a playground, running track or table tennis tables.

Your views are appreciated so we know what residents would like KPC to provide in that area.

Thanks

Cllr Martin Eyre

CONTACT KIPPAX PARISH COUNCILLORS

North Ward		Central Ward		East Ward	
Martin Eyre (Chair)	2867587	Michaela Biscoomb (Vice Chair)	07795070043	Vacancy	
Di McEwan	07766552186	Ann Parker	2861365	Julia Almond	07972147678
Heather Foley	07494533362	Janet Purcell	2861485	Mathew Osman	07486959791
Gail Hardwick	2860899	Julie Biscoomb	07787737776	Jack Bale	2866814
Victoria Gaitley	07594379788	Janet Simpson	07929915514	Alan Hudspith	07979270162
		Josie Mawson	2869653	Helen Richardson	07824888443

Parish Council meetings are held monthly. Please see www.kippax-pc.gov.uk

Planning meetings are also held monthly – please check notice boards or the website for dates.

PARISH CLERK

clerk@kippax-pc.gov.uk

MAGAZINE EMAIL ADDRESS

magazine@kippax-pc.gov.uk

Disclaimer

PLEASE NOTE that whilst Kippax Parish Council may publish advertising for local businesses in the magazine, this is not a guarantee of the services provided. Views expressed in articles and letters are not necessarily those of the Editors and/or Kippax Parish Council.

THE GROWING ZONE ORCHARD KIPPAX

Thanks to the support of the people of Kippax through the Co-op Community Fund, The Growing Zone's latest initiative of putting fruit trees around Kippax which will produce FREE fruit for the people of Kippax, is well under way.

This funding has been tremendous for us and allows GZ to continue providing fruit trees in more places than we initially planned.

The areas where the trees have been planted so far are, Moorleigh Nursing Home, Apple Tree Lane, Valley Road and Caterers Field Allotments. The Caterers Field orchard of 21 fruit trees and many bushes have been planted by the young people from GZ and local volunteers.

FRUIT WILL BE FREE TO ALL FOUR WEEKENDS A YEAR WHEN THE FRUIT IS READY.

The orchard has a small section for God's Little Acre from St. Mary's Church which houses 3 fruit trees and a few bushes, small section for Kippax Incredible Edibles who have planted various fruit bushes and an attractive border has been put in place by a local lad Tommy Bryant.

From this



To this, in 3 short months.



Thank you, Kippax.
We hope you like what we are
doing with our community grant.

June Perkin BEM
Founder/Chairperson
GZ



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Rt Hon. Alec Shelbrooke M.P.

Conservative Member of Parliament for Elmet & Rothwell
UK Representative to the NATO Assembly



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Dear Residents,

Over the last 18 months we have all witnessed something few of us will have witnessed before in our lifetime.

The pandemic—and multiple lockdowns—have been tough for many. Yet, in the face of adversity, our communities came together to offer support to one another and the government implement unprecedented schemes such as 'furlough' and numerous business grants.

On behalf of our community, I want to say thank you. By staying at home last year you helped reduce transmission and alleviate pressure on the NHS. And by signing up to have the vaccine, you have helped us form a defence against the virus that is itself now reducing transmissions and pressure on the NHS.

We all remain grateful to the scientists who developed the vaccine and to our NHS colleagues who have administered it. Collectively, we have shown the best of Great Britain.

As we now build back from the pandemic, I will work to ensure that our area is at the heart of the government's plan to build back better and to level-up investment in the North.

Best wishes,

Rt Hon. Alec Shelbrooke M.P.

01937 589 002 - alec.shelbrooke.mp@parliament.uk -



YOUR COMMENTS

MY COVID HERO

I have heard a lot recently about what kind things have been achieved during COVID and I would like to dominate my friend 'Mrs M'

Mrs M is a 91-year-old lady, from Kippax, who I had the privilege to meet in March 2020 via N.E.T. During our many chats we spoke about our mutual love of knitting and Mrs. M decided she would start to knit squares to be sewn together to make small blankets for babies in premature baby units. To date this has resulted in 65 blankets (16 squares per blanket - 1040 squares) being sent to hospitals in Wakefield, Scunthorpe and Darlington. These blankets have been received and really appreciated by all the staff and families involved.

I am so very proud of my friend who instead of sitting and moaning about being bored decided to help people (who she did not even know).

K Swales

ANY MORE DIFFERENCES OF OPINION? ARE YOU ALL CHATting ABOUT IT?

Whatever am I talking about, you may ask. Well, it is the old (very old) photograph on the front cover of the June Kippax Matters. We were told that it was a lodge for an entrance to the old Kippax Park and it was at the bottom of Mary Panel (Barnsdale Road). However, we have been advised that unfortunately this is incorrect. Some of our elderly, more knowledgeable Kippisers, Barry Chew, Mavis Gothard (Plows) to name just two, have pointed out that this is in fact High Lodge which is at the end of Park Lane in Kippax. Low Lodge is in fact in Allerton Bywater. Our older generation remember playing near High Lodge when they were children and allowed to 'play out'! So, apologies to all. See the recent photo of High Lodge, which is rather more overgrown now on the cover.

If you have any memories, comments or questions we would be more than happy to receive them. With your permission, we may even print them?

Joy Bate,
Joint Editor

KIPPAX METHODIST CHURCH

The Methodist Minister for Kippax is: - Reverend Andrew Checkley,
Telephone number 0113 2877669.

Whilst writing this in July we are very hopeful that the COVID restrictions, which were removed recently, will still apply and that we will be fully open for Public Worship.
Sunday: 10:30 am Sunday Worship and Acorns (Junior Church).

Please watch out for notices on the Church Notice Board at the bottom of Chapel Lane, posters in the Church windows or by following us on our Facebook Page - 'Kippax Methodist Church' for details of other activities.

Baptisms and Weddings by arrangement with Rev Andrew Checkley.

KIPPAX CLIMATE ACTION GROUP

KPC agreed to set up a working group to look into this matter as a result of a request from Cllr Almond following attendance at a YLCA course.

The group decided to discuss the 20 actions for Parish and Town Councils document as a starting point in order to recognise action already taken and list possible future areas for consideration. Although the Parish Council has already taken and supported action to support climate action it was agreed that there was still more that could be done. It was felt that KPC should demonstrate leadership through practical action

Although it is recognised that some actions are only possible at Leeds CC or even government level, we agreed that there is still much that can be done at local level

PROPOSAL

The working party suggests that KPC supports action 1

The formation of a climate action group, with membership open to all

The aims are:

To raise awareness of environmental and climate action issues

To mobilise interested Kippax residents to be involved and take positive action

To contribute to improving the environment of Kippax

To consider the following points and any other issues which may arise


	Topic	Current work	Possible future development
1	Encourage the formation of a climate action group	Set up initial PC group	We propose that membership of the group should be open to all
2	Potential proposals to discuss Promote wild flower areas and preserve wildlife Reduce pesticide use and other activities that harm wildlife	Don't use pesticides	Use peat free compost
3	Manage land for nature	Don't have direct responsibility for land but we have supported projects in The Meadows liaised with YWT	Discuss with LCC mowing regimes for wildlife Develop wildlife friendly corridors -Friends of the Earth Liaise with Kippax in Bloom Plant some trees
4	Increase tree cover- aim to double	Planning committee have taken action to protect TPOs	Buy green food at events Support buy local at our events
5	Buy green to support the local economy and help the planet	Supplied vegetarian sandwiches at the Gala	Encourage walking
6	Active Travel Encourage walking and cycling	Walk booklet funded, developed and distributed.	Provide walks for health at entry level

		Walking groups exist but most are for committed walkers	Another walk booklet to be produced Encourage cycling Leaflet on cycle routes to be produced. Possible inclusion of map in magazine Provide cycle parks Extend cycle paths Consider further community recycling facilities Community composting Produce guide to reducing waste and recycling Actively promote Build into Council decision making process
7	Minimise waste going to landfill		
8	Ensure you know the climate change and nature implications of decisions before you make them		
9	Encourage healthy eating		Encourage people to grow food Educate about where food comes from – Link with Incredible Edible Link with schools Provide recipes of food in season
10	Actively promote information around climate action		Use PC events to promote Encourage speakers and projects at groups such as WI, u3a, schools

Possible actions in conjunction with LCC

	Actively support planning applications for new renewable energy	Done	Ongoing
	Bring together groups of people for bulk purchases of renewable energy		Not a priority at the moment
	Develop and promote lift share scheme		?
	Use your voice on infrastructure projects eg control of buses		Not been a priority

Back In Business Let's Enjoy

'The Churches of Kippax' are working together, we may not have been seen around but we have been streaming, and praying for you, come and join us we are back in business, 'lots of activities planned' Visit us on  or have a look on our Notice Boards outside Church or the Methodist Notice Board on Chapel Lane



St Mary' Kippax



Methodist Church Kippax

KIPPAX ART CLUB

Kippax Art Club have heard the glad news that they are able to reopen! So, the Big Day will be Wednesday the 28th of July!!!! We will open our doors at 7pm at the Community Centre in Gibson Lane next to the school. We are all getting very excited at the prospect of meeting up once more and resuming painting in the company of the rest of the Club. Finishing at 9pm, we will start to feel life is heading towards normality!

Some of us have done some painting in the lockdown but getting together will give us all a boost.



Government Guidelines prevented us from having our July planned meeting, but we quickly re-arranged and organized a picnic at Kippax Common playing fields. Thirty-six ladies turned up, picnic baskets to hand; we sang Jerusalem, ate our picnics and had a good chinwag; a very successful afternoon was had by all.

Fingers crossed, we'll be able to meet in the Community Centre in August, we will of course make it as safe as we can, providing hand sanitizer, masks etc. This meeting will be an informal meeting, beetle drive, quizzes, and tea and scones will be served.



Looking forward to seeing you all in August.

Kathleen

HELLO FROM EVERYONE HERE AT KIPPAX COMMUNITY HUB

We would like to say a big thank you to all of the customers who have used our services during the very challenging last 18 months. Whether that be our online resources, telephone services, face to face or order and collect services, we really appreciate you all. Kippax Community Hub relies on the support of the local community to be able to continue providing services on behalf of Leeds City Council and we wouldn't be here without that continued support.

The information within this article is correct at time of writing but may be subject to change by the date in which the magazine is published. Within the Hub we offer access to the Library Service, Face to Face Customer Service enquiries and access to self-serve computers all of which are free of charge to use. For those with access to a computer, smartphone, eBook or tablet of your own at home, you can access some of our Library Services through the Leeds Libraries website and download a number of resources free of charge via www.leeds.gov.uk/leisure/libraries

For those who have been affected by unemployment or who are looking for a change of role, Leeds City Council is continuing to provide employment support via Jobshop. Jobshop can assist with updating or creating a CV, assistance with application forms and interview skills. You can contact the team by emailing your details to jobshops@leeds.gov.uk or pop in and see us and we'll be sure to pass your details on to the team. You can also find out more information about employment, apprenticeships and vacancies on our website at www.leeds.gov.uk/jobs-skills-and-training

We are again looking for some inspiration here at the Hub! Is there a group you would like to see set-up in the Hub? We're always looking for ideas and passionate people to help facilitate groups; if you have an idea or would like to share your skills, please call in to discuss it with us!

At the time of writing, we do not have a date for when things such as Storytime and other activities at the Hub will re-commence, however please keep an eye on our notice boards, social media pages or contact us direct for any updates on 0113 3781878.

Facilities

Self-serve computers are available to access during opening hours and are free of charge to use. Charges apply to printing costing 20p per side. We also have free WIFI available in the building, so please feel free to make use of this if bringing your own devices into the Hub.

Photocopying is available on-site at 10p per A4 side in black and white, 20p for colour. The site also has lift access to all floors, accessible toilet with baby changing facilities and a water machine on the ground floor which is free to use.

We can provide sanitary pads free of charge to those who need them. There is always a small stock in the accessible toilet which can be taken as and when needed. If you need additional supplies, please ask a member of staff wearing a purple badge for 'Pack 1' and you will be provided with a pack of sanitary pads free of charge.

Our current opening times are as follows:

Monday	9am – 5pm	Thursday 9am – 5pm
Tuesday	10am – 5pm	Friday 9am – 5pm
Wednesday	9am – 5pm	Saturday 10am – 4pm

Follow us on social media for updates on the services provided at the Hub:

Twitter: @LCCkippaxHub

Facebook: Kippax Community Hub

Best wishes from all of us at Kippax Community Hub

Kippax Parish Council

Kippax Parish Council is made up of 16 Councillors, each representing one of the three Kippax Wards. In addition to the full council, there are various Committees and Advisory Committees made up of Councillors and members of the public who focus on different projects and tasks including Finance, Planning, Communications, Village Services, Personnel and Youth and Leisure and Christmas.



Cllr Martin Eyre
Chair / North Ward

Martin.Eyre@kippax-pc.gov.uk



Cllr Michaella Biscomb
Vice-Chair / Central Ward

Michaella.Biscomb@kippax-pc.gov.uk



Cllr Julia Almond
East Ward

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Cllr Gail Hardwick
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Cllr Alan Hudspith
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Cllr Vicky Land
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Cllr Janet Purcell
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Cllr Helen Richardson
East Ward

Helen.Richardson@kippax-pc.gov.uk

To contact the Clerk, please email clerk@kippax-pc.gov.uk.
For more information, please visit www.kippax-pc.gov.uk or attend the Public Forum at the Parish Council monthly meeting. Meeting dates and times are available on the website.



Cllr Jack Bate
East Ward
Jack.Bate@kippax-pc.gov.uk



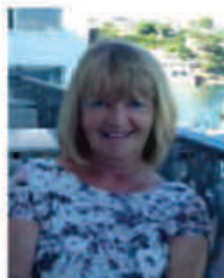
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Cllr Mathew Osman
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Cllr Janet Simpson
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GLOW WORM WANDERS 2021

Townclose Hills Nature Reserve is home to some very special creatures and one in particular is the glow worm. Wander up to the grassland on a summers night and you may be in for a spectacular treat.

The glow worm *Lampyris noctiluca* is not a worm at all but a beetle which is part of the firefly family. It is the adult female glow worm that has the beautiful, bright green glow, which is recognisable by the two dots and two stripes that light up at the end of her abdomen. The female glow worm cannot fly so she climbs up a grass stem each night and waves her glowing tail to attract a mate. The adult males can fly and have large eyes to be able to spot the glowing female. Once he spots a lady, he drops to the ground below her and walks up the stem to her to mate. Once mated the female, finds a suitable log or rock to lay her eggs under, somewhere that is cool and damp, and she can lay anywhere between 25-150 eggs, depending on her size.

Both the male and female adults have no proper mouth parts so they cannot eat; this means they only live for a couple of weeks using the energy they gained as a larva. After laying her eggs the female dies.

The eggs hatch after about a month and the larvae that emerge are ready to hunt in just a few hours. The larvae hunt and eat slugs and snails. They have specially adapted mouth parts that inject the slug or snail with a poison.

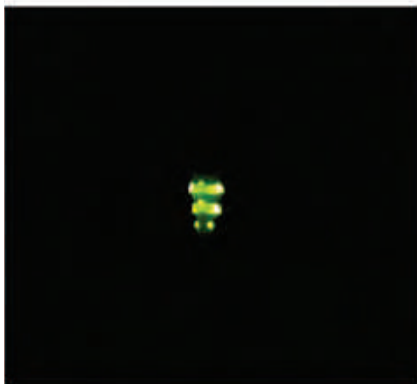
This poison slowly digests the snail (whilst it's still alive!) into a soup that the larva can then drink up. A typical glow-worm larva takes about two years to grow up – it hunts during the summer months and spends the winters in hibernation below ground or under logs or stones.

The larvae can also produce a glow, which is smaller and not as bright as the adult female.

When ready, the larva will go into pupation.

During the pupal stage the larvae's organs are broken down and replaced by the adult versions. This normally takes a couple of weeks and is longer for the male as he has to grow his wings. The adults emerge from their pupa ready for their sole purpose of finding a mate and the cycle starts again.

Every year Townclose Hills is surveyed for glow worms, we walk the same transect of the site each time to get an idea of how the population is surviving. This year on the 2nd and 16th July we ran glow worm wander events to walk this transect. Both events were sold out - we like to keep the groups small, just 10 people each time to make sure everyone is safe, but



The 2 spots and 2 lines of the female glow worm's light organ at the base of her abdomen. Photo taken on Townclose Hills. Photo credit: Elspeth Robinson



Glow worm larva at Townclose Hills. Photo credit: Elspeth Robinson

they also get plenty of time looking at the individual glow worms. On the 2nd July we saw 8 female glow worms, 1 on The Lines Way, 2 in the grassland at the top of Townclose Hills and 5 were glowing brightly together along the woodland path lighting our way back home. On the 16th July, it was the night of the larvae, we have never seen so many all at once. We recorded 4 female glow worms that night but well over 30 larvae. As we walked through the coppiced woodland at the end of the night it was like walking through fairyland, the woodland floor was twinkling with little larvae lights – It was a truly amazing sight!

Yorkshire Wildlife Trust manage Townclose Hills Nature reserve in partnership with Leeds City Council. We look after and maintain the habitats to ensure the glow worms and all the other wildlife that call this site home can survive. Glow worms can be found in grasslands, at the bottom of hedgerows, along disused railway embankments and in woodlands. Townclose Hills and The Lines Way provides all of these important habitats and Yorkshire Wildlife Trust alongside Leeds City Council ensure they are maintained in the best way to encourage and protect our wildlife. If you would like to be get involved with the practical conservation of the site, we run regular volunteer days where we do everything from litter picking to tree planting, to installing benches. If interested, please contact volunteering@ywt.org.uk.

If you would like to see the glow worms next year, we will be running more glow worm walks in 2022, just keep an eye on our events page for more information:

www.ywt.org.uk/our-events

Elspeth Robinson – Yorkshire Wildlife Trust Reserves Officer for the Lower Aire Valley.



Glowing female glow worms at Townclose Hills. Photo credit: Elspeth Robinson

ST MARY'S CHURCH KIPPAX

Clergy: Team Rector: Revd Bob Bailey – 0113 286 9606

Team Vicar: Revd Diane Flynn - 0113 286 4607

From our Rector:

I write this just before 'Freedom Day' and I am very aware that like many things, as we open up, freedom for one person comes at a cost or with fear for others. It is good to stop and reflect. Through Covid we have become much more aware of the everyday struggles of others, which have been briefly shared by the whole community. We have all worried about our health, been cut off and gone without. But through the closed-ness of the last year we have been open in new ways. Open to help and be helped, open to the needs of others and open to our own inner need for community, family and friendship. This has been expressed through the wonderful local work of the food bank, local shops and businesses, looking out for our neighbours and of course the NHS, teachers, parish councillors, shop and delivery workers amongst many others. So, whatever the restrictions (hopefully none), we are now more open than we were before. Let's keep ourselves open to new and imaginative ways to help each other and build our common life together. This would be a gift and fitting legacy for the future.

Since Easter it has been wonderful to welcome people back into church for in person services. We have kept some restrictions to protect our more vulnerable members and visitors. Regular prayers continue online through the week with streamed services on a Sunday. We have also started our children's work and hope to have First Steps, our Thursday baby and toddler group running soon. One of the great joys has been conducting christenings and weddings again. Seeing people come together joyfully after such a long time of absence has been a highlight of the last few months. The church hall has also been open to regular groups. It really has been good to see the church and wider community coming to life. A big thank you to everyone who has made this possible and for the warm Kippax welcome our family have received. Revd Bob

THE CHURCH IS NOW OPEN FOR REGULAR WORSHIP

Said Parish Eucharist: every Sunday at 10.30am. Everyone welcome.

"More Steps" every Sunday for children aged 4 - 10 years with activities for young children in the church hall and then joining the rest in the church during Communion. No need to book, just turn up.

Morning Prayer: Monday to Friday at 9.30am. Everyone welcome.

Mid-week Said Eucharist every third Tuesday: details on our website and Facebook page (St Mary's Church – Kippax).

All within the Covid rules until further notice. Face masks must be worn at all times except to take the communion. Hand sanitizers to be used on entry to and exit from the church and social distancing must be observed.

Please visit our website for updates.

Weddings, Baptisms and Funerals services can also now take place in the church within the Covid rules.

Please contact the Rector for more information.

Please follow us on our website at stmarykippax.org.uk and Facebook Page St Mary's Church – Kippax, for news and updates.



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KIPPAX VILLAGE ACTION SUPPORTING THE ELDERLY ACTIVE OF KIPPAX

At the time of writing with lockdown rules easing on 19 July, the committee will be meeting in the next week or so. Keeping safety in mind, we hope to be able to organise one or two trips later this year. We will try to let people know when trips are arranged. We hope you are all keeping safe and well.

Further information can be obtained from

Jean - 0113 2875143

Pauline - 0113 2860669

KVA

KIPPAX COMMUNITY CLUB

Following government guidelines and keeping people's safety in mind we will be looking into the possibility of being able to meet up again. Once arrangements have been made we will contact members.

Further information regarding the club, please contact

Barbara - 0113 2870853 • Shirley - 0113 2874353

KIPPAX WOMBLES CLEANING UP KIPPAX ONE BAG AT A TIME.

The thought that really got me started litter picking recently was.....

We have been trying as a society so long to stop people dropping litter and it's just getting worse! If we can't stop it? What if there were more people collecting litter than dropping it? Could that be the answer?

It can be infuriating wondering why people choose to drop litter but the magical transformation from a scruffy looking space to a tidy one as you pick can be very rewarding. The birds sing around you and you can enjoy the fresh air knowing you are also doing a good deed. It's a very inclusive hobby with most people able to help out in some way. I am pretty sure a litter free street increases the value of your house as well as making you feel better and it's good exercise so there are lots of good reasons to do it!

In early in 2021 spurred on by the idea I put a post on Kippax Past and Present Facebook page for others to litter pick with me virtually as we were still in Lockdown. Someone responded and told me about the Litter Free Leeds Facebook page. To Quote the page...

"Litter Free Leeds is a group set up to bring communities, groups and individuals together to tackle the growing problem of littering and fly-tipping in Leeds.

The group is here to work with the council where possible but primarily to achieve community led solutions."

I knew then I wasn't alone! I got in touch with them and became the Purple bag holder (Or bag lady) for the Kippax area. They also gave me some contacts of volunteers to supply the bags to in the area. Other contacts came through Kippax Past and Present face book page, other Wombles and by basically pressing anyone I knew into service! Including at least two passers-by on group picks!

So, what's so special about Purple bags? LFL have worked with Leeds City Council and arranged that Purple bags can be left at any LCC bin so you don't have to carry them miles. This sounds like common sense but it doesn't happen in all Council areas. The Purple bags also highlight just how many volunteers are willing to give up their free time to pick litter and improve the environment for themselves and others. Hopefully this will inspire others to join in or to stop dropping litter. Through lockdown the LFL movement in Leeds really took off and Wombles, as litter pickers are known after the popular tv series, became a common sight with purple bags being spotted everywhere throughout Leeds. Garforth, Allerton Bywater and Great Preston and Kippax all having local groups that work with each other.

By March 2021 Kippax Wombles had collected 137 bags of litter and shockingly 152 masks and more people were coming forward to volunteer. Kippax Parish council got onboard to buy some litter grabbers to loan out. We used these on our first Monthly group pick in April on Great Preston parish field, collecting 8 bags and reporting a fly tip. We collected another 60 bags in April and 149 masks. Some Wombles prefer to pick by themselves and we even have a few secret Wombles! Not all give me figures for bags collected which is fine but it does mean the bag count is probably higher. By now we were 30 Wombles strong! For the May Group pick we targeted a small area of Kippax Meadows next to the Cromwell estate. On a pleasant sunny day, we extracted 15 bags and many fly-tipped items from the woods and path (see photo).





We followed this in May by a group pick at Owl Wood, an area we have been trying to clear on previous occasions! Around twenty people came to help on a lovely sunny day. It was great to see the children enjoying themselves in the woods. All three local LCC councillors also came out, everyone seemed to have great day collecting 15 bags of litter from the path behind Brigshaw school and the wood. In July, LCC gave Kippax Wombles 12 litter pickers to loan out to the public including two children's pickers. The statistics for the year from February to June 2021 stands at 300 bags and 736 masks collected by 40+ Wombles in 5 months. Several fly tips have been reported and we have litter grabbers to give out for group picks or for individuals to borrow them, not a bad start!

Thanks for the support given to me must go to my fellow Wombles, Kippax Parish Council many of whom have joined the picks, Leeds City Council and councillors, especially the Cleaner Neighbourhoods Team who have delivered many boxes of Purple bags and cleared the tons of rubbish we have found quickly and efficiently. Also, to the bag holders of the other local groups that kept me supplied in the great May bag famine!

Would you like to get involved? If so message me on

caz@smithsons23.plus.com, Facebook messenger or through

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/litterfreeleeds>

or <https://litterfreeleeds.co.uk/>

Fly tips can be reported through the council webpage <https://www.leeds.gov.uk/antisocial-behaviour-and-crime/report-fly-tipping>

We will be holding a monthly group pick every second Sat of the month at 10am at different locations. This will be posted on Kippax Past and Present Facebook page and shared elsewhere. Hope to see you there!

Caroline Smithson.



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THE VIEW FROM A KIPPAX GARDEN by EBG Jardinero Esq

Well, it's coming up to the end of June and the weather and my gardening efforts have been a right mixed bag. Vegetable sowings went from bad to worse. The only vegetable I planted out were some climbing French beans a neighbour gave me. Two sowings of sweet corn raised one plant and as it needs several plants in a block to wind pollinate them, I'm not expecting a bumper crop of cobs; from a block of one!

I only recently cleared some of last year's vegetables from the beds. This included turnip plants which had grown 150cm high and the flowers have been available for pollinators. So, my tardy tidying has reaped some benefits.

I've previously written that my raised vegetable beds have bindweed in them. Bindweed dies off above the ground in winter but their roots stay alive in the soil. It starts to grow again in spring but when the vegetables start growing, they get in the way of dealing with the bindweed. It's inevitable that I miss some of it and so the cycle continues.

Given the situation, it seemed that this was the time to try and get rid of the bindweed once and for all. I didn't want to use sprays so I'm trying no dig principles. I've pulled out all the weeds that I can without digging through the soil; this avoids me breaking the brittle bindweed roots into pieces as each one of these can grow into a new plant. I've got some cardboard in the garage that I had saved from some deliveries in lockdown. I'm laying these on the beds and then it's covered with some of my homemade compost. The idea is that any weeds under this blanket will be starved of light and eventually die; we'll see. I'm using plain cardboard for this as glossy picture versions may contain plastic like polymers. It's early days for evidence whether the latter can cause problems but just in case, I've decided not to use them on the beds.

Covering the beds like this fits in with no-dig principles which I'm becoming more aware of. People who follow these, aim to keep disturbance of the ground to a minimum so that natural processes are preserved. It keeps intact the structures of the soil and best enables natural relationships between organisms and fungi. This all leads to better growth of plants.

Manures and compost for instance are added to the surface of the soil which saves time in not having to dig them in (and possible bad backs). Worms and other life do the hard bit breaking them down until their nutrients become available for plants to use.

Despite my lack of success with vegetable sowing I managed some effective time in the garden elsewhere. Weeding and pruning has gone well nearer the house. I've cut down plants such as lupins and geraniums when they've finished flowering and this allows their neighbours the chance to grow better. It will also lead to fresh flushes of leafy growth, plus I may even get some new flowers before the end of autumn.

This is also the best year I've had for soft fruit such as gooseberries, raspberries, blackcurrants and tayberries. In previous years, I've pruned all of these back and this year, I didn't. I think the combination of a greater proportion of wood being mature generated more fruit and reduced accessibility has kept blackbirds away from eating it.

Less early season pruning also benefitted the flower border as *Philadelphus* and *Physocarpus* had their best flowering displays ever due to the longer branches and more mature wood.

I've seen some beneficial wildlife in the garden this year. I was cutting back some poppies in the far bed and I had to stop when I saw there was a hedgehog resting amongst the thick vegetation. I never thought one could rest in there but it shows how habitat can be beneficial.



Philadelphus flowering its socks off

I'd left a tray with some cardboard in the bottom of it on the ground in the shade. I picked it up to tidy it away and found a smooth newt resting underneath it so quickly replaced the tray. The first I've ever seen in the garden and not bad to say we have no ground level pond. They eat insects, worms and slugs when they are on land so another tick for getting a balance of prey and predators in the garden.

I've heard it from a couple of sources this year of the importance of tolerating pests in the garden and slugs and snails were mentioned. Only a small proportion of slugs do harm to vegetation such as Hosta's, which are more likely to be attacked if they aren't growing so well. The other slugs actually benefit the garden according to the research!

Hopefully the presence of hedgehogs and a newt are linked to why I haven't seen many slugs and snails in the garden this year. I'm coming round to think that if there weren't any slugs and snails, I doubt I would be enjoying seeing 4 hedgehogs and a newt.



I was sitting on our front step last week and a strange spider went past so I managed a photo before it legged it. It looks to be a woodlouse spider and is the first I've seen. Its normal prey is..... woodlice, which is brilliant for us because we have lots of those.

A couple of years ago, I replanted our front bed which is enclosed in a low wall and surrounded by pavers. The crab apple and Pyracantha have flowered really well and will bear lots of fruit and berries in autumn. The log pile in there is hopefully providing shelter and can hardly be seen because of the

growth around it. I've used some spare bricks to create mini steps on the outside of the surrounding wall, to give any passing hedgehogs the opportunity to use the 'steps' and have a snuffle around in the bed.

It's amazing what nature there is in any garden and how it is all connected. I just need to make sure I don't hinder it, but help it and always relish it.

Get out and enjoy the garden.

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KIPPAX GREENFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL

Kippax Greenfield Primary School is delighted to announce the appointment of Ms Beth Hartshorne as headteacher from September 2021. Ms Hartshorne has been leading the school alongside Mrs Pashley since Easter 2021 and is thoroughly looking forward to working full time at Kippax Greenfield from September.

The final half term of the school year has been jam-packed at Kippax Greenfield! Year 6 have enjoyed a day residential experience at Nell Bank in Ilkley. They enjoyed orienteering and team building activities throughout the day and a few were even asleep before the coach arrived back at school!

In an attempt to provide all children with the missed opportunities of the past 18 months, both Year 4 and Year 5 have enjoyed camping in the school grounds overnight. They planned and cooked their own dinners using camping stoves and even washed up after themselves! Hide and seek in the dark was followed by marshmallows and hot chocolate around the campfire. Most importantly, the rain did not stop play despite the threat of thunderstorms at one point!

We would like to wish all Kippax Greenfield children and their families a wonderful summer break and we look forward to welcoming you back on Tuesday 7 September 2021. Best of luck to our very special 'Class of 2021' as they embark upon their next phase of education-keep shining like the stars that you are!



Kippax's City Councillors Update

From late September all the facilities will up and running at Kippax Sports Centre! We worked with Kippax Parish Council to fund refurbishments in 2020 to the changing rooms and after the pandemic we'd encourage people to see the changes! Have a look online at what's going on

<https://active.leeds.gov.uk/findacentre/kippaxleisurecentre> or ring 01133781275

We have our community grants available for local charities, voluntary groups and sports teams. We know many organisations are trying to get back up and running but need new equipment or may have not been able to fundraise during lockdown. Please contact us and we'll try and help out!

Its been good to support the work of incredible edible and see the vegetable beds around Kippax. Thanks to all the volunteers who've put in time to build and tend to the beds and we hope people make good use of them!

We have started doing our mobile surgeries and taking advantage of the summer weather to get out and meet people and we will have our stall in the Co-op soon as we've really missed seeing everyone! Please contact us on the details below if you think we can help you with any local or council issue:



Councillor

Mary Harland

Tel: 07866 962 287 (Mobile)

Tel: (0113) 378 8814 (Office)

mary.harland@leeds.gov.uk



Councillor

Mirelle Midgley

Tel: 07796 158228 (Mobile)

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Councillor

James Lewis

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Find us on

Facebook

www.facebook.com/KippaxMethley

You can write to us: c/o Labour Group Office, Civic Hall, Leeds LS1 1UR

MY BILLY WOOD

By Roger Monks

My colliery was Allerton Bywater where I worked myself up from a Screen Hand, sorting coal, to the Colliery Training Officer. When the pit closed, I moved to Bridlington with my wife Diane to start a new life and get the sea air.

After living in Bridlington for 30 years my son says "I have got a weekend off work, would you like to go and see Billy Wood and stay overnight in a motel?"



When we got there, we parked at the swimming baths at Station Road, Kippax and took a look up to Billy Wood. I thought it looked far away but don't forget, when my mates and I used to run up there, aged 10, some 73 years ago, our legs were younger than than an 83-year-olds now! We did not have a shortcut then but went the long way and followed the stream.

I walked in front as a tear kept falling down my cheek, as I remembered all my young mates, a lot of them who left us too early. Billy Wood was a place where you could go and be who you wanted to be. Forget the ration books and shortage of money, watching my mother struggle week by week, Billy Wood, as a young boy, was an escape.

The stream was full of life at first, fun to fish in and look for birds' nests. Then someone from Garforth turned the tables on the stream and when there was a storm, sewage would run into the stream. This would happen more often and eventually the water became contaminated and the coots seemed to disappear and so did the small fish.

We turned left at the top of the path to see all the allotments had gone and in their place was wilderness. The old men in the allotments would put their plants in straight lines, and they would call to each other – "that line's like a dog's legs!"

I'm out of breath now at 83. We have got to the top of the hill and found a new seat to rest on which is more than welcome. I thought - "well done the lads who have put it there, and just in the right place!" I looked around and remembered what I could see before they built the Wimpey Estate: the mushrooms and Blue Stalks in old Frank Norton's field and the fresh watercress from the running spring in Well Lane.

I was born at number 48 Bickerdyke Terrace, then it changed to number 2. Those who had a gun could get a rabbit for the Sunday dinner. Partridge nests were everywhere and their eggs would make lovely Yorkshire puddings and a sponge cake, with perhaps jam and cream, all cooked in the coal fired oven. We were very lucky having all these things to eat. Dam the farmers for spraying the crops as this took our wildlife and fish.

After a welcome rest, I saved the best until last. The first thing I saw was that someone had been busy planting new young trees, placing fences around them to keep the vegetation and flora and footpaths clean. This day and age, it is wonderful to see people who care and give their time to do such wonderful work. Thank you and well done.

As I stood in Billy Wood, those tears came again, happy tears not sad. Thoughts and memories are a wonderful thing, it's like a book, page after page of memories keep coming back. The games and the fun long gone now, but still remembered with love and fondness. Each one made you laugh with their own character. In Billy Wood you could be who you wanted to be; it was ours. The world was down there in Station Road.

Sometimes we were naughty and would steal a couple of potatoes from the farmer's field and the allotments, make a safe fire with stones round and cook them. The chef's menu would be open fire, cooked potatoes with strawberries to follow. Full bellies were welcome in ration book days and mam would be pleased our bellies were full for another day.

Another old but true story is about my friend. He had a lot of boils, one after the other. So, he was sent to see Mr Milnethorpe, down Station Road. He was a forager and we often, as kids, saw him up Billy Wood in the hedge bottoms, foraging for wild plants and leaves. He gave my friend a potion he had made up, and he never, ever had a boil or a pimple.

Little time left now and I could not find where the old Medhurst Billy Wood Pit was, showing its brick walled shaft. When we were boys, we used to jump into the top of the infill.

The mine owners were: Kippax Lime Co. 1891-1899; R. Towler Wilkinson 1902; Kippax Coal and Sand Co. 1903-04.

A man from Station Road once told me he once went to Billy Wood Pit for work and the manager said "Nay lad, I have got 13 men working down and that's the law – no more" It was like many a single shaft, one way in and one way out. This pit will now be filled with water, and in those days any rubbish.

It may be welcome if the Council employed an engineer to test to see how stable the filling in the shaft was, with all the water underneath.

Well, goodbye Billy Wood. You were perfect again, as I remembered you many years ago.

Roger Monks



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KIPPAX IN BLOOM UPDATE

Our flower beds around Kippax look at their best at the moment and its lovely to see the 'fruits of our labour'. The Yorkshire in Bloom judges have been unable to make a physical visit to us this year but our fantastic volunteers have still continued with the Bloom work around our community throughout these very challenging times and the results speak for themselves. Our grass cutting teams make all the difference around Crosshills, Butt Hill Gardens, The Coal Tub, Calvert Cl and the Tropical beds on Leeds Rd. by making regular cuts and edging also. We appreciate your great comments on Facebook re our wildflower planting in the LCC bed on Westfield Lane and also around the Moorgate Pub and we plan hopefully to add extra wildflower areas around Kippax next year.



We have made a start on the Dementia friendly/ Sensory Garden on Maltkin Lane with many thanks to James Moulstone, a local landscape gardener, who is giving his time for free. This is a very big project for us so please contact us if you feel you can help in any way.



We're delaying our 20 years celebrations until next year when hopefully we can involve everyone including our local schools.

We thank all our sponsors and helpers and we're grateful for the support of Kippax Parish Council, LCC Parks and Countryside and Locality Team, Mary James and Mirelle our Ward Councillors and Marie and Jonny at Woodend Nurseries.

If you can help by volunteering for our work parties (no experience needed) or through sponsorship please contact me at psarmykb@aol.com by telephone on 0113 2862283 or call to see me at Pats Sweets. Our website is www.kippaxinbloom.com

