

MINUTES OF THE KINVER ANNUAL PARISH MEETING  
HELD AT THE PARISH COUNCIL OFFICES ON WEDNESDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2015

PRESENT Councillors: Mrs R Davis, Mr H Williams, Mrs L Hingley, Mr P Wooddisse, Mrs C Allen, Mr D Light, Mr B Edwards, Mr H Rogers, Mr D Wiseman, Mrs V Davis, Mrs M Rogers and Mrs E Ray.

IN ATTENDANCE Mrs J Spaul - Clerk, Mrs M Fullwood

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC Mrs G Wooddisse of Kinver & District Horticultural Society

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies of absence were received from Kinver Film Society, Kinver Edge Committee,

2. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF 5<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2014.

These minutes, having been circulated, were signed as a true record of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 5<sup>TH</sup> March 2014.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THOSE MINUTES OF 5<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2014

There were no matters arising from the previous minutes.

4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT - CLLR MRS RACHEL DAVIS

It has been a busy year with several controversial issues being discussed in council and within the parish. Two of which are concerned with housing. The Site Allocation Consultation about the best locations for the new housing in Kinver allocated in the District Council's Local Plan caused much consternation and concern in early summer. Similarly the regeneration of the Lowe's garage site in Stone Lane divided opinion about the desirability of the Mc Carthy-Stone development of sheltered housing for the elderly.

The Parish Council paid for new railings around the War Memorial on Kinver Edge as part of WW1 Commemoration. A very successful Re-Dedication service for the railings was arranged on August 3rd in cooperation with the Royal British Legion, St Peter's clergy and choir as well as the Methodist Minister. Also I and several councillors attended the Vigil at St Peter's in the evening of August 4th to mark the start of WW1. Both occasions were well attended by the public.

At Wolverhampton Airport, a new Instrument Approach installation will be implemented which has been part funded by the EU and which will improve safety for approaching the airport in poor weather. It requires a holding area and the location for this is being considered by the airport. When the site of the holding area is decided there will be a 12 week consultation period with the parishes that will be most affected. It is not expected to be directly over Kinver, but to the south west as we are too close to the airspace used by Birmingham Airport. This is not an indication of airport expansion according to the airport spokesman, just a necessary improvement to safety as at present, in poor weather, aircraft sometimes are forced to overfly the airport and land elsewhere.

The Police started to use the Police Post in the Office building in July. It is a convenient place for the police to be based on the High Street and gives the Parish Council an income from the rent.

It has also been a year when several ongoing internal projects have been completed. It is satisfying to have achieved this during the last year of this council. For example, the new Ancient Borough road signs which have been very well received; two information boards about the early history of the village have been prepared; the clearing of the view from Daneford Gardens across the Meadow and the repair of Legion Drive which will be completed later this month. Having been closely associated with these projects, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Clerk and the Assistant Clerk for their help in bringing the projects to fruition.

During the year, the Parish Council has raised awareness of the May election for new councillors and there appears to be a growing interest in how to become a councillor and what it involves. Hopefully there will be sufficient potential candidates to warrant an election in all wards rather than having to co-opt as happened at the last election four years ago. The village needs committed and energetic councillors to replace those that will not be standing again.

There have also been significant changes during the year concerning the openness of council meetings with regard to social media. Standing Orders have needed to be changed to comply with the new directive from central government. It is now possible for council meetings to be recorded/taped for viewing on social media sites.

Sincere thanks are due to Mrs J Spaul and Mrs M Fullwood for their help and advice throughout the year and to the Vice Chairman and fellow councillors for their efforts on behalf of the residents of Kinver, not only during this year but for the four years of this council.

## 5. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Prior to each Committee Chairman presenting his/her report, the Chairman of the Council explained that following each such presentation there would be a period for members of the public present to seek clarification on any points covered by the presentation.

### 5.1 **CLLR RACHEL E DAVIS, CHAIRMAN OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE THEN PRESENTED THE FOLLOWING REPORT AS TO THE ACTIVITIES OF THAT COMMITTEE OVER THE PAST YEAR**

Several issues that were mentioned in last year's report have continued into this year. The issue of development at Stourton Stables which Parish Council has continually opposed as being inappropriate is ongoing. On two occasions now the owner has won appeals to develop the large stable block and horse walker and more recently to retain the illegally placed caravan for another two years. We are disappointed at this decision as it goes against the principles of the Localism Act which is supposed to give more weight to local opinion.

Two issues concerning housing have also been on the agenda this year. District Council approved the McCarthy- Stone development in Stone Lane for housing for the elderly. Various amendments were made to the design and the amount of money to be given to District Council in lieu of affordable housing being included on the site. This money (£260,000) is ring fenced to be used towards affordable housing in Kinver and the Parish Council has been in discussion with the Housing Association as to where the housing could be built. Also it was agreed at District that the development could be included in the Site Allocation number for new housing. The Development Committee was very pleased to see that many of their arguments sent as a recommendation to District were mentioned in the District findings.

The planning Committee spent a lot of time preparing the Parish Council's response to the Site Allocation Consultation Document during last year which continued into this year. Careful evaluation of each suggested site, based on planning issues resulted in a recommendation to District that the 2/3 sites would be the best options. Not choosing any sites was not an option as the Local Plan requires all parishes to look at and suggest their preferred sites. Hyde Lane and White Hill by Jenks Avenue were recommended, giving detailed reasons. It remains to be seen which sites are suggested by District. Another consultation will then take place before District make their final decision. This is expected to take place sometime during the summer.

The state of the old British Legion Site is still a concern. In June an application for housing was received, however there are issues with the Environment Agency as the area is on flood plain and the application was withdrawn. Nothing more has been forthcoming.

During the year there has been a Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocation Consultation. There were no proposed sites for Kinver in the document.

Lastly, I wish to thank Vice Chairman, Cllr Mrs C Allen and all members of the committee for their continued commitment and support. They have continued to make valuable contributions to discussions on planning applications and other related development issues that the committee has been required to address. I must also thank the Clerk, Mrs J Spaul, and Mrs Fullwood for their support and willingness to locate previous applications/decisions that are required for clarification and background for new applications.

## **5.2 CLLR ENA RAY CHAIRMAN OF THE BURIAL GROUND COMMITTEE THEN PRESENTED THE FOLLOWING REPORT AS TO THE ACTIVITIES OF THAT COMMITTEE OVER THE PAST YEAR**

This will be my last report for Comber Ridge Burial Ground. This past year saw a rocky start with our grass cutting contractors, but due to the due diligence of our Superintendent Jenny Spaul and her Deputy Marita Fullwood normal progress has now been resumed. Comber Ridge is a credit to Kinver Parish Council, and we receive many accolades. We do also receive the odd criticism when people think we are too strict with the rules. It is because the Burial ground Committee members are very aware of their responsibilities to all parties who have an interest in the upkeep, ambiance and look of Comber Ridge, that they take time and care when discussing and making decisions which will have any impact. This includes our charges, rules and maintenance of Comber Ridge.

I am pleased to report we have not raised our charges this year, and we have decided to keep them the same for 2015.

We have done some work removing a very large laurel hedge which has opened up the section from the lower car park. We have some more work to do with the tree screens, and another section of laurel. A maintenance plan for next 5 to 10 years will need to be set out in the near future.

I would like to thank all the members of the Burial Ground Committee for their support and contributions to the work of retaining an award winning Burial Ground for our Parish. Also special thanks go to Jenny, Marita, our Maintenance Technicians Barry Wood and Mark Winterbottom for their care in maintaining Comber Ridge as a special place.

**5.3 CLLR Margaret Rogers, CHAIRMAN OF THE LEISURE & AMENITIES COMMITTEE, THEN PRESENTED THE FOLLOWING REPORT AS TO THE ACTIVITIES OF THAT COMMITTEE OVER THE PAST YEAR**

The members serving on our committee this past year are as follows:

Councillor Mrs M Rogers (Chairman) Councillors John Cutler (Vice-chairman) Mrs L Hingley, Mrs C Allen, Mrs. E. R Davis (ex-officio), Mrs. V Davis, J K Hall, H. H Rogers, D Wiseman P Wooddisse, and co-opted members John Fallon, John Glover and David Tibbetts

During this council year we have again covered a great deal of work and projects have been put into action and in most cases completed I would like to pay tribute to our committee, the clerk and assistant clerk and technicians for their support again this year. Below is a short resume of our work during the past twelve months.

**Public Footpaths**

Public Footpaths have been kept an eye on by the Tuesday walkers and our Maintenance Technicians. Reports on work required are brought to our meeting from co-opted members and follow up. Their input is much appreciated. The Maintenance Technicians also record footpaths worked on, on their time sheets so this is another way of recording paths walked. Any urgent items noted, are reported directly to the County Council's ROW team for immediate action. The Tuesday walks continue to be lead by volunteer and a list of dates is prepared by Mr John Glover.

**Bridal Paths Maps**

The Bridal Maps were marked with new descriptions of routes to go with them. These had been handed back to the Civic Society and it was suggested these could be printed and put on sale if possible.

**Possible Permissive Paths**

This path was on Severn Trent Land - for a new path to link FP 60 and FP 64 along Whittington Hall Lane. The Clerk had written to Severn Trent

**The Community Paths**

The committee identified works for the 2014/15 for putting stones on the path between the first two kissing gates from the playing fields side, as the path was very narrow and uneven or to purchase 4 Aluminium information boards costing £355 each to be sited at Stewpony Wharf, the Picnic area on the canal just past the Vine, the Horsebridge Bridge and Windsor Holloway canal lock. The County Council had requires the exact locations of the proposed information boards, and land owner consent before they proceed with the application. No response was received by our July meeting and the clerk reported that the Community Paths Bids normally related to a public right of way, the canal tow paths were not official footpaths on the definitive map. By November we heard that the County Council had requested we obtain permission from the Canals and Rivers Trust to put in the boards. The Clerk had written to them and they refused permission, therefore the project could not go ahead. Our bid for 2015/16 which needed to be in by the end of January 2015, was for the Clerk to obtain a quote for resurfacing FP32 from Vicarage Drive to the Compa, with a smoother topping like Rowley Rag and submit this as the grant for 2015/16.

**Future Projects for 2014/15 looked at included**

On this item the Chairman of L& A asked that when new projects were thought of, members could look at the background/ feasibility of the project. Also if it then became an agreed item to overseas the project whilst liaising with the clerk. This would help greatly with the work load for Council Staff. It was also important that any information they had could be shared with members before the meeting to save time at meetings. An offer to type up information was also made by the chairman of L&A

**Cycle Paths**

A member raised the issue of putting a cycle path, in particular the length of road from The Foresters to the start of the pavement past the Rugby Club (on that side of the road), also the A449 and had suggested making a track on the verges so cyclists are safer. Members felt it would be expensive to do this work, but as the clerk wrote to County Council's to ask what their policy is on Cycle Tracks. It was noted by members that a drainage ditch runs a long way down the side of the road referred to and it would cost a lot of money to install a cycle way on this strip of land

### **Chenevare leaflet**

The current Chairman of the Council brought to notice a previously printed leaflet that the Council had prepared and thought it would be useful to revamp and re-launch alongside the Ancient Borough. A second leaflet had been prepared by the Historical Society and this also could be revised and the two combined. It had been hoped that Dr Paul Collins could attend our meeting to help revised the current version but he was unavailable on Wednesday evenings. The leaflet was circulated again to members of the Committee, where it was suggested that the leaflet be produced by the Parish Council and sit alongside an exhibition produced in the 1986. Members felt this leaflet should not be altered as it was a marker in time, but using this information as a base another updated leaflet is produced. The Historical Society at an earlier meeting had indicated they would be happy to prepare a leaflet with updated facts and format. A recommendation was put to Council that; Kinver Historical Society be asked to produce an updated leaflet from Chenevare to the 21st Century and using the original leaflet as a base. The Council could then copy the document and distribute it to the library, chemist and tourist points in the village.

### **Use of the School sports activities**

Members (joined by the Chairman of Finance) met with the head teacher, business and letting managers at Edgecliff School to discuss what facility were availability and the possibility of an all weather pitch through grant aid, the matter had not progressed further and it was agreed to withdraw this from the agenda until any further progress is made by the school.

### **Stone Plaques**

The retaining wall in the village square is made of railway sleepers so no blocks to carve, Hayden Baugh Jones had suggested the possibility of plaques on the sleepers. Members discussed this but felt it would not be suitable for Kinver and being able to use the retaining wall of the village square would have been better

### **WW1 project**

It had been hoped that Brindley Heath and Edgecliff High School might submit artwork, writing and other resources, depicting this period. The Chairman after speaking with Edgecliff High School reported that the project had been passed to the History teacher, who had suggested a trip to the National War Museum for the lower level school students. No grants were applied for or communications received so it had been agreed the matter be removed from the agenda. At the March 2014 meeting the Chairman of Council Julian Hall noted that the bolts on the new railings of the War Memorial were silver and could be easily spotted and possibly removed. The clerk contacted the contractor to remedy this

### **View from Danesford Gardens**

In March the Clerk and current Chairman of Council marked trees that needed work. Photographs were sent to Steve Dore the work was carried out. This area would be reviewed from time to time

### **The Cliff**

This had been cleared in our previous year opening up the view to St Peter's. The lower area of the Cliff had been tidied as requested by the landowner

### **The Ancient Borough Project**

Noticed boards were installed by contractors along with the signs for the five gateways.

### **Planters on the village square**

This item was brought to notice by a co-opted members, planters would cost £1000, members agreed this be deferred until the square had been completed

### **Bus Shelter at Stourton**

A member had suggested it would be useful to located a bus shelter opposite Living Spring on the A458 The L&A Chairman prepared a report and took photos' of the areas. It was agreed the footpath was very narrow. There was no County land behind to use, so it was agreed not to progress with this item.

### **Centenary Garden**

Members had discussed the idea of a Centenary Garden and it was agreed that we have a lovely garden around the war memorial in the High Street. Cllr J Cutler offered to take the matter to FKOS.

### **Further Historical information for Kinver**

The current Chairman of Council reported that it had been suggested by a local resident that information on Anglo Saxon times in Kinver could be of interest. This related to the Ancient Borough and the first charter of AD 736. Members discussed the possibility of setting up a display / information board detailing information from this time. The Councillor Chairman offered to research relevant information for a notice board. The L&A chairman asked members to think about long term project on other historical aspects in Kinver for the Council to consider, and look at preparing aims and objectives for the next meeting.

### **Village gateway markers**

Engraving the markers on the village entrance along the lines of "Welcome to Kinver - Ancient Borough" and on the reverse of the markers the old names of Kinver i.e. Chenevare had been discussed. The cost to do this per marker would be circa £1700. The 20mph signs would need reducing in size to accommodate the engraving. The clerk had communicated with County Council and to ask this could be done and the 20mph signs could be put on separate posts. The cost of changing the 20mph signs was reported at the February Parish Council meeting.

### **Bulbs on verges**

Locations had been identified and the grass cutting schedule had been obtained from County / District to this reflected on what bulbs could be used in the areas. 5000 daffodil bulbs were purchased, and the Chairman of L&A arranged planting by volunteer in the following areas:-  
Corner of Hyde Lane and the Enville Road, the right hand side of Jubilee Gardens and the top of Meddins Lane. Also the A449 Dunsley Road entrance and the area by Dunsley Drive opposite Hampton Grove plus the Village green / library are and a small area on Windsor Crescent. Volunteers were thanked for planting the bulbs and look forward to seeing them coming up next year

### **Legion Drive**

This matter has been discussed at L&A and at Parish Council. Members noted that when County where doing the first section of High Street they did undertake to resurface part of the roadway. Since there had been changes in personnel this work was not completed and no record could be found in the contract to do this. This matter to progress with specs being produced and the works is now a full council agenda item and the Finance and General Purposes committee have identified funds for the work at their meeting in February and this was an agenda item at the Parish Council meeting of 5th March.

### **Annual Parish Meeting**

It was suggested that something other than a standard meeting for the Annual Parish Meeting held each March could be arranged. The Clerk and Administration Assistant wrote to all parish organisations inviting them to attend the APM and submit reports for the meeting. Numbers of reports had dwindle in recent years and few organisation representatives came to this meeting. It was suggested that councillors could visit organisation giving opportunities to raise issues and improve communication, but it was decided that it may be better to contact the Chairman of the organisations for an informal chat. Drop in sessions were arranged earlier this year manned by the Chairman of Council and two councillors. Some members suggested the Civic Services should be reinstated.

### **Notice boards for Mer and Park Ridge**

As Twining with Mer was not on the new Village Gateway Signs, a cost of two notice boards had been originally investigated to be mounted on the Parish Office wall for Mer and Park Ridge. Following on from that it has been suggested that this was something that could be incorporated on the village gateway markers. And was currently being researched for costings.

### **Committee Structures -**

The committee looked at the current layout and the proposed layout; it was felt that Leisure and Burial Ground were extreme opposites and would not sit well together. On a vote at Parish Council it was agreed the structure should remain the same.

### **Historical Information for Kinver**

The L & A committee had initially looked at lectern style wooden board size A2. Members decided that the lectern style may not be suitable for this location as it may be prone to graffiti or vandalism. On looking at what notice boards we already had it was identified that a board on Jubilee Gardens could be relocated onto Danesford Garden and Parish Council agreed expenditure for 2 posters to be made

### **Rights Of Way Notice boards**

We looked at updating the ROW boards as they were out of date. Ideally the information needed to be reprinted with up to date information on. The clerk had ordered matt vinyl self-adhesive labels, with the current locations to buy the leaflets / maps to cover over the text. The cost was £1 for each sticker. Members were asked to look at them before the January meeting, to see if this was satisfactory alternatively, boards would need to be reprinted at a cost of circa £55 each.

### **Play Area and Outdoor Gym Equipment**

The clerk makes regular inspections which are documents and bring any issues to the committee and full council were spending is required. The new soft flooring which was laid with a big impute from Parish Council and a large grant for a local charity in 2013 was well used as it now has an all weather surface. The outdoor gym equipment, which was installed in 2013 with a lottery grant of £10,000 lottery was well used

### **Visitors and Speaker to the Leisure and Amenities Committee during the 2014/15 year included**

Mrs Victoria Singleton on Forensic Marking

Mrs Victoria Singleton (Staffordshire Police and Neighbourhood Watch Manager) addressed the committee introducing a variety of Forensic Marking being a Police initiative and distributed through the Neighbourhood Watch Coordinators throughout the Staffordshire area. She informed us that by March 2013 200 packs were sold roughly a 20% take up. She asked if the committee would give a grant to the project of up to £1000 for advertising and signage and providing packs for the vulnerable who cannot afford the £15. The L&A Chairman explained that all grant requests went to Parish Council then to Finance and General Purposes

Wayne Coombes on Library Proposal for Kinver

Wayne Coombes addressed the meeting (full discussion on L&A September Minutes) and he informed members he had visited all of the Parishes in his area to explain the proposals. The proposal is not to close any of the libraries but to restructure them so they can last for the future. Library attendance across the country has reduced by 20%. The e-library service is increasing. Kinver Library has been designated as a local library. There are 3 categories Extra, Core and Local. The Extra and Core libraries tend to be ones that are attached to other services and are located in a multi-use building. Members had raised concerns that Kinver was designated as a Main Service Village in the District Local Plan the same as Wombourne, so it was felt that we should be treated the same as Wombourne Library. Members had also raised issues like - no links from Kinver to any other library bar Stourbridge and expressed concern that this was a money saving scheme and were extremely concerned about future staffing under the new scheme if it went ahead and suggested that 1 qualified person should be retained. Comparisons were drawn to Stourbridge library; however Dudley MBC rates are far higher than rates paid in Staffordshire. The idea of down grading the library service to being run by volunteers was in the Council's opinion a non-starter, as it is widely reported locally and nationally that volunteer organisations are struggling to get members, so how would a service like this be manned in the future? Members had asked the Clerk to check with Dr Paul Collins to see if the library building is listed Dr Paul confirmed that Kinver Library was on the Local List as a Grade A listed building in the Conservation Area.

#### **Informal Meeting between Parish Council's L&A member, The Kinver Historic Society and the Kinver Civic Society**

Members met with the Kinver Civic Society and The Historic Society at the L & A meeting for the visitors to share their idea of things to do for the village. Representatives from both groups were asked them to give updates of their own committees and projects they may be working on. Kinver Civic Society were still pursuing the blue plaques, but were experiencing difficulty with getting properties to have them fitted on the buildings. They were also looking at improved signage and a village road map, to encourage walkers / boaters on the tow path to come into the village. Members also discussed the need for a museum / display of the historic records that were currently kept by David Bills, and thought it would be nice if at some point in the future the collection he holds could be catalogued.

#### **5.4 CLLR DUDLEY LIGHT, CHAIRMAN OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE, THEN PRESENTED THE FOLLOWING REPORT AS TO THE ACTIVITIES OF THAT COMMITTEE OVER THE PAST YEAR**

I am able to confirm that the 2014/2015 Parish Council budget will be delivered according to plan with no overspend. This has been achieved due to the professional way the clerk and her staff have worked, together with the dedicated work of the Finance and General Purposes committee and the full support of the whole Parish Council

Financially the last year has been challenging. The Parish Council has taken deliberate steps to reduce its costs. We have been able, through a change in working practices for our technicians, to reduce the fuel bill on the Parish van significantly and reduce overtime payments. The cost of the Christmas lights/trees has been reduced by using contractors to put up and take down the decorations. Our legal costs have been reduced by changing our solicitors from a private firm to the District Council Legal Department.

We have continued to carry out projects within the Parish aimed at improving the quality of the facilities and the environs of the local area.

Financial support has been given to The Best Kept Village group, High Street/Business frontage competition, School Millennium Prize and to other local organisations.



Recently there has been a great deal of debate within the Parish Council relating to the very poor condition of Legion Drive. The Parish Council do not own any of the land and over many years we have failed to find out who the owners are. The main concern of The Parish Council has been what are the legal liabilities if we repair the road. We have recently received advice from our solicitors that our possible liabilities, although still there, are unlikely to be activated. This has satisfied the majority of Councillors. The Council has therefore agreed to repair the road and have asked the Finance and General Purposes Committee to identify the funding in this financial year if possible.

I wish to place on record my personal thanks for all the help I have received from the Clerk and her staff and from all fellow Parish Councillors

To end this report with good news, I can confirm that for the sixth year running there will be no rise in the Parish precept charge for 2015/2016

## 6 REPORTS FROM PARISH ORGANISATIONS

### 6.1 **COMMUNITY ACTION. C A**

Report from Margaret Rogers Secretary and Treasurer and Newsheet Advert Co-ordinator  
Community Action (originally called Christian Action) was formed by its benefactor Sam Harris in 1972 and

has had representation on Parish Council since 1974.

C A have worked for many years to improve the life of the village and contributed funding towards a wide

range of projects and helped set up or instigated many organisations and facilities in the village.

Derek Hemming MBE joined C A in its early days and sadly passed away in April 2013 He served as a CA Councillor on Kinver Parish Council and edited the Newsheet for many years.

Helen Macdonald another stalwart passed away in 2013 just days after Derek. Helen and Derek had represented C.A on Parish Council for many years. They were amongst the first members of the Footpaths and Rights of Way Committee, before it was a Parish Council committee. Leading regular Sunday afternoon walks around the footpaths in the Parish which were established to maintain the rights of way. They organised walks to raise funds for C.A and both worked tirelessly for CA over

many years as committee members, fundraisers, newsheet deliverers and contributors.

Another keen support and worker Malcolm Waldron also passed away shortly before Derek and Helen. Community Action continue to produce the Newsheet four times a year, the next edition will be number 153.

I deal with the advertising section often redesigning adverts and gaining new adverts and collecting the payments for banking. The articles are collated by Mike Deathridge who sends to organisations, schools, churches and groups for written copy for each edition.

The Newsheets (which is self funding) is distributed by a band of more than 50 volunteer (who make it possible to get the newsheet across the Parish from Iverley to Lawnswood, delivering to 3150 dwellings.

We would like to reach even more people if we have more volunteers although with modern technology I can send copies electronically to advertisers and residents across and outside the parish. Residents find the newsheet a good source of local news and adverts provide a great directory of trade people.

The 3150 newsheets are distributed in bundles and boxes by Ena and Harry (Ena taking the larger amount for Kinver and we drop of boxes for Stourton and Lawnswood) to those who deliver door to door.

**Community Action Dorothy Round Bursary and Kinver Flag Fund**

The Bursary and the Kinver Flag Fund were both the brain child of Derek Hemming  
Derek Hemming and myself set up the Dorothy Round Bursary in 2001. This has been dormant for some time and we would eventually like to reinstate this when we can meet with PE teachers at Edgecliff to get the word across to new applicants, who have to supply two references one being from a P.E teacher or coach.

The applicants (who would be accompanied by an adult) were judged by two independent P.E teachers from schools outside the village and a member of C.A. A presentation evening would then be arranged where Nigel Round (Dorothy Round's nephew would award the bursary prizes of £100 each on behalf of C.A along with a certificates. Three Bursaries were given on each occasion.

The Flag Fund "FLYING THE FLAG" is looked after very capably by Marita Fullwood. People can arrange with Marita to have the flag flown for all kinds of occasions for a small donation. Money raised each year is distributed to local causes and the recipients of the fund are chosen by Marita and Sarah Sparkes. David Bills continues to hoist the flag for us (outside the Old White Harte) and took this one when Derek Hemming became to ill to do so.

Our officers are Ena Ray Chairman, Carol Groucutt Vice-chairman and myself as Secretary, Treasurer, (also collecting and designing adverts and the advertising money).

Councillor Mrs Ena Ray has decided not to stand at this election after being a member of Kinver Parish Council for the past 25 years. She has served as Chairman of the Parish Council on several occasions, besides chairing several of the Councils' committees. Councillor Ray also served as a District Councillor for 8 years.

## **6.2 Kinver Action Group KAG**

Report from the Press, Media and Fundraising Officer Margaret Rogers

Another year on KAG continues to look at the need of the youth of our community and engaging with them and listening to what they want by way of recreation. At our AGM in November officers were re-elected John Fallon Chairman and treasurer. (John also deals with planning applications). Val Davis is Vice-Chairman and minute secretary, Gary Rogers is our Youth and IT Co-ordinator with myself Margaret Rogers dealing with Funding, Press and Media.

During the past twelve months our new design for a replacement bike track (dealt with by John Fallon) was accepted very early in 2014 by South Staffs Planning committee. Our lease with Parish Council was extended allowing me to apply to the BIG Lottery, Awards for All for £10,000 at the start of September. This along with £10,000 from the Ken Wrigley Memorial Charity, £1,000 from the County Local Members fund (courtesy of County Councillor Brian Edwards), £1,000 from the Anthony and Gwendoline Memorial Charity and £1,500 from Kinver Parish (completed the jigsaw). I have managed to attract £23,500 for total rebuild of the bike track, which was first built in 2009. The new track will have more scope for greater use whilst still catering for the inexperienced ride.

The £10,000 from lottery came through in a little over 8 weeks after my submission and the turn around is usually 10 to 12 week. It is hoped work will start on the new track the last week in February after the school half term. This obviously depends on weather conditions. The skate park (which we raised around £120,000 to build was opened in 2010 and is used throughout the year regardless of weather condition by novices and seasoned rider as well as skateboarders. We are hoping that once the new track is built it will be opened by a professional cyclist and we want to hold more events from lottery funding still in our reserves. Earlier last year we met with the youth outside of our management meeting and we hope to go into Edgecliff to do more presentations to the youngsters in the hope of developing another youth management group. This is an ongoing ambition as every time we get a new management group they eventually grow up start driving and even become car owners or move away to colleges or uni. This is something that all village youth organisations experience so nothing new.

Gary Rogers our IT co-ordinator is eager to work with the youth to promote our equipment and develop their skills with the two Go Pro Cameras and Apple Mac laptop and other items of technical equipment of his own.

Although there were no big events last year, mostly due to a very wet summer and the prime skateboard and scooter trainer companies being booked months ahead, the groups continue to look for ways to engage the youngsters. We have continued our links with MADD Gear and Rubicon who are both eager to put on events when needed. The youngsters in their wish list originally asked for lighting and a cover over the skate park to give longer hours of use and the Bike Track to be extended for greater use. The latter is now happening.

We linked up with Wayne Green last year in providing funding, through grants, for a Five a side Football club on Saturday nights. Securing grants from the Ken Wrigley Memorial Charity and Kinver Parish Council which enabled us to purchase of 25 coloured bibs, paid for a year's insurance and the hire of the sports hall.

We helped fund and support the boxing club until its closure and equipment taken to Wombourne. We do still have the Five-a-side equipment, balls, bibs etc and it was hoped to reinstate this in the autumn of 2014 but we needed committed volunteers to run the club and a better time to operate rather than a Saturday evening from 6 to 7pm. Nevertheless over the weeks the club did run there was great team spirit, discipline and fun.

Kinver Action Group meets monthly at the KSCA and on occasions we are joined by the local PCSO's Paula Wilkes and Lee Irving.

### **6.3 Kinver Allotment Association (KAA)**

**Our Mottos is "Sharing with others what has been shared with us"**

Report from the President Press, Media and Fundraising Officer Margaret Rogers

The Kinver Allotment Association held their AGM in January and the committee elected for 2015 are as follows:

Margaret Rogers. Mike Hails. Marie Roberts. Brian Roberts. Bernard Sparkes. Paul Roche. Roy Carrier. Mick Gadd and Michael Ford. At its first management meeting of the New Year the following officers were re-elected Mike Hails as Chairman, Treasurer - Paul Roche, Secretary - Marie Roberts, President and Fundraising Officer Margaret Rogers and Michael Ford as Vice Chairman who replaced Dave Cooper who had been Vice -chairman the past year decide to retire.

As in other years in my report, I like to mention that we have come a long way from when KAA was formed at the inaugural meeting on 12th November 2009. This followed an expression of interest by the community to Parish Council regarding allotments. The project was passed to the Councils Recreation and Environment Committee now Leisure and Amenities.

We held a public meeting at which Councillor Hingley and myself officiated and the KAA was formed and

I have continued to serve with the association since that time. We continued to search for land as had the L&A Committee and were eventually offered land by Roger Pauli. Since moving onto the site in March 2010 I have been fortunate to raise a total of £13,830 for the benefit of the site, to improve and enhance it for everyone visitors and plot holders alike.

We have had support from Awards for All with almost £8,000, and grants from other charities and organisations The Ken Wrigley Memorial Charity. The Anthony & Gwendoline Wylde

Memorial Charity. The Local Members Scheme at County Council Fund Councillor Brian Edwards Kinver Parish Council Kinver Country Fayre Donation from Roger Pauli for Badger stands Plus all the wonderful fundraising which has taken place on site We now have a wonderful community garden, which was kick-started by Marie and Brian Roberts for the benefit of the association and it's visitors. A basic outline was put in during the winter of 2014, which followed with such items as fencing, a gate, eventually put in turf to create a picnic area for children and visitors with benches and tables.

We were awarded £250 towards this project by the Ken Wrigley Memorial Charity, which helped with fencing and turf and £250 from The Anthony and Gwendoline Memorial Charity which paid for two benches. Working parties have continued again throughout 2014 and open days and weekends, where member have donated fruit and vegetables and home made pies and cakes which have been exchanged for donations. This is helping the Association be self-sufficient along with the fees the plot holder pay yearly.

On Friday August 29th the MP for South Staffordshire, Gavin Williamson toured our site being welcomed by our Chairman Mike Hails and members of the committee. The main focus of the visit was the Community Garden, which has been developed for the benefit of everyone on site and invited visitors. This area was the latest project undertaken and through hard work has developed into a beautiful peaceful area, where not only flowers grow, but also vegetables and shrubs, creating an area of biodiversity. The Association had been successful in attracting funding for this, and other projects on site.

In July 2014 we held two open days raising over £500. Visitors were able to learn how to make candles, corn dollies, and enjoyed hot drinks, homemade pies and cakes and took home jams, honey, and produce from the Community Garden. As part of our own fundraising we have had harvest festivals and celebrated national social events on site with everyone bring and sharing food. Members were very busy through autumn tidying up the site and clearing out the poly tunnel, with another successful working party finishing off with lovely food and bonfire on 8th November. At such events there are always delicious pies and cake and other produce available to raise funds.

Now, it just a matter of keeping the site tidy ready for spring planting. Our committee, chaired by Mike Hails, is going from strength to strength with officers and plot holders taking part in the working parties and fund raising events, which play a big part in supporting the community spirit.

With policies and procedures in place since inception, a constitution, plot holders tenancy agreements, a Welcome Pack, a Health and Safety policy (with a regular report at meetings) and insurance in place we are currently looking at whether it would be an advantage to become a Charity or Limited Company so that is for discussions and forthcoming meetings. We are also meeting up with the South Staffordshire Council for Voluntary Action to seek their views after looking through our documents. So on wards and upward for the site and it community throughout 2015.

#### **6.4 Kinver Civic Society**

The Society had another busy year in which membership remained steady, with each monthly meeting well attended with an interesting range of topics covered from The Lost Monastery of Ismere, to being a Hospital Governor and St John's Ambulance in Kinver. In addition, successful visits to Port Sunlight and the Talking Newspaper were well supported. Thanks to

Civic member John Glover revised Street and Bridle path maps were produced and made available to the public via the Parish Office and our website.

The Annual Commendation Evening remained a highlight of the year, The Volunteer Bureau was the worthy recipient of the Award given in recognition of service to the local community. The attendance of Local and District Councillor's was greatly appreciated.

A full programme is already planned for the coming year and it is hoped that with the Councils support the proposed new signs to be sited on the canal towpath by the Vine directing visitors to shop's and local amenities will come to fruition.

The Society remains committed to promoting and protecting Green Belt and Conservation Areas of the Village and its environs and will actively work in partnership with other to this end.

Mike Cooper - Chairman

## **6.5 KINVER COMMUNITY BUS LTD**

Report from the Secretary and Treasurer and Bus Operator Margaret Rogers

The idea of the Kinver Community Bus came after a public meeting held in 1986 where it was noted that transport was an issue. We launched our first bus in April 1988 and in March 2014 purchased our latest bus a 17 seater Fiat Ducato bought totally from our own funds Last year planted a tree on Jubilee Gardens (with Parrish Council's permission) in memory of Derek's.

As the only remaining member from our original committee in 1986, I feel privileged to still be running the bus from our first launched on 21st April 1988. The green Mercedes Sprinter is being used by Kinver Scouts giving them more mobility to get out and about.

The bus runs on a timetable stopping at bus stops but can do house calls and has been supported with grants from the Ken Wrigley and the Anthony and Gwendoline Wylde Memorial Charities along with a yearly donation from Kinver Rotary and Angela De-las Casus (Mr Ron Marsh's daughter) Enville Parish Council. This has helped greatly to provide a voluntary service, which is registered with the Department for Transport, and Staffordshire County Council and has a Road Transport Permit to carry passengers.

The bus is driven by a team of volunteer who mainly live in the West Midlands Conurbation and it operates on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday every week visiting Kinver, Enville and Westley Court on Tuesday, The Oval and Kinver Village Wednesday, and Enville and Kinver Village again on Fridays.

At our AGM in October all officers were re-elected these being: Ian Lowe is Chairman, John Oxley Vice Chairman, Julie Rogers Fuel and passenger records. I deal with the day to day running of the bus as the bus operator, transferring passenger numbers to County and the fuel figures to the DfT. Dealing with the yearly fuel and accounts audits and have been Treasurer since 1990 and secretary for almost as long. Other members of the committee are Dawn Carter and Robert Kay.

Our constitution allows us to hire the bus to recognised parish organisations, who themselves have a constitution and bank account in the clubs name. Hiring's are dealt with by myself, hire charges are £25 for the first 25 mile plus 50p for all extra miles and 20% VAT. Terms and conditions have to be adhered to, with all driver have to be over 25 and under 70 years with a clean driving license for 5 years and have been driving for a minimum of 5 years. All hiring's

must have a letter of authority from the club or groups Chairman and anyone driving has a trial run Some organisations are taking advantage of this and are getting out and about quite often.

## 6.6 Kinver Edge Committee

Kinver Edge became a National Trust property in 1917 when the Lee Family bought 200 acres from the Webb Family and immediately donated it to the

National Trust. The Kinver Edge Committee was then established by members of the Lee Family and a group of local people who were dedicated to Kinver Edge - and in due course to the Rock Houses too - and to the long term future of the property. At that time the National Trust had very little direct input into the day to day management of the property and the Committee played a very significant role as custodian of this very special place.

The Committee, under the Chairmanship of Sue Wright who represents the Lee Family, is looking forward to celebrating the Centenary in September 2017. The role of the Committee has changed over time, from taking virtually sole

responsibility for day to day management of the property in the early days, to a more advisory role to the National Trust today. The Committee is rightly proud of its independent status and its history of leading many initiatives, not least the restoration of the Rock Houses during the 1990s

Today the Committee is made up of twelve voluntary members who share a love of the property and a commitment to its future. The key roles of the Committee today include:

- \* representing the views of the local community and advising the National Trust on management of the property
- \* acting as a reference point for liaison between the National Trust and the local community
- accessing funding and grants to support the work of the National Trust
- working directly with the National Trust to deliver specific projects
- encouraging local participation in developments on the property, through promotion of volunteer groups

The National Trust is currently undergoing a restructure and the property at Kinver Edge will become part of the Trust's South Shropshire Portfolio, with a new General Manager, Marcus Halliwell. The Committee looks forward to working closely with Marcus and the new National Trust team to support the delivery of the Kinver Edge Management and Action Plan (KMAP).

Other current work includes further restoration to the Martindales Rock Houses through reinstatement of the chimneys. We are also looking to further develop our communications with and our links to the local community as part of planning towards the Centenary celebrations in 2017.

If you require further information about the work of the Committee or you would

like give your views on current or future developments on the property, please contact the Committee through the email addresses given below.

Mick Grove (Communications Officer) [m.grove928@btinternet.com](mailto:m.grove928@btinternet.com)

**6.7 Kinver Film Society**

We are in our 46th year of providing film entertainment in Kinver and our 700th film screening will be on 11th February 2015. We have reached full membership of over 300 people again this season, all of whom must be over 18 years of age. The charge for 13 films is £22 screened from September to the following April in the theatre at Edgecliff school.

Every year we donate to a charity and were happy to present the Children of Chernobyl organisers with a cheque for £2000 in 2014.

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**6.8 Flying the Flag**

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It is just three years since I offered to take over the bookings and poster making for flying the flag, I had flown the Flag on many family occasions since the birth of my son back in 1997 and my decision was made in memory of my kind neighbour Joan Barlow who did this role herself for several years before she passed away.

To Fly the Flag, for your special occasion please contact me (Marita Fullwood) on 01384-878208 (ideally with at least two weeks notice), a minimum donation of £3 per flying is requested though more is never refused. I am happy to personalise posters with a photograph etc., a copy can be made for you (SAE required or one can be emailed) and will discuss this with you when you call me, not forgetting that dates can also be block-booked for the year ahead to save you time.

**Thank you to Kinver Country Fayre who sponsor the Royal dates, Patrick Roe for his kind donation, and to David Bills who hoists the Flag and displays the posters whatever the weather, whenever the date, also to John Bills who fills in and hoists the Flag when required their time is very much appreciated. Also thank you to Sarah Sparkes for her continued support.**

We are pleased to give some funds to Potters Cross Playgroup who are trying to raise more funding towards a mobile interactive board; and also to Kinver Fitness Collective who are sharing fitness opportunities in our local area, currently leading group walks, running and cycling for all abilities. We wish them well with their fund raising.

**January**

14th Beth Hemming - Birthday  
 21st Bev Fellows - Birthday remembrance  
 22nd Henry Anderson - 18th Birthday  
 24th Sir Winston Churchill died 1965

**February**

1st Jamie & Harriet Hemming - Wedding Day  
 2nd Sue Evitts - 70th Birthday  
 6th Queen Elizabeth II accession to throne 1953  
 7th Ruth Hemming - Birthday  
 9th Clarice Walters - Birthday  
 14th Darren & Helen - Wedding Day  
 15th Emma Poole & Andrew Turnham - Wedding Day  
 19th Prince Andrew - Birthday  
 21st Bev & Doreen Fellows - Wedding Anniversary memories  
 22nd Lauren Harris - 18th Birthday  
 25th Nigel Hemming - Birthday

**March**

1st St David's Day  
 6th In memory of Doug Carruthers  
 10th Prince Edward - Birthday  
 17th St Patrick's Day  
 17th Anne Hammersley - Birthday  
 24th Nathan Fullwood - 21st Birthday  
 26th Jane Sadler - Special Birthday  
**March**  
 11th Remembering Sandra Gwilym  
 16th Commemorating the life of Edith Tranter Age 102  
 21st John & Betty Mander 50th Wedding Anniversary  
 24th Nathan Fullwood - 21st Birthday  
 26th Jane Sadler - Special Birthday

**April**

6th Nicholas Willshire Birthday  
 13th Sylvia Sidaway 70th Birthday  
 14th Theo Tott of Hayling Island Birthday  
 21st Queen Elizabeth II Birthday  
 22nd Andrew Dixon 30th Birthday  
 23rd Shakespeare's Birthday  
 23rd St George's Day  
 29th Prince William & Catherine 3rd Wedding Anniversary

**MAY**

3rd Mali Wheeler Irish Dancing World Champion Congratulations  
 7th Jonathan Spencer 50th Birthday (Kinver's Friendly Fishmonger)  
 8th VE Day  
 9th Anita & John Wellings 50th Wedding Anniversary  
 10th Elsie Courtney 26/2/1911 to 10/5/2008  
 11th BEV Fellows 2nd Anniversary in memoriam  
 12th John W Griffin 2nd Anniversary in memoriam  
 14th Doreen Fellows 75th Birthday  
 17th Edward Jenner pioneer of Smallpox vaccine died 1749  
 31st Elizabeth Blackwell died 1910 1st woman on UK medical register

**June**

2nd HM Queen Elizabeth II Coronation 1952  
 4th Derek Hemming Birthday remembered by CA  
 5th Richard Willshire Birthday  
 6th Anniversary of D Day Landings  
 6th Joan Barlow Birthday remembered by CA  
 10th HRH Prince Philip 93rd Birthday  
 14th Karl Landsteiner 14/6/1868-26/6/1943  
 15th John W Griffin & Bev Fellows remembered on Father's day  
 19th Nigel & Sue Hemming Wedding Anniversary  
 21st Prince William Birthday  
 25th Richard & Deborah Willshire Wedding Anniversary  
 25th Tom & Polly Willshire Wedding Anniversary  
 JUNE (omitted from Summer issue)  
 7th Welcome to our American Visitors from Park Ridge, Illinois - Anglo American Association  
 19th John Ridgeway - Birthday Remembrance  
 20th Janice & Meurig - Golden Wedding Anniversary

**JULY**

1st John Mearman - 70th Birthday  
 11th Sue & Barry McNaney - Golden Wedding Anniversary  
 11th Sue McNaney's Birthday  
 13th Ken Randle - 91st Birthday remembrance  
 18th John W Griffin - 91st Birthday remembrance  
 21st Anniversary of 1st Moon Landing  
 22nd Prince George Alexandrer Louis - 1st Birthday  
 25th Carissa Fullwood - 17th Birthday  
 28th J S Bach d1750  
 31st Judy Stevens - 5th Anniversary of a gift of a Kidney to her husband

**AUGUST**

1st Battle of Nile 1798  
 2nd Alexander Bell d1922  
 3rd Rededication of War Memorial - 100 year commemoration of WWI  
 5th Chelsea Jones - Passing of Barrister Exams - Calling to the Bar  
 6th Kinver - Winning Best Kept Village  
 8th Marion & John Griffiths - Golden Wedding Anniversary  
 8th Tom Willshire - Birthday  
 12th George Stephenson d 1848  
 13th Florence Nightingale d1910  
 13th Rob Fullwood - Birthday  
 13th Hannah Harrison -21st Birthday  
 14th Millie Jayne Truelove - 1st Birthday  
 15th Nick Geoghegan - 65th Birthday  
 15th VJ Day  
 16th HRH Princess Anne - Birthday  
 20th Robert Plant - Birthday  
 26th Jill & Stuart James - Pearl Wedding Anniversary  
 26th Battle of Crecy 1346  
 29th Doreen & Ken Roberts - 55th Wedding Anniversary  
 30th Beth & Dean Ellis - 1st Wedding Anniversary  
 31st Lord Rutherford b1871



#### SEPTEMBER

3rd Start of WWII 1939  
12th Joan & Bill Watson - 50th Wedding Anniversary  
14th Rita Orton - Birthday Remembrance  
15th HRH Prince Harry - 30th Birthday  
17th Megan Evitts - 18th Birthday  
18th Sue Hemming - Birthday  
18th Dr Johnson B1709  
19th Olive & Bob Bunn - Golden Anniversary  
21st H G Wells B1866  
28th Louis Pasteur d1895  
29th Gifting of Kinver Edge by Lee Family to National Trust

#### OCTOBER

2nd NATALIE GEOGHEGAN and STUART FOSTER  
Congratulations on your Engagement  
3rd William Morris - d1896  
7th KEN ROBERTS - 80th Birthday  
13th DEBORAH WILLSHIRE - Birthday  
13th MICHAEL FLOYD - 65th Birthday  
14th Battle of Hastings  
16th William T G Morton Wonder of Ether for surgery  
21st THEO GASKIN - 90th Birthday  
21st Battle of Trafalgar 1805  
22nd DEREK HEMMING - Tree planting in memory  
25th Battle of Agincourt 1415  
25th ISABELLA Fox Gladwell Annual Visit to Kinver  
26th IRIS LANE - Fondly remembered

#### NOVEMBER

4th JACK WESTWOOD - Birthday memories  
5th Guy Fawkes  
6th ANDREW DIXON Congratulations on your Chartered Surveyor Qualifications  
8th RUBY LLOYD - Christening at St Peter's  
8th Wilhelm Conrad Rontgen - 1895 X-ray's  
9th Remembrance Sunday  
10th JAMIE HEMMING Birthday  
11th Armistice Day  
12th DON HAWKESWOOD - Funeral St Peter's  
4th Prince Charles - 66th Birthday  
18th Steve & SUSAN AUSTIN - 25th Anniversary  
19th JAMIE HEMMING-KEEN Birthday  
20th Queen Elizabeth II & Prince Philip Anniversary  
28th BIG TREE - Switching on of the Lights  
30th St Andrews Day  
30th Sir Winston Churchill Born 1874

#### DECEMBER

6th CHRIS RANDLE - 60th Birthday & Retirement  
19th Welcome to AMANDA THOMSON from South Carolina  
24th BEV FELLOWS - Remembered at Christmas  
24th & 25th KEN RANDLE - 10th Anniversary  
24th - 26th David & Gill Tibbetts Seasons Greetings and a Healthy 2015 to Everyone.  
27th NICHOLAS LEES 60th Birthday

Give me a call, I'm looking forward to hearing from you during the coming year with your celebration Flag bookings.

**Marita Fullwood**

## 6.9 KINVER OLD PEOPLE'S WELFARE

Report from Margaret Rogers the groups Treasurer and Press officer and Parish Council Representative

Each year we distribute vouchers on the first Friday in December which last year was 5th December. It was again a resounding success as we gave out almost 900 vouchers. Whilst collecting vouchers even more people stayed to enjoyed a cuppa, and catch up with friends. Those able to collect a voucher are ladies 60 years and over and gentlemen 65 years and over. The vouchers distributed at £7 each put around £6300 in the high street shop from 5th December 2014 and January 2015 The scheme continues to grow each year as Kinver has an ageing population Vouchers can only be spent in Kinver and more shops are participating each year. Once issued, I visit the businesses on a regular basis to hand over a cheque to the value of the vouchers. I collected the last round of vouchers on Friday 13th February. The committee really appreciate the shops supporting the scheme, and thank them for accepting the voucher each year For those residing in Prestwood, the Coach House I took gifts and Christmas cards. Sadly the Homestead residents are no longer there. The gifts are greatly appreciated and I get letters and phone calls from people thanking us for providing the vouchers.

Due to the growing numbers of people of an age to collect a voucher we put three distribution stations on again this year which help to cut waiting times and no queuing. A big thank you to the six ladies who assisted in handing out vouchers (writing names on each one and a list which I then tick each voucher off on collection). Ladies in the kitchen were kept very busy making hot drinks. The Voucher distribution would not be possible without the yearly support of £5,000 from the Ken Wrigley Memorial Charity, together with yearly support from the Kinver Darts Group and the Monday Bingo Club who meet at the Constitutional Club. We continue our work in the community, and make note at our meetings of those who are sick and anyone who needed

advice and we have pointed people in the right direction for help and assistance. Committee members re-elected in 2014 were Cllr Lin Hingley Chairman, Pam Perry Vice Chairman, Cllr Val Davis, Minute Secretary, myself as treasurer, Cllr Margaret Rogers and Adrienne Spaul who attends meeting when she is back in Kinver.

#### **6.10 Peter Pan Pre-school Playgroup Stourton**

Report from the Early Years Leader Margaret Rogers The Pre-school has been open 46 years established in February 1969 and as the leader I has been in school almost 43 years, being it's owner since 1996 The setting has cared for many children over that time and we see parents who attended as a child returning with their child or children which is very rewarding. Children can attend from the age of 2 years and the Think 2 funding is now available for certain families from the child's second birthday for 15 hours a week. The 3+ Nursery Education Funding Grant (gives a free place for 15 hours each week the term after a child reaches their 3rd birthday until they leave pre-school and continues being paid to mainstream schools until the child reaches their 5th birthday. Numbers have been greatly affected by changes in the school system as from September 2004 any child who was 4 years old by 31st August now starts school each September. With this and schools opening their own pre-school with the emphasis on attending these rather than independent pre-school has also reduced number.

We have weekly topics and themes in which our local services often visit. The PCSO's from Kinver, Paula and Lee and on occasions Wayne Green come to talk to the children as do the Kinver Fire Brigade who bring their fire engine and children experience using the water hose and dressing up in fire gear. Sue Coombes is another popular visitor and is the Youth Co-ordinator for the local branch of the Royal National Lifeboat Institute, she bring in lots of activities for the children to do. We have had visits by guide dog trainers, veterinary nurses and Paramedic technician in the past year along with other skills parents and carers are eager to share. Our rolling programme of four sets of A -Z Topics returning to each one roughly every three years bring with it many interesting topics and opportunities for visitors to take part in our setting. Grants gained from Early Years Quality and Access of £32,000 in 2010 meant we have two secure outside play areas surrounded by powder coated fencing and soft floor matting for safer play.

While funding for the Ken Wrigley and Anthony and Gwendoline Memorial Charities continue to support the hall which in turn makes it an ideal place for the pre-school to operate. Families are not able to walk to us so car transport is imperative and buses are expensive. We had a grant from the Country Fayre of £100 last year which has been put to good use paying for Disclosure and Barring checks at £62 each time (old CRB's) for new staff. Even if they hold this certificate from a previous job in another authority it still has to be done.

Almost every year there are changes in the way we have to evaluate on the Early Years Foundation Stage spectrum and terminology changes continual and ways of recording which makes many of our recordings obsolete, so you can never use what you did three years prior. Local training has not improved in fact it is even further away at Leek Uttoxeter, Burton or Penkridge. The only way to get local training is to pay the current special offer for some modules is £125 for 2 hours and small rural settings cannot afford the cost.

Our Facebook page showing children work and our topics is well viewed by parent carers and families taking an interest in what we do and this along with regular news letters and verbal feedback keep everyone informed of what is happening in school I take part in the Steering Group, formed between The Kinver Primary Federation (Foley Infant School) and the childcare settings in Kinver and Stourton. Information is shared and children from our setting (who will go to Foley Infants School) get opportunities to visit in the summer term before starting school in September.

In the last twelve months there has been training put on at District Council which has been of great benefit to me in the pre-school. The Special Educational Needs reforms SENDs Birth to 25 was held at Codsall Council offices last summer, and was well attended with excellent

speakers. Dedicated staff work many voluntary to keep the provision open; our registration classification is voluntary and private. Our main obstacle is funding to cover all the things we have to do and it would be nice to repay the staff for their dedication.

Our security is a high priority so we only allow viewing is by APPOINTMENT. We also have a CCTV camera in place scanning the car park when school is open

## 6.11 ROTARY CLUB OF KINVER

The club has had another extremely successful year raising more money than ever, organising a major event on Kinver Edge, laying on enjoyable social events and inducting a record breaking six new members.

The year began with the distribution of the proceeds of the record-breaking Christmas sleigh collection, with more than £5,000 going to charities in the collection areas: Kinver, Stourton, Enville, Wollaston and Wall Heath. As usual the beneficiaries covered the entire spectrum of society: schools and pre schools, the elderly, sporting organisations, the two Kinver village buses, hospices and other medical charities and social and recreational groups.

Replenishing the funds in the club's charity accounts was been possible through a number of events. A "frugal evening" was held when Stef Caron at The Fox at Stourton served up bangers and mash at a rock bottom price while members paid their usual meal price, with the balance going to Rotary International's initiative with the World Health Organisation to eliminate polio throughout the world while more than £500 profit came from an evening of magic provided by local magician and illusionist John Milner.

In April South Staffs MP Gavin Williamson became only the second honorary member of the club since its formation in 1985. He told members and their wives at an induction ceremony at The Fox that he felt it a privilege to be invited to be an honorary member of what he described as "an amazing club"

He was back with the club a month later when he officially unveiled the refurbished Toposcope on Kinver Edge which has been variously described as "a work of art", having "massive 'wow' factor" and "stunning".

One of the UK's leading stonemasons, Perfitt of Norfolk, was commissioned to make an exact replica of the information plate for the Toposcope after it had been made almost illegible through weathering since its creation in 1990. The stonemasons arranged the shipping to the UK of a massive piece of Indian granite weighing almost half a ton which they used to produce the 4ft diameter information tablet which was 3 inches thick at its central point, dropping to 2 inches at the perimeter.

They exactly copied the original design of the late John Greaves Smith, adding around the circumference the names of the organisations that had joined Kinver Rotary Club in the project: the Wrigley Memorial Charity, the Anthony and Gwendoline Trust, Staffs County Council Communities Fund and Kinver Country Fayre.

In July Nick Geoghegan stepped down as President, replaced by Roger Stephenson, of Stourton Crescent, Stourton. Roger joined the Brierley Hill club in 1988, chairing various committees and undertaking the post of president before transferring to Kinver when the Brierley Hill club folded four years ago. One of his first duties was to wave off (and welcome back) a party of elderly residents who enjoyed a Rotary-organised holiday in Blackpool

Serious distance runners around the Midlands were challenged by the club to prove they were tough enough to tackle the club's annual 10k run which had been rebranded the BodyKraft 10Kinver Challenge. Runners were asked: "Consider Yourself Tough Enough?" to complete the gruelling course along the country lanes circling the village and suggesting they "try it and support a great cause"

Costs of staging the event, had already been covered by main sponsor BodyKraft of Pensnett, supported by Dudley Motor Company and Kidderminster asbestos management specialists Safeline, which mean that all proceeds went to Action Heart.

The annual Harvest Auction raised £1,877- another record - for club funds and in November "Voice of the Balls" Alan Dedicoat brought in another full house at the Kinver Community Centre, for his annual Children in Need Quiz with 160 quizzers raising more than £1,300 for the charity. Additional cheque presentations from Goldthorne Park School, Wolverhampton and Pershore High School took the total for the evening to £2,938.

The year climaxed with another extremely successful tour by the club's Christmas sleigh which resulted in yet another record collection of £6,700. This took the total collected by sleigh since it made its first appearance in 1985 past the £100,000 mark. And all that has been returned to local charities after operating expenses.

The club has entered 2015 in fine form with its new members becoming immersed in its activities and, with the established members, looking forward to a varied and interesting programme of events.

Mike Deathridge

Past President

## **6.12 STOURTON VILLAGE HALL**

Report from Margaret Rogers Licensee, Premises and Business Manager.

The Village Hall is now in its 45th year opening in February 1969. Land was purchased in the late 60's and with money raised (by its original committee) and grants. The village hall was built and over the years, the grounds and car park have taken shape. Funding was gained to tarmac the car park in two stages and the driveway was tarmaced early in the building period. Village Hall and community building are now in competition with pubs, clubs and schools who also let rooms and hall. The Village Hall is a self funding Charity so find all the money to cover all expenses and outgoings. This includes bills including the upkeep of the building, grounds and our large marked car park, with 7 parking bays for disabled persons and our own street lighting.

For many years, we have had a rolling programme of maintenance, repairs, and improvements and are slowly working down our wish list. To help with our finances Julie Rogers does all our decorating and looks after the gardens. Harry or Julie carry out most of the repairs and maintenance which helps keep running costs down.

In 2011 I started organising Table Tops sales in 2011 and in 2014 we held five successful events which helps with Audit Fees and winter heating bills and other items including re marking our car park last year.

The building being a 1960's flat roof timber premises has little or no insulation and after looking at internal insulation shelved this as it would mean closing the building for about three weeks. I am currently looking for companies who do external installation with panels and rough

cast. Although we have double glazed window and doors, the ceiling is very high so any build up of warmth rises.

I am currently working on gaining grants to have the rockery on the front elevation removed and put into tiers and it is slowly slipping onto the drive way. The gate to the car park is only open when the hall is let and any cars parked illegally are locked in.

At our AGM in 2014 all trustee were re-elected, and at our next management meeting, officers were reelected these being - John Fallon President, and Gloria Barnsley and Carol Groucutt Vice Chairmen,

Mrs Julie Rogers Booking Secretary, Harry Rogers is the volunteer warden, with myself dealing with the day to day running of the hall as business and premises manager and deal with all lettings.

We have a face book page to advertise our fundraising events as well as putting adverts in the local Newsheet.

### **6.13 St Peter's Church, Kinver**

St Peter's is the parish church of Kinver that exists to serve everybody living in the parish whether they attend services or not. We had a very busy 2014 looking after our wonderful old Grade I listed building and bringing congregations together to praise God and pray for the needs of our community and our world.

Many families continued to look to us for the big events in their lives. During the course of the year we hosted 19 weddings for couples we got to know well during our Café Church marriage preparation sessions. Over a meal, groups of wedding couples were prepared for their Christian marriage, learning from each other as well as from our own team of clergy and lay people. It has been wonderful to see so many of them back in St Peter's, happily married, for our café church reunions.

During 2014, 34 children and adults were welcomed into the church family at Baptism services, with much joyful laughter and splashing around of Holy water. In 2014, the Bishop of Wolverhampton affirmed the faith of nine of our congregation in a very moving service of Confirmation, followed in true St Peter's style by a buffet meal in the North Aisle.

Not all of life's big events are so joyful, but it was our privilege to arrange 43 funeral services, providing before and after support for devastated families as well as a beautiful and Holy place where families and friends could come together to pray for their loved ones. We continue to offer support to bereaved families long afterwards, one of our most important - and unseen - activities in our community.

There were the usual big events during the year, including the Good Friday Procession of Witness, organised with our friends at Potter's Cross Methodist Church. The procession started from the Methodist church and carried a Cross through the village with stops for Bible readings, hymns and prayers. Along the way people joined in before we slowly walked up the hill to St Peter's, for hot cross buns and prayer, before walking on to Kinver Edge to plant the Cross on the summit for all to see over Easter.

It was also our turn to host the annual Service of Remembrance for the Kinver and Enville Royal British Legion in the 100th anniversary year of the outbreak of the First World War. The church was full as the names of local men who died in active service in two world wars were read out and we again remembered their sacrifice. Afterwards, we marched to the war memorial in Daneford Gardens to lay poppies and wreaths.

St Peter's is very grateful to the Parish Council for the way it maintains the open spaces and gardens along the High Street, enabling these two important public events to take place with safety and dignity.

Our particular joy during 2014 was to work with the village schools to help pupils of all ages get to know the Christian faith better. The new Youth Pastor for the village - Jon Pedley - was

commissioned in January at a well-attended and moving service in the Methodist Church. Jon has continued to work in Edgecliff High School in Assemblies and with small groups of pupils as well as leading Alive and Kicking, the Sunday night club for High School age youngsters which meets in the Edgecliff Youth Hut. We were very grateful that, once again, so many Edgecliff School pupils chose to work with us during their summer Community Week. With their willing help, we were able to tidy up our extensive churchyards, making them pleasant places for visitors and helping Kinver to win the Best Kept Village competition.

In June, Brindley School pupils walked up the hill from school to the church - year group by year group each day - to join us for Experience Pentecost. Bands of willing church helpers had prepared the church with a series of walk-in spaces decorated to illustrate what happened when God sent His Holy Spirit into the world for the children to move around and learn the story of Pentecost.

And who could forget last Christmas, with the wonderful Festival of Angels - a credit to so many villagers' skills and imagination in creating angels of all shapes and sizes for all to admire. It was a wonderful lead in to our range of traditional services - including the packed Christmas Eve carols around the crib - that enabled so many local people to regain the true meaning of Christmas.

So much more has happened at St Peter's during the year with our Sunday and week-day services attracting more and more people, attending weekly, monthly or less frequently as they can. We are very grateful to the Parish Council for displaying monthly lists of our services on the High Street notice boards for all to see. Our monthly magazine, "The Rock" has been re-designed and expanded; and our new website at [www.stpeterskinver.org.uk](http://www.stpeterskinver.org.uk) will soon be operational too. We look forward to 2015 and meeting more villagers as we continue to serve Kinver and build up its Christian community life.

Mark Middleton

Church Council Secretary

**6.14 Wolverhampton Airport Action Group, Kinver Sub group**  
Report from the Chairman of Kinver WAAG Margaret Rogers

Wolverhampton Action Group WAAG was formed whilst I was chairman of Council in the year 2002/03.

This was due to local concern over development proposed at the Halfpenny Green Airfield. With the permission of Kinver Parish Council, I called a public meeting, which was held on 3rd March 2003 at the KSCA. The hall and car park were brimming with standing room only (as was our last Public meeting some time later). I invited Chris Creen and Gerald Kells from the CPRE and our MP and other speakers to take questions from the floor and to explain what this development could hold for Kinver and neighbouring villages.

Concern was expressed about the infrastructure, noise, and planes circling the area whilst waiting to land. WAAG was formed through this meeting as an independent group and over the coming months, I with Gloria Barnsley, Alan Bishop, and Bob Williams toured community halls and hosted public meetings.

The Wombourne meeting saw over 900 congregate to hear MP is from South Staffordshire, West Midlands, Hereford, and Worcester share their views. We collected thousands of pounds and had TV and press coverage.

From that time I have remained as Chairman of the Kinver group. Claverley formed a group and eventually, with some people from Kinver, this evolved into the Steering Group, which focussed on planning issues. I concentrated on raising funds. Sir Patrick Cormack said this was the greatest petition-supported issue that he had encountered in his career. Over 10,000 letters came flooding in.

The steering group with their expertise, (chaired at different times by Rogers Williams from Claverley and David Giddings from Kinver) concentrated heavily on the paper work and studied the outcome of the Local Development Framework and the Regional Spatial Strategy.

We held an Auction of Promise on Country Fare Day in Kinver raising thousands of pounds auctioning items donated by business and individuals not only from Kinver but from much further a field. Robert Plant gave us several musical items to auction. People often just turned up at my door handing over hundreds of pounds.

Eventually the Wolverhampton Air Action Group was put into mothballs. The Steering group continued to meet, for sometime, but had no urgent matters to deal with. As the chairman of the Steering Group described the situation "We are in 'holding mode' as it were, but could certainly press the starter button again if necessary" Obviously Kinver Sub Group agreed to follow the same line.

I attended the Wolverhampton Consultative Committee on behalf of Kinver Parish Council from WAAG's early days until the end of my last year as Chairman of Council in May 2009. This gave us a good insight into what was happening at the airfield from reports.

The Sub-committee for some years has been, myself as Chairman, John Fallon Vice-chairman and Treasurer, Gloria Barnsley Minute Secretary. Supported by John Peakman, Val Davis, Sue Fallon, Liz, and Ron Lancashire.

Kinver were proud to have kick started this fight through Kinver Parish Council as we did when we supported and served on the Drakelow Preservation Trust from its inception.

It is with sadness I report that Mr Walter Fowler, who raised more money single handed than anyone else during the height of the cause by cycling hundreds of miles down the Coast of America and then on the Continent, lost his wife in July 2014. Even in his 80's he still rides all over the world.

Two other people we must mention are Alan Bishop from Kinver who passed away early in the campaign and Lee Gutheridge from Claverley who passed away more recently as both were people dedicated to serving WAAG at every opportunity they could.

6.15

### **ANGLO AMERICAN ASSOCIATION/ SISTER CITIES PROGRAMME.**

We had a very successful visit in June 2014 from our friends from Park Ridge, Illinois ( near Chicago ). They came for 10 days and stayed at the Talbot in Stourbridge.

They enjoyed visiting lots of tourist spots like Aston Hall, Sulgrave Manor ( ancestral home of George Washington) , Hidcote Manor Gardens, the Cotswolds, a trip on the Severn Valley Railway to name some of them. Unfortunately Downton Abbey was closed in June. A great disappointment though somewhere for next time. We all enjoyed a canal boat afternoon trip, a brewery visit and supper, and a Chinese meal at a local restaurant. David Bills kindly did one of his famous slide shows of Kinver history for us all too.

Our welcome meal was at Kinver Constitutional Club and our farewell meal was at Vesuvio in Stourbridge.

The Parish Council and Mrs Rachel Davis hosted a lovely reception and buffet where Mrs Betty Henneman, City Clerk of Park Ridge and Sister Cities Chairperson and fellow Americans were welcomed. Gifts were exchanged.

The highlight of our visitors trip was to experience the Country Fayre and also to meet our MP Gavin Williamson. He presented them with a book about the Houses of Parliament. A great day indeed.

We are hoping to visit Park Ridge in September 2016. We shall stay there for several days before continuing to tour as individuals before returning home.

Anyone interested in joining us should contact either Dominic Toni on 872058 or Jane Perrins on 877357 for more information.

6.16

### **KINVER FITNESS COLLECTIVE**

As you may be aware, Kinver Fitness Collective was set up following an initial meeting organised by PC Wayne Green at the end of July 2014.

The Collective Looks to inspire men, women and children of all ages and abilities to walk, jog, run and cycle for fun and fitness in a safe and supported environment, by offering FREE walking, cycling and running sessions in the village of Kinver.

Each session is facilitated by volunteers. Currently, a cycle session is held on Wednesdays, a running group meets on Wednesdays, a walking group meets Thursdays and a family walk is held on Sundays. Members communicate through the KFC Face book page, which now has over 300 members. We regularly have between 15 and 25 attendees for each session, aged between 10 and 50+, and ad hoc informal groups meet at various times throughout the week.

The attendees have commented positively on how much safer it is to be in a group, than being alone, particularly during the dark nights, and how motivating being part of a group is.

The collective has also been busy working closely with the 3 schools within the village, and local business Midcalf Nichols to put on " Kinver Schools Fitness Challenge" giving the children at Edgecliff and Brindley Heath an opportunity to run anything from 5k to a marathon distance (26.2 miles!). At Foley Infants the children will be undertaking a set of fitness challenges. Over 30 students Edgecliff at Edgecliff are acting as Sports Ambassadors who are taking an



active role in delivering elements of the programme. Each child who participates in the project receives a mileage log book, on going mileage certificates, and ultimately a medal.

The collective is run by a group of like minded volunteers who meet monthly. We have been fortunate to have been supported by the Staffordshire Athletics co-ordinator, Run England and the Black Country Be Active Partnership who have all offered advice on how to get the group off the ground, and how to run the sessions safely.

We do not charge for sessions for several reasons, the administration of charges can often be problematic, the outdoor space we use is freely available for all anyway, and there should never be a barrier for an individual who is keen to adopt a healthy lifestyle.

Members have been asked to donate time and skills, we have a wealth of talented members who have offered skills in graphic design, PR, web design, legalities and risk assessments which has enabled the group as a whole to achieve so much in a short space of time

We have an enthusiastic group of individuals who are able to apply for grants, which has enabled several members to attend courses, and provide safety equipment including head and chest lights, flashing arm bands and high vis vests, the committee are meeting this week to finalise the club vest.

Future projects include a community picnic, family outdoor games evenings and a family fancy dress fun run, either a Santa jog, or Halloween fun run.

#### **Kinver Fitness Collective**

### **6.17 KINVER AND ENVILLE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION POPPY APPEAL FUND 2014/15**

This year the poppy appeal raised a record amount of money £3,886.56 £3000 up on last year. My thanks must go to the collector, traders, pubs, schools, businesses and donors. It was a magnificent effort. The money raised will be spent on our troops and families who need our valuable help.

Thank you. **Lin Hingley, Honours Poppy Organiser.**

### **6.18 BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION 2015**

Kinver is once again entering the competition. Last year we won the large village in South Staffordshire award 2014. Every one helped we were very grateful. The committee is aiming to win the overall award of Staffordshire which we last won in 1992. Please do help and make it come true. As the Quote says "**Many Hands Make Light Work**". Please contact me Lin Hingley, Organiser on 01384-872958 if you can help.

### **6.19 Kinver Cricket Club**

The 2014 season proved to be a challenging period for the Club. A ground sharing agreement with Amblecote and Wollaston Cricket Club that had been in existence for several years came to an end prior to the beginning of the season. Their provision of the necessary machinery and expertise required for the ground maintenance which had improved the playing surface over this time was withdrawn and consequently; due to a lack of resources, the quality of the cricket square and outfield suffered.

There were a number of complaints regarding the playing surface and at least one game had to be called off due to the length of grass. We were grateful for the support from the Council for cutting the outfield and although the regularity and quality of cut could have been improved upon the continuation of this support for future seasons will be vital for Cricket to be played at the KSCA.

A new collaboration with our close friends at Enville Cricket Club provided assistance on the groundwork's and their use of the facility for their 3rd & 4th teams each weekend was of benefit for them and their participation no doubt brings additional benefits for this venue. We were appreciative of the financial support received from the Ken Wrigley Memorial Charity which enabled the purchase of a second hand roller for the cricket square and look forward to this improving the pitch.

Although due to a reduction in playing members, it was a disappointing season with regards to results , we take great encouragement from the fact that we were able to introduce 3 youngsters(average age 13yrs)from which we hope to build on for the forthcoming season

John Peakman.  
Chairman  
Kinver Cricket Club

#### 7. ANY OTHER MATTERS RAISED BY THE PUBLIC

No members of the public who were present wished to speak.