KISLINGBURY NEWS

June and July 2026



Picture Courtesy of Geoff Sumerling

Kislingbury Parish Council - Directory

www.kislingburyparishcouncil.gov.uk

Parish Clerk	
Ginette Philips	Email: **clerk@kislingburyparishcouncil.gov.uk**
Chair	
Janet Mallett	Finance Village Hall Representative Grass Cutting Website
Vice Chair	
Jonathan Hughes	Bugbrooke Medical Centre PPG KPFA Representative Kislingbury News (PC Notes and PC Representative) School Liaison
Parish Councillors	
Sue Deane	Kislingbury Bridge Highways Street Lighting Village Maintenance
Jamie Dye	Allotments Kislingbury Bridge
Richard Harvey	Climate and Nature Defibrillators
Chris Payne	Allotments Flooding Highways Kislingbury Bridge
Malcolm Spalding	Finance Planning
Bob Wallis	Highways Kislingbury Bridge Street Lighting
Sam Parkerson	

Correspondence should be addressed to the Parish Clerk at the above email address.

Phil Bignell	West Northamptonshire Council	07969 919779 phil.bignell@westnorthants.gov.uk
Debra King	West Northamptonshire Council	debra.king@westnorthants.gov.uk
Sarah Bool	MP South Northants	sarah.bool.mp@parliament.uk

Phil Beeston	Footpath Warden Chair - Kislingbury Playing Field Assoc.	832146
Sue Deane	Margaret Welsh Charity	831834
Miriam Harris	Margaret Welsh Charity	831835
Anne Upton	Village Archivist	07845943940
Felicity Dunkley	Village Archivist	830514
Chrissie Key	Village Hall Booking Clerk	831824
Sarah Parker	Kislingbury Facebook Highways Charity (Clerk & Trustee)	07840731451
Scott Parker	VAS Signs	07512729422
Chris Payne	Flood & Snow Warden	07917033843
Alison Ward	Kislingbury Facebook	07770528188

Parish Council Meetings are usually held on the third Tuesday of each month in Kislingbury Village Hall at 7pm. There is no meeting in August. All meetings begin with an opportunity for villagers to ask questions or raise matters of concern. The press and members of the public are welcome to attend.

Minutes can be seen on Parish Notice Boards and online at:

www.kislingburyparishcouncil.gov.uk

Follow the village on Facebook **@Kislingbury Village Info**

Services provided by the Parish Council and West Northamptonshire Council

Parish Council

Allotments, Community Grants, Defibrillators, Dog Waste Bins, Grass Mowing of Some Areas, Parish Council Noticeboards, Responding to Planning Applications, Speed Awareness, Street Lighting, Village Planters

West Northamptonshire Council

Adult Social Care and Wellbeing, Benefits, Bins, Waste and Refuse, Business Licencing and Trading Standards, Children and Families, Community Safety and Emergencies, Council Tax, Culture and Tourism, Deaths, Births and Marriages, Disabled Badges, Environmental Health, Fly Tipping, Food Hygiene, Health and Wellbeing, Housing, Libraries, Parking, Roads and Transport, Parks, Sports and Leisure, Planning and Building Control, Pot Holes and Highways Problems, Schools and Education

www.westnorthants.gov.uk/#all-services

Kislingbury Village Store & Post Office

29 Church Lane, Kislingbury, NN7 4AD 01604 830328

Royal Mail | amazon | dpd | EVRi | Hermes

Store Opening Hours

Monday to Friday 07:00 - 19:00

Saturday 08:00 - 19:00

Sunday 09:00 - 17:00

Post Office Opening Hours

Monday to Friday 09:00 - 17:00

Saturday 09:00 - 12:00

Sunday CLOSED

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Retail Industry awards 2024 – POST OFFICE RETAILER OF THE YEAR INDEPENDENT – WINNER

First aid

WHERE TO FIND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SUPPORT IN KISLINGBURY

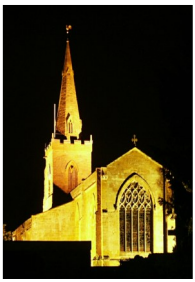
Defibrillators are located at The Sun Inn, the Village Hall and the Bowls Club.



An Emergency Bleed Control Kit is located outside the Shop.



LIGHT UP ST LUKE'S



The draws for April and May have been completed.
Many thanks to Judith Tonge who drew Dennis Tidmarsh's winning ticket for April and to Diane Weatherall who drew out May's winning ticket which was held by Sandra Blair.
Congratulations to both winners and thank you again to both Judith and Diane.
Stay safe, keep well.

Deni Topliss ***Mob 07754471120***

Village Diary

June and July

June

7th	Rev'd Jo's First Service, followed by buffet, St Luke's, 10.30am
8th	Kisl Creates, St Luke's, 1 - 3pm
14th	ParT@4, St Luke's Church, 4pm
16th	Parish Council Meeting, Village Hall, 7pm
20th / 21st	Kislingbury Open Gardens, 11am - 4pm

July

1st	Messy Church, St Luke's Church, 3.30pm
6th	Kisl Creates, St Luke's, 1 - 3pm
24th	Kislingbury News Deadline
28th	Parish Council Meeting, Village Hall, 7pm

Advertising Rates for the Kislingbury News

Residents
Half Page Advert
1 issue £25 / 1 year £60
Quarter Page Advert
1 issue £20 / 1 year £40

Please send all adverts, contributions and any additional information by email in electronic format to Rachel Watts at

kislingburynews@hotmail.co.uk

Non-Residents
Half Page Advert
1 issue £30 / 1 year £85
Quarter Page Advert
1 issue £25 / 1 year £60

NEXT DEADLINE IS 24TH JULY 2026

Regular Events in Kislingbury

Art Group	Village Hall	Thursday	2pm - 4pm
Bell Ringing	St Luke's Church	Monday	7.30pm - 8.30pm
Bugbrooke Badminton Club	Sports Hall, Campion School	Thursday	7.30pm - 9.30pm
Geoff French | 07889 524300 | frenchgeoff@outlook.com			
Bob Boys | 07902 266469 |bobboys1@yahoo.co.uk			
Bugbrooke and District Flower Club	Nether Heyford Village Hall	4th Monday of the month	7.30pm
Karate	Village Hall	Thursday	6pm - 9pm
Karate	Village Hall	Sunday	10am - 11am
More information on either Karate Sessions - Tel: 07950 260148			
Kislingbury Parish Council	Village Hall	3rd Tuesday of the month	7pm
Kizzle Tots (term time)	Chapel, Mill Lane	Thursday	10am - 12 noon
KOFs	Village Hall	Thursday	10.30am
Kraft Shack Group	Village Hall	Wednesday	8pm
Tel: 07788737052 | email: mopalmer@ymail.com			
Line Dance Classes	Village Hall	Thursday	1pm - 2pm
Tel: 07788 737052 | email: mopalmer@ymail.com			
Pilates	Village Hall	Tuesday	2pm - 3pm
Tel: 07764 586990			
Tango with Zoe Taylor		Wednesday	7.15pm
Tel: 07858 289620			
Tea Room	Chapel, Mill Lane	Friday	10am - 12 noon
Tots Group (term time)	Village Hall	Tuesday	10am - 12.15pm
Voyage of Light	Village Hall	2nd Tuesday of the month (excluding Jan and Aug)	
Tel: 07788737052 | email: mopalmer@ymail.com			

Parish Council Notes

Chair's Report - May 2026

Parish Council catch up of the year from May 2025 to May 2026.

There has been a recent change to the leadership of the Parish Council. Councillor Janet Mallett will take on the tenure of Chair of KPC and Councillor Jonathan Hughes has agreed to stay on the Parish Council as Vice Chair. Jonathan and I have worked together for the 5 years he has held the role of Chair and I thank him for his service to the village. I'm delighted he has agreed to stay on as Vice Chair.

The Parish Council was elected in May 2025 following a contested election. It's been approx. 19 years since councillors have had to put themselves forward to be voted for, and we are very grateful for the strong level of support shown by residents to the nine elected councillors.

The Parish Council was elected under a shared ambition to "make Kislingbury an even better place to live". Central to achieving this is effective communication, not only with individual residents and village organisations, but also in ensuring that local views, ideas and concerns are represented within the Parish Council and communicated to key external bodies, including West Northamptonshire Council (WNC), the Environment Agency and Anglian Water.

The Parish Council continues to prioritise engagement and communication. We have the Annual Parish Community Meeting, alongside the publication of agendas and minutes on our website and noticeboards, public meetings where necessary, and direct contact through the Clerk or the website. We are planning to use social media more during the coming year, so you have regular information regarding what is going on in the village.

Strategic Planning and Governance

Over the past year, the Parish Council has developed and adopted a Four-Year Plan (October 2025), setting out our direction through to the May 2029 elections. The Plan focuses on four key priorities:

- Environment and Place
- Communication, Engagement and Partnership
- Finance and Governance
- Community Safety and Wellbeing

Councillor responsibilities have been clearly defined and supported by working groups, including Communication, Finance, Neighbourhood Plan Revision, Planning Resources, Website Review, River Bridge, Road Safety, Street Lighting and Welcome Pack. I will meet with all councillors over the next few weeks and discuss the responsibilities they currently have and what they would like to go forward with. As much as I love the finance aspect of my role as Chair, I must pass this responsibility onto one of our councillors and please keep an eye out for our website improvements which are taking place as I write this.

People and Partnerships

We continue to benefit from the excellent work of our Parish Clerk, Ginette Phillips,

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appointed in September 2024.
During the year:

- We accepted the resignation of Cllr Adam Kennedy, with thanks for his contribution
- We welcomed back Cllr Samantha Parkerson
- We built strong links with WNC councillors Phil Bignell and Debra King
- We engaged with MP Sarah Bool, including a community coffee morning in October 2025

Environment, Flooding and Infrastructure

While there has been a respite from major flooding over the past year, the issue remains a concern. We continue to work with WNC, Anglian Water and the Environment Agency. The Kislingbury Emergency Response Team (KERT) continues to play an important role and we thank all volunteers involved.
Additional updates include:

- Monitoring and maintenance of village footpaths
- Ongoing flood damage issues in Upton Country Park
- Wildlife surveys with Northampton Wildlife Trust
- Maintenance of green spaces and installation of protective signage

Planning and Development

In December 2025, WNC approved Phase 2 of the Spitfire Homes development (48 houses). The Parish Council opposed this due to the increased scale of development but will continue to engage with developers to represent village interests.
Whilst we have received assurances that the proposed Beech Lane/Camp Lane development (58 houses) is no longer active, we have recently been made aware of an amended planning application going forward on this site. I am meeting with the Vice Chair over the next few days so we can update our objections to having additional housing off Camp Lane/Beech Lane. I will share this when completed.

Finance and Resources

Key financial developments include:

- Transition to Unity Trust Bank
- Continued use of Scribe financial software
- Introduction of allotment management systems
- Consideration of new mapping tools

The Precept for 2026/27 is £101,000, representing an increase of £8.62 annually for a Band D property.
The Parish Council has supported a range of local organisations and committed £20,000 in matched funding for improvements to the children's play area.

Community Safety and Highways

Road safety remains a priority. Measures include:

- Speed indicator devices and advisory signage
- A "Twenty's Plenty" campaign with the Primary School

- Ongoing engagement through the Road Safety Working Group

Other updates include:

- Planned improvements to the Church drive - as I write this the planned improvement has been put back, but please do watch for new dates when we have them
- Installation of new village signage, again we are still waiting on this to be delivered
- Continued upgrade of street lighting to LED
- Review of energy costs following supplier changes

Community and Appreciation

The Parish Council greatly values the contribution of local organisations, volunteers and community groups, including:

- Village Hall
- Kislingbury Community Group
- Playing Fields Association and sports clubs
- Kislingbury News and local media
- Church and community support groups

Local businesses also play a vital role in sustaining a vibrant community.

The Parish Council is looking forward to seeing members of the village at the Kislingbury Food Festival, please drop into our stall to see us.

Janet Mallett, Chair of Kislingbury Parish Council





YOU ARE INVITED!

EVERY THURSDAY

FOR A COFFEE & A CHAT

Time: 10.30am
Place: Village Hall

Presented by Kofs.

Come and join us for a chat over a cup of coffee and some biscuits

Meet other villagers Bring a friend

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THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST LUKE.

A message from our new Rector, Revd. Jo Ognjanovic for us all:

"Hello Folks! Let me tell you about myself by way of an introduction. Before ordination and motherhood I was a diagnostic medical microbiologist, children's book seller and portrait artist. I am married to my wonderful husband, Rade, and we have two amazing adult children, Abi and Isaac. We have one son in law, one daughter in law to be, two step granddaughters and two grand-dogs! To relax I like to read, potter in my garden and complete jigsaw puzzles. Rade and I enjoy walking and visiting museums and art galleries, and spending time with family and friends. I am so excited to be joining you soon in the Bugbrooke, Harpole, Kislingbury and Rothersthorpe Benefice as your Rector. In the meantime please be assured of my prayers for you all and, if we haven't met already, I am looking forward to meeting you and serving our Lord Jesus and our communities together. Bless you, Jo."

The Induction service for Revd Jo will be taking place at Bugbrooke Parish Church at 7.30pm on Thursday 4th June

AND

St Luke's will be hosting Revd Jo's first service in our Benefice on Sunday 7th June at 10.30am to be followed by a buffet lunch. All welcome.

"Heavenly Father, we thank you for bringing Revd Jo to our parishes. Fill her with your Holy Spirit that she may be a wise and gentle shepherd of your people, caring for the flock with love and compassion. Strengthen her voice to preach your Word and lead us closer to you. Bless her family and their home and help us to be a welcoming and supportive community, ready to work together for your kingdom."



PAR-Tea@4 at Kislingbury Church for all the family
Sunday afternoon 14th June at 4pm
Craft activity, bible story, afternoon tea and play!



OPEN GARDENS – Saturday/Sunday 20/21st JUNE
Tea and cake in church Saturday 11-5pm; Sunday 1-5pm
Village Archives display in church
Paintings and cards by members of Kislingbury Art Group for sale over both days.



SUMMER MESSY CHURCH
Wednesday 1st July 3.30pm onwards

Kislingbury Amblers



We are a group of like minded individuals who meet usually on the first and third Wednesday of each month to have a walk of about 5 miles in the local area and then a pub lunch.

If you would like more information or to join the group
Please call John on 07977938311 - ALL ARE WELCOME

Second Walk in March - Cosgrove

Our leader for this walk was brought up with one leg dipped in the Grand Union Canal. To this end, we all met in the car park of The Barley Mow, very adjacent to the aforesaid Canal, being a few miles from where he was brought up. Walking through the village we joined the tow path, heading towards the old Buckingham Arm and Cosgrove Lock. Crossing the Iron Trunk (an aqueduct) we joined the footpath alongside the River Great Ouse, being now in Buckingham as the river is the border. Passing a ladybird with her many many children taking the early spring air. Continuing towards and through Ouse Valley Park and the wetland conversation area, reaching the old A5. Crossing over the bridge, being back in Northamptonshire, turning right skirting a new housing estate. Eventually we reached and crossed fields and eventually joined the old tow path of Buckingham (new derelict) Canal. Noticing works under way in restoring the Arm to its former glory. Proceeding along the tow path, on our left noticing the Georgian Cosgrove Hall, which is now a ruin being destroyed by a devastating fire in 2016. In the field between the ruined house and the canal were the remains of the ice house. The sound of church bells was heard, which we assumed came from the church adjacent to the ruined house. Proceeding along the tow path, crossing over the Grand Union Canal, returning to The Barley Mow for lunch, by way of a tunnel under the canal. When the canal was constructed it cut Cosgrove in half, this tunnel was constructed to allow access between the two halves.





First Walk in April - Ravensthorpe

The Amblers met at The Chequers pub in Ravensthorpe for a planned 4.5 mile walk taking in Ravensthorpe Reservoir and "blue sky countryside".

Drama struck before we even left the car park one member of the group received a text from her son showing a picture of his car with a large tree laying on top of it. Mum immediately went into panic mode, practically looking into all the implications of the event but mainly that her son was unharmed. She was obviously very concerned. She quickly received a text back to reassure her that he and the car were fine the whole picture being an AI generated April Fool joke.



Now to the walk, leaving the village we headed downhill to the reservoir but despite recent dry weather there were still muddy areas which we had to contend with. One member of the group 'walked the plank' to avoid the sticky stuff. Following the track around the reservoir we crossed the weir and noted the overflow was running indicating that it was full. We stopped for our break at the picnic area/car park. Surprisingly very few water birds were around as usually this is a good place to see the many types that frequent the reservoir.

Leaving the reservoir we followed the road passing Coton Manor with its friendly pigs which we have visited before. Now into the fields with wide open views, peace and quiet, the only sound (apart from Amblers chatter) was the call of skylarks circling high above. Looping around through several fields we headed back to Ravensthorpe crossing an awkward stile which some amblers by-passed by stepping through the fence. We entered a very steep field with some very friendly horses. Leaving this field by yet another stile we were on the road in the village back to the Chequers for lunch.



Second Walk in April - Barby

A beautiful morning for walking dull with a hint of sun and dry. 13 walkers met in the car park of The Arnold Arms, Barby. The leader decided to reverse the walk to his pre-walk starting with the road section. Heading downhill on Rugby Road keeping left until we passed the last buildings in

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the village and joined a footpath through a gate on our right.
Taking the longest route across the field, to a double gate, where we joined a track which led to the car park of a Fishery. Walking between the ponds (only 1 fisherman today) we came to a gate and steps leading up to an embankment. Some discussion took place regarding if this was an old railway track, no conclusion was reached. At the end of the embankment, we climbed steps onto Only Road, crossing the canal bridge and going down onto the tow path.



On route to the next bridge we stopped to watch a farmer feeding his sheep in one field, while the flock in the next field got very agitated making a racket. Unbeknown to the group behind the trees alongside the canal were 2 prisons; HMP Onley and HMP Rye Hill. Passing 2 more bridges, we arrived at Dunchurch Pools Marina with an open café, ideal for our break where some amblers got take-out coffee. Crossing the canal bridge we headed up hill to a stile. Over the stile, the path was fenced off from the field to keep walkers away from livestock, but you guessed it, one ewe and her lambs had got through the fence onto the path, of course, 'silly as sheep' she led us past 2 more fields before doubling back to where they had come from.



We joined a track and followed this back to Barby, crossing the main road into Church Walk we came to the Church of St Mary, which dates back to Saxon times, most of the group went into the Church, finding it was a deceptively spacious building, from which the pews had been removed and replaced with chairs. From the Church we walked back to the Arnold Arms where we were joined by 3 ex amblers who joined us for lunch.

First Walk in May - Badby Woods

This walk was to visit Badby Woods to see the bluebells. Parking in Badby Lane, nine amblers crossed a field entering the woods adjacent to an impressive stone arch which is being renovated.

Zigzagging via paths through the trees, we viewed swathes of bluebells spread out before us. Leaving the woods at the highest point, we were met with a splendid view of Fawsley Park with its multitude of mature trees; mainly oak. Crossing the park we entered Fawsley Hall for a coffee stop. When we left the hall we noticed a fisherman by the lake using a remote controlled boat distributing ground bait to encourage the fish, a process which none of us had ever seen before.





Walking across a number of grass fields with noisy sheep grazing, we re-entered Badby village, passing The Green and seeing the very tidy property which was formerly a Youth Hostel now a private house. Departing the village via Badby Lane we returned to our cars for the short trip to The Barn, Church Stowe, for lunch.

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Kislingbury Food Festival 2026





















Kislingbury Town and Charity Estates

Your community charity for 600 years

HERE TO HELP IN 2026



Your community charity, Kislingbury Town and Charity Estates, has existed for over 600 years. We provide financial or other assistance to elderly village residents in need and promote participation in sports and recreation, for the benefit of villagers.

How has the charity helped Kislingbury and its residents?

Here are some recent examples:

- Contribution towards a stair lift and tracking device for elderly resident
- Funding of a road improvement in the playing fields
- Essential roof repairs at the Kislingbury Football Club
- Purchase of the freehold of the children's play area
- Support for elderly resident to cover exceptional medical expenses

I know an elderly resident who could do with some support – what can I do?

Please contact our Clerk **Roger Wilson** on **(01604) 831786** for a confidential discussion – the Trustees can meet at short notice to consider applications.

Equally, if you are looking for funding towards facilities in the village which will promote community participation in sports or recreation, please give Roger a call.

Getting to Know Sue Ward

"I was born in 1959 and until I was seven years old, my family and I lived at Upton. My father worked on the farm and we had a farm cottage. Although we had to bathe in a tin bath and only had an outside loo I have very happy memories of this time. I was about seven when we moved to Kislingbury and for a time we lived at The Homestead, then in 1970 we moved to Willow View. We had moved because my father no longer worked on the farm but had a job with the GPO. My father had come from Kislingbury and my Nanny lived at number 19 Twigden Road. I also had aunts and uncles who lived in the village. I can trace the Ward family back at least eight generations living in Kislingbury.

Initially, I went to St Luke`s school in Duston but, when I was eight I transferred to the school in Kislingbury and had three years there. I enjoyed being able to walk to my Nanny's for my lunch! When I was eleven I went to Campion school which served me very well. I stayed at Campion to do my A levels in Maths, Physics and Chemistry and in 1977 went on to the Royal Holloway College, which was part of the University of London, to do my degree in Chemistry and Biochemistry. Royal Holloway was named after its benefactors, Thomas and Jane Holloway. Jane had persuaded Thomas to realise a grand vision – a college to educate women which was controversial at the time. Mostly, I lived on campus which was known for its landmark Founder`s Building, inspired by the Chateau de Chambord. I really loved my time here; I keep regular contact with a group of friends and we are returning to the campus this summer for a reunion.



After I graduated in 1980, I worked for the Food Research Institute in Norwich for two and a half years. I liked Norwich, but I decided after a few years on a change of career and in 1983 I joined the Metropolitan Police Service. This proved to be the right choice for me and I spent twenty weeks training at Hendon. I could have been posted anywhere in London but was assigned to Carter Street Police Station which was located In Walworth (SE17). This was a notorious area at the time. My initial accommodation was in the section house in Greenwich which has since become a hotel and in which I have stayed.

I spent seven and a half years on foot patrol in London. At one time, a colleague and myself were sent to sort out a dispute. A woman was destroying her boyfriend's car and attracting a lot of attention. While I was trying to calm the



situation, the woman suddenly lunged at me and, as I turned away to protect myself, I was stabbed in the back. On this particular day the weather was hot so I was wearing just a blouse but no jacket. At this time, we had nothing to protect ourselves, although later in my service we were issued with batons, PAVA spray and stab vests. After stabbing me twice the young girl had barricaded herself inside her flat, back up arrived and she was subsequently arrested. She later pleaded guilty to GBH with intent and was sentenced to twelve months in prison. I had to go to hospital and was off work for about three months.

In 1991 I transferred to Northants Police. I was initially posted to Brackley and then I moved to Campbell Square Police Station where I took on the role of Acting Sergeant for a few years. I worked shifts and mainly did response work. Then, in 1999 I had the opportunity to join the International Police Task Force in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Its` role focused on restructuring local police, monitoring operations, ensuring minority rights and training local forces. I spent a year working in Bosnia and this was the highlight of my career and I loved every moment of it: I feel a real affinity with this part of the world now. During my time there, I was based in a place called Pale just outside Sarajevo. My job there was to monitor the local Police and investigate Human Right abuses. I later took on a job where I was registering Police Officers and this enabled me to travel the country. Bosnia is beautiful and the people were friendly, but it was here that I faced the realities of war. Many buildings were destroyed and we were told to walk only on hard surfaces as landmines were still concealed in the ground. Overall, it was a great experience; I worked with Police Officers from all over the world and made friends who I have since visited in places such as Chile and Sweden.



When I returned to the UK, I again worked in Northampton at Campbell Square. I took on different roles including Asylum Seeker Liaison Officer, Hate Crime Investigator and Missing Persons Officer. In 2009, I was appointed Community Engagement Officer. I was dealing with many different minority groups across the county and monitoring community tensions. This was demanding but rewarding work. After 30 years of Police service I retired in 2013.

After retiring from the Police I became involved with the Restorative Justice programme which brings victims and offenders together in the hope of repairing harm caused by crime or conflict. The cases I was involved in convinced me of how useful this can be. I have also taken on part time work at the Northampton Museum and Art Gallery. More recently I have returned to work with the Police and this has included working in the Property Store and sorting out old crime files. In 2024 Towcester Police station closed and I was asked to sort out some interesting items that formed a museum collection. We moved all these items to Campbell Square and they have now been curated. The collection includes uniforms, equipment and even a World War II spy radio. School parties have visited the exhibition and found it interesting and informative. I still maintain this collection on a voluntary basis.

Since my official retirement, I have worked, voluntarily, with the Northampton Interfaith Forum. This is a registered charity that promotes respect, understanding and friendship among the main faith communities in Northampton. I was their Treasurer for four years and now I help to organise an Interfaith walk each year. For about ten years I have been involved with the group known as Buddies of Beckets. This is a group of local volunteers who wish to improve the appearance, facilities, safety and conservation of Beckets Park and Midsummer Meadow. We have organised litter picks, planted up containers and done some bits of maintenance. One activity that was popular was the little Elf doors. These were made by a local man and then distributed around the park. There was an entry fee for people to join in the hunt for the Elf doors. The doors were really beautiful and detailed. I have also joined the Northamptonshire Gardens Trust. This is a registered charity that is passionate about protecting and conserving our county`s historic parks, gardens and designed landscapes. I am currently carrying out some research of Beckets Park on their behalf."

It was fascinating to hear of the various things that Sue has done. It was also amazing to discover all of her other interests. Sue is a keen walker and she has she walked the Amalfi coast, the Alps and in Andalusia. She has travelled to many parts of the world but is now happy exploring the UK and places closer to home. She will be walking the second half of the coast to coast in July, having done the first half previously, covering 100 miles in 9 days. Sue also finds time for reading, going to art classes and exhibitions as well as going to live music gigs. Somehow, she is also finding time to write about the Kislingbury Independent Mission, an article that we can look forward to reading.

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The Kislingbury Independent Mission

Some villagers will remember the wooden church that stood on the plot of land between No 4 and No 6 Bugbrooke Road for just over 70 years. Built in 1933 and demolished in 2005, the small wooden church building was at one time an integral part of village life and had a very interesting and intriguing history. The Mission as it was called certainly played an important part in my early life and I'm sure other long-term residents will have memories of Sunday School, Youth Club and outings to the seaside.



The Kislingbury Baptist Chapel was well established in the village from the early 19th Century and in 1931 they welcomed a new minister Reverend Douglas Craig from Edinburgh. He was described as young and enthusiastic and he soon became very popular amongst the congregation. But his popularity with the deacons of the Baptist Church was short lived and just under a year later whilst Rev Craig was on holiday back in Scotland, he received a letter from the deacons telling him that him that there were serious charges against his character and that he should not return to the village. Rev Craig immediately made his way back to Kislingbury to clear his name, a journey that took him just 9 hrs in Sept 1932. On his return a few notable villagers supported Rev Craig and demanded that he should not lose his job if the charges were untrue. Craig continued to protest his innocence and this culminated in a meeting on 7th Sept 1932, the charges against him were never made known publicly, they were described as "too bad to be mentioned" and "of a very unsavoury nature". The meeting was well attended but only certain individuals were allowed to vote whether to accept the minister's resignation, it came down to 43 for his resignation and 32 against. Baptist Church documents record much disorder after the meeting and a petition of support for Rev Craig was signed by 308 people and the sum of £8.0.6d was collected for him.



This was a time of much upheaval in the village and caused a real split within the Baptist Church, the support for Rev Craig was substantial and he was persuaded to remain in the village and help those who left the Baptist Church to form their own independent Church. The schism in the Baptist congregation was reported in a local

newspaper soon after with the announcement of the first Sunday service of "Kislingbury Independent Mission" to be held in the village, with plans to build a new church, the first service was held in a garage of commodious proportions adjacent to "Sunningdale" not far from the Baptist Chapel. It's reported that two services were held with around 80 people in the morning and then nearly 200 people crowded in around the white washed building in the evening, a large proportion of the congregation described as young folk. The same day just 40 people attended the Baptist service, half the normal attendance.



Following this, services were held in the cow shed belonging to Mr Dunkley, this was just off of Beech lane. A former resident Jesse Hall, remembers her parents scrubbing out the shed ready for the Sunday services, they would bring in an old pedal organ each week, she recalled that the services were often accompanied by the sound of mooing cattle along with their bowel movements and the accompanying smell!



A plot of land in the village was then secured, donated by the owner of No 6 Bugbrooke Rd. A building was planned and during March to May 1933 a wooden sectional building was erected on the site, most of the work being carried out by villagers themselves. A list of those involved can be seen in a framed document that hangs in the Village Hall.

The Mission thrived as a place of worship for many years. It was initially led by Rev Craig but he later married a local girl and moved back to Edinburgh. I suspect that his involvement with a local girl may have had something to do with the allegations made by the Baptist deacons, but this is only speculation on my part! The church continued with a strong foundation of villagers and lay preachers who would attend each Sunday for the sermon. It continued as a church until the mid 1980's, a service each Sunday, a Sunday School, Youth Club, outings to the seaside, even marriages were performed there.

Due to dwindling numbers and the loss of key members difficulties arose in it continuing as a Church. A solution was found when the local Boys' Brigade was looking for a home and the building was eventually handed over to them for the sum of £1. A group of trustees oversaw the running of the building, funds were raised by frequent jumble sales, bingo sessions and sing-alongs.

In the early 1990's another problem arose when a particular minister associated

with the Baptist Church became interested in taking over the Mission for religious purposes and he called into question the use and running of the building. At this point both the Charities Commission and solicitors were involved. There was overwhelming support for the Boys' Brigade to continue overseen by the team of trustees.

In 2002 the Boys' Brigade folded and the building by that time desperately needed repairs, the trustees began to look at their options, the building could be sold off but it was feared that it would undoubtedly fall into the hand of developers who would want to build on the land. A happy solution was found when the occupants of No 6 Bugbrooke Rd offered to buy the building and land, with a view to demolishing the building but with a covenant that the land would not be developed. The Mission was sold in 2004, the purchasers demolished the building and in 2005 a ceremony was held where a tree was planted in the garden of No 6 Bugbrooke Rd and a plaque was placed there in memory of the Mission. The land the Mission had stood on was again now part of the original house and it's garden.

I've been unable to ascertain if the tree is still there or the plaque. The house at No 4 Bugbrooke Rd is a converted barn and is called Mission Cottage. I'm hoping that there are still some villagers that will have memories of the Mission, I have a collection of documents that include names of attendees both in 1940/50's and again in 1970's when there was a flourishing Youth Club. I also have some hymn books and a few photos. All of these will be going into the Kislingbury archives. If anyone in the village has photos, memories or anything else about the Mission that they would like preserved then please email me so that I can include these in the archives.

Sue Ward - sueward80@hotmail.com

OPEN GARDENS KISLINGBURY

SATURDAY 20th JUNE and SUNDAY 21st JUNE

ARE YOU PROUD OF YOUR GARDEN??

WOULD YOU LIKE TO SHOW IT TO OTHER PEOPLE??

If so, please join others in opening your garden to the public on Saturday 20th June and Sunday 21st, 11am to 4pm, there will be an entry in Northamptonshire Gardens and all proceeds from the weekend will go to St Luke's Church Fabric Fund.

Afternoon teas will be available at St Luke's on both days (times to be advised).

Please support your village and your church

For further information or to join us, please contact;

Deni Topliss

07754471120



Sue Knight

01604 831295


Good Food West Northants
Good Food Plan for West Northamptonshire
2026-2029
Just launched for 2026
Good food matters. For our health, our environment and our local economy.
The West Northants Good Food Network brings together growers, food businesses, community groups, health partners and residents to build a fairer, healthier and more sustainable food system.
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• Improve access to healthy, affordable food
• Create more opportunities to grow, cook, learn and share
• Support local farms and food businesses
• Cut food waste and lower carbon impact
• Encourage sustainable catering and procurement
Explore the new Good Food Plan and see what's coming over the next 3 years, and how you can get involved.
Anyone with an interest in food is welcome: growers, producers, hospitality, educators, health teams, community groups and residents.
Read the plan:
www.goodfoodwnorthants.org
or scan here
West Northamptonshire Council

Tales from Kislingbury Archives

Members of the Women's Institute 1946, taking part in one of their monthly events, called 'Memories'. Taken in Church Lane with Collins Farm behind.



Front Row – Mrs Eales,?, ?,Collins and Searcy

Back Row- Mrs Mead, Tutchener, Dundas, Billingham,? Martingale, Mallard and Ward.

If you have any photographs, documents or recollections that may be of interest please contact:

Anne Upton 07845 943940 **Felicity Dunkley 830514**

View Kislingbury News On-Line

Kislingbury News, including back issues, can be viewed on line.

Go to the Parish Council Website- **www.kislingburyparishcouncil.gov.uk**

click on the **"Kislingbury News"** tab, then the **"newsletters"** option.

It is also to be found at - **www.kislingburyonline.co.uk**

click on the **" Kislingbury News"** tab.

Kisl CREATES

Kisl Creates has now held five meet-ups, and it's been wonderful to see the group growing steadily. We have a lovely mix of regular attendees alongside some new faces each time. People are welcome to bring their own craft interest or project but I also ensure there are a range of art materials, colouring books and other inspiring ideas each month out on the table.

Each session offers a relaxed space to sit, chat, enjoy being creative and be with others.

NEW FOR JUNE! Am excited to share that The Hawthorns Retirement Village have kindly offered to provide homemade cakes for our next meet-up in June and hopefully ongoing sessions.

If you've been thinking about coming along, this is your sign!
Please feel free to text or give me a call if you have any questions

Katie ☺
07968 958721

Monday 8th June 1-3pm - Monday 6th July 1-3pm - No meet up in August







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At Kislingbury Chapel, Mill Lane:

Prayer and Praise Service, Tuesday, 10am - 11am
(Except - Communion on the last Tuesday of the month
when the service takes place 7pm - 8pm)

Kizzle Tots, Thursday, 10am - 12noon
Tea Room, Friday, 10am - 12noon

At The Elgar Centre, Upton:

Sunday Service, 10.30am
(With Tots on the last Sunday of each month)

www.KUCC.co.uk Email: info@kucc.co.uk T: 07432 881576



THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST LUKE

Services for June and July

A warm welcome awaits you at our services which are always followed by tea/coffee and chat.

Please note that these services and times may be changed and if so, they will be advertised on the church gates and on the websites.

June

Sunday 7th	**10.30am**	**Benefice Communion at St Luke's followed by buffet lunch**
Sunday 14th		**NO MORNING SERVICE**
	4.00pm	**ParT@4 for children-craft activities, bible stories, afternoon tea and play.**
Sunday 21st	**10.30am**	**Morning Worship**
Sunday 28th	**10.30am**	**Morning Worship**

July

Sunday	**10.30am**	**Holy Communion**
Sunday	**10.30am**	**Morning Worship**
Sunday	**10.30am**	**Morning Worship**
Sunday	**10.30am**	**Morning Worship**

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Friday: 4pm - 11pm
Saturday: Midday - 11pm
Sunday: 11am - 10.30pm

Food Served

Tuesday to Saturday: 6pm - 9pm
Sunday: Midday - 3pm

Food Offers

Tuesday - Pie and a pint £15
Wednesday - Curry and a pint £15
Thursday - Main Menu, 2 for 1 Pizza, Burger Menu, Weekly Special Dish,
Friday - Main Menu, Weekly Special Dish, Pizza and Burger Menu
Saturday - Main Menu, Weekly Special Dish, Pizza and Burger Menu
Sunday Lunch - Roast Dinner, 2 courses for £20

TNT sport available showing live Football and Rugby

Football World Cup - 11th June to 19th July. Keep updated with our social media for drink, food, special offers and football fixtures.

Coming Up

June

1st	Book Club, 7pm start. Ask at the bar if you're interested in coming along.
8th	Poker Night, 7pm start. £5 to play. Max Prize £100.
11th	The start of the World Cup Tournament
16th	Open Mic Night, 8pm start. We welcome everyone to participate, whether you wish to sing, play or listen.
27th	England vs Panama, Ko - 10pm, Live Music, 6 - 9.30pm, BBQ and Pizza Menu serving 6 - 9pm
28th	Quiz Night, 7.30pm start. Cash prizes to be won, £1 pp entry
29th	Sip and Shop, 6 - 9pm

July

4th	Showing International Rugby, Nations Championship 2026
6th	Book Club, 7pm start. Ask at the bar if you're interested in coming along.
11th	Showing International Rugby, Nations Championship 2026
13th	Poker Night, 7pm start. £5 to play. Max Prize £100.
18th	Showing International Rugby, Nations Championship 2026
19th	World Cup Final showing
20th	Sip and Shop, 6 - 9pm
21st	Open Mic Night, 8pm start. We welcome everyone to participate, whether you wish to sing, play or listen.
26th	Quiz Night, 7.30pm start. Cash prizes to be won, £1 pp entry

@thesuninnkislingbury T: 01604 833571 www.thesuninnkislingbury.co.uk