

MINUTES OF THE KINVER ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
HELD AT THE PARISH COUNCIL OFFICES ON WEDNESDAY 5TH MARCH 2014

PRESENT Councillors: Mr J Hall, Mr H Williams, Mr H Rogers, Mrs M Rogers, Mrs L Hingley, Mr B Edwards, Mrs V Davis, Mr D Light, Mrs R Davis, Mrs E D Ray - Cllrs C Allen & Mr D Hadlington (arrived during item 4)

IN ATTENDANCE Mrs J Spaul - Clerk, Mrs M Fullwood

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PCSO L Irvine, PC W Green, Mrs Mary Middleton, Mr Mike Cooper & Mr J Pedley (new youth Pastor).

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies of absence were received from Jason Willetts (Foley Infants & Brindley Heath Junior Schools), Kinver Edge Committee & Kinver Edge National Trust Volunteers, Kinver Volunteer Bureau, Cllrs Mr P Wooddisse, Mr J Cutler & Mr D Wiseman

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF 6TH MARCH 2013.

These minutes, having been circulated, were signed as a true record of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 6TH March 2013.

Corrections: Councillors Mr H H Rogers & Mrs C Allen were present.

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM THOSE MINUTES OF 6TH MARCH 2014

There were no matters arising from the previous minutes.

3. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

It has been a successful year for Kinver village. It is nice to have two members of the Police present tonight. Thanks were given for the police who had responded to our request to improve relations between the Police & Parishioners.

Grants totalling £4,600 have been given from the Parish Council to local organisations including Citizens Advice Bureau, Friends of Kinver Open Spaces, National Trust, Police project to engage with the youths.

I hope that whoever succeeds as Chair of the council in May will get as much support as I have received. It has been a difficult year due to illness, thank you to the staff & to Rob Smith (Temporary Maintenance Help) for his hard work in helping us.

4. 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.

4.1 CLLR RACHEL DAVIS, CHAIRMAN OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE, THEN PRESENTED THE REPORT FOR 2013/2014

During the past year, the committee has continued to be aware of, and responded to planning applications within Kinver Parish. There have been several issues regarding enforcement recently,

not least in relation to the activity at Stourton Stables (now Foresters Lodge Stables) which are of considerable concern. The application for the stables was refused by District in September 2013. An appeal to be held on January 28th 2014 was postponed and will now be heard on March 11th 2014. An appeal has also been heard concerning the application for gypsy pitches at Rose Meadow Farm on the A449. That decision is expected shortly. Another controversial application for 6 houses, a museum and café at Drakelow Tunnels in August last year has not been pursued. There are on-going prosecutions in relation to cannabis being grown in the tunnels.

The District Council has finally obtained approval for its Core Strategy Development Plan Document. (Part of the Local Plan for South Staffordshire.) This contains a wide range of policies including housing; the environment; Green Belt; health, safety and wellbeing; transport; rural diversification; employment and economic issues, and Wolverhampton Airport. This document will be one of the key references for decision making at District level for the foreseeable future. Its adoption has been delayed for over a year due to an appeal concerning housing numbers in one of the parishes. This appeal has been refused so the District Council can proceed with its Core Strategy.

Housing is still high on the agenda as the District Council continues to prepare its plan for future housing sites as required by central government. Again after more than a year's delay, the Site Allocation Consultation will take place in March 2014 when residents will have the opportunity to give their opinion on which of the proposed sites for housing in Kinver is the preferred option. As Kinver has been allocated 90 houses to be built over the planning period, refusing all sites is not an option. At least one, perhaps two sites will need to be named as preferred options at the end of the consultation process for recommendation to the District Planners.

A recent application from McCarthy-Stone for accommodation for the elderly in Stone Lane has been refused by District. We shall have to wait and see if an amended plan is submitted or whether another use will be found for the site.

Lastly, I wish to thank Vice Chairman, Cllr DH Hadlington 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.

Rachel Davis

4.2 CLLR CHAIRMAN OF THE BURIAL GROUND COMMITTEE THEN PRESENTED THE FOLLOWING REPORT AS TO THE ACTIVITIES OF THAT COMMITTEE OVER THE PAST YEAR -

During the past year the Comber Ridge Burial Ground committee have continued to work together to improve and enhance the area. The edging stones along the driveway have been extended around the turning circle and in the future we hope to continue them along all the pathways. We have also removed the grass from the island at the turning circle and covered it with a grey slate to match the lovely large stones that have been donated and dedicated in Comber Ridge. Branches of trees that are hanging over the graves have been removed, and there are some dead trees in the woodland part of burial ground that will be removed in the spring to allow space for the good trees to breathe and spread. On the west side of the site we have had the tremendously large laurel hedge, which had grown completely out of control removed, and this has given more light to the area and allowed the other trees that were hidden in the hedge to be enjoyed by people who visit. Benches have been donated to Comber Ridge in memory of loved ones who are buried, interred or scattered there.

The committee have had site meetings at the Burial ground to discuss issues that present themselves over the year. For instance when our maintenance men were poorly, we met at Comber ridge to tidy the area after the winter winds had done their damage.

We could not keep the Burial Site with a sense of peace and tranquility without the help and hard work of our Superintendent Mrs. Jenny Spaul and her assistant Marita Fullwood, and our maintenance men Barry and Allan. And at this time we remember Allan who died in late 2013. He and Barry worked extremely hard to keep the site looking beautiful. Our thoughts have been with Allan's family at this very sad time.

Lastly my thanks go to my Vice Chairman, Ena Ray, and the committee for their continued interest and hard work keeping Comber Ridge looking beautiful and tranquil.

4.3 CLLR MRS 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 Mrs L Hingley (Vice Chairman), Mrs C Allen, Mrs. E. R Davis, Mrs. V Davis, J Cutler, J K Hall (ex-officio) H. H Rogers, Mrs. ED Ray, P Wooddisse, and co-opted members John Fallon, John Glover and David Tibbetts

During this council year we have covered a great deal of work and projects have been put into action and in many cases already completed I would like to pay tribute to our committee, the office staff and technicians for their support during another year. We were sorry to lose Alan Hale just before Christmas after a short illness

Projects look at this year by our committee are listed below:

Notice Boards New boards installed with Rights of Way information

Castle Hill Footpath diversion

The diversion was abandoned as it was reported that the path was actually not in its correct location now, and had pointed this out to Worcestershire County Council.

Forensic Marking

Mrs Victoria Singleton (Staffordshire Police and Neighbourhood Watch Manager) addressed the committee introducing the scheme talking about a variety of Forensic Marking being as a Police initiative and distributed through the Neighbourhood Watch Coordinators throughout the Staffordshire area. 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 Chairman explained that all grant request went to Parish Council then to Finance and General Purposes.

The Queens Diamond Jubilee

* A Plaque Celebrating the Queens Diamond Jubilee was installed by the flagpole on Jubilee Gardens and has been admired by many people. Concern expressed that horses had been riding round the area near the plaque. A form of fence / plants be placed around the stone was suggested but members agreed to monitor the situation and there has been no action to date.

* In memory of the Diamond Jubilee it was agreed that trees be purchased, Cllr DM Wiseman handpicked trees from a nursery and these are planted at the back of the KSCA field.

The Community Paths bid for 2013/14

A bid submitted to complete FP 23 at a cost of £2300 was successful with funds being received in January.

The work was to edge the path with wooden edges, scrape the top layer off to remove grass etc., and resurface the path with similar material to the existing type was carried out.

The committee identified works for the 2014/15 bid to put in 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.

Bridal Paths 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

Map Boards for the Clinic Wall

The two boards were removed from the clinic wall as they were leaking and maps have been damaged by water. The Maintenance Technicians cleaned these up and put them back up and they looked much improved.

Giants Well -

Members were made aware that this was a project dating back to the late 90's. It was found that the costs to reinstate the well were too high. It was agreed this is something we could not pursue at the present time.

The Cliff -

Reinstatement of view. Permission was gained for this work and completed by July with permission and funding to remove another five trees at a later date. This project is now completed, and has greatly enhanced the view of the Church not only from the high street but also from Dunsley and the Hyde entrances to the village. At the January meeting, it was reported that, on inspection there were four more trees that need to be removed and a small spindly tree. Money was left from the sum originally allocated for this project, and the clerk was to organise the remaining works as soon as possible.

Parish Coat of Arms

Registering the Parish Council Coat of Arms was looked at but on looking at costs, it had been agreed not proceed with this project.

Play Area

In June 2012 we applied for planning permission from the District Council to resurface the Play Area with 1690sqm of wet pour 1690 sqm The total project cost was £65,314 + VAT, but we were able to claim the

VAT back so the total project cost £65,314

The Chairman had applied for a grant towards resurfacing the Play Area to the Ken Wrigley Memorial Charity and Parish Council was awarded £15,000. This along with funding of £50,314 from Parish Council (including the Play Area Fund) enabled the work to be carried out in June 2013. A Reaching Community Bid was put in but as we already had a play area suitable for use, it did not fit the criteria of funding at that time

Gym Equipment

The Chairman had successfully gained Awards for All (Big Lottery) grant of £5550, to install two pieces of outdoor Gym equipment by the play areas and was installed in May. This was added to by a two further pieces of equipment funded by a further bid she had made to the Lottery Awards for All for £4450. The equipment was installed during the summer holidays. The total of the two projects was £10,000.

Ancient Borough Road Signs at Five Village Entrances

The Ancient Borough was first looked into in 2007/08, but put on hold because of the High Street works.

It was raised that it may be the right time to progress

This matter had been discussion throughout the year, a draft sign layout was viewed by members, and the Clerk has sent a draft to the Conservation Officer as well as Highways for their approval.

No objections were raised by the Conservation officer however,

"All signs which are placed on the Highway have to conform to Department of Transport guidelines; therefore the proposed sign would need to have its type font to be in Transport Medium type font, the bottom swirl would need to be removed to be compliant. The bottom swirl is not permitted, as it does not constitute relevant information to the motorist. Any border is only permitted within a contrasting colour to the sign. Any new proposed posts would also need to be compliant. The location of the signs should be as existing so as to not hind visibility splays." As a result of the above, the Clerk forwarded the comments to the sign makers and they are working on a redraft. A draft sign layout had been shown to members and present to full council. These were sent to the Conservation Officer as well as Highways for their approval.

The oak notice board has also been ordered, with the header board and the map of the Ancient Borough was redrawn by Mrs Marita Fullwood, and Dr Paul Collins has helped prepare wording for the boards.

As soon as the board arrives, it will be installed on the completed square with these details in it

Entrance Pillars

This has been discussed at length, suggestions were made that if they remained after any future works had been carried out they would need improvement, as it would make them more significant and acceptable.

Suggestions were as follows for the pillars have been made which include:

Reducing the 20mph sign to give more room for carving. The sides facing the oncoming traffic into the village to have Welcome to Kinver on the one and An Ancient Borough since 1221 on the other. The four sides on the back could be used for historical info: such as old names for Kinver, Kinfare, Chenfare, Chenevare and include Benefactors the Lee Family (NT), Edward Marsh, The Ken Wrigley Memorial Charity and the Anthony and Gwendoline Memorial Charity and personalities such as Nancy Price, Rev Baring Gould, and Dorothy Round. The last one could be used for the Parish Council Logo

The Clerk had contact a copy supplied by the District Council who had quoted approx £15 per letter

This project would be discussed with D Bills and liaise with Dr. Paul Collins where necessary.

Flower Bed Displays at the village entrances

Increasing the flower displays on the entrances to the village had been discussed and it was noted that there were always lots of daffodils, but when these die off the areas were left bare. Ideas and locations had been looked at throughout the year and it had been suggested that we seek advice from the Horticultural Society could give advice on types of plants once the areas we are looking at are known. Most of the suggestions would require specific planting or may not be suitable to the grass cutting or a danger from panting as it was too near the highway.

Stone plaques

A Councillor on recently visiting another town, had noted that in front of some houses plaques were placed in the pavement that showed detailed history on the properties were they were set in front of. Having found this interesting, it was brought to the committee as it would be good for Kinver and could be project for the future. Slabs were of a York type stone with black writing cut into them, and roughly paving slab in size. Members viewed photographs of examples of these stone plaques.

The Chairman has spoken with the Civic Society on a number of occasions to ask their opinion on a possible amalgamation of the two projects as they have the historical knowledge be required. For each plaque erected, an application for permission to the District Council is required and referred to the Conservation Officer as it is in the Conservation Area. If the plaques were put into the public pavement then permission from County Highways would need to be obtained. The Civic Society is eager to work with the committee. It was also suggested that the Historic Society be invited to participate in discussion. The Chairman is exploring this at present.

Members liked the look of the timeline slabs around the edge of a pathway and thought it might be possible to link this with the village square, but as this is now to be much reduced, it may not be possible. Hayden Baugh-Jones attended the December full council meeting to discuss this square.

It was suggested that Edgecliff High School be asked to contribute to the project by looking into the history of Kinver and to come up with information to go on the plaques, this will be followed up by the chairman

WW1 projects

New railings have been installed around the War Memorial on Kinver Edge and looked very smart

The Chairman has spoken with Edgecliff School who are keen to undertake an art project relating to WW1 but would need funding for the materials. She has advised them to complete a grant application form and return it to Council so that it could be sent to the April Finance meeting. It was also suggested, that Brindley might wish to be involved as part of their curriculum is to study WW1 the Chairman would follow this up.

Corner of Church Hill -

Suggestions re the triangle of land had been made to revamp the area, but it is more than planting a few bushes. It needs a plan drawn up, with new steps and improved access across the top.

The Clerk contacted Graham Gaskin with regard to this matter and on looking at the corner he suggested turf at the bottom lower level as the bank is too steep to do anything with. It would also require new bollards, moving the grit bin. Although this seems minimal work, to work safely in the area any contractor would require temporary traffic lights, at a cost of £1000, which brought the estimated job total to £4000.

After looking at the unofficial right of way, to make this a more functioning path would mean putting steps in, if as a Council we did this then, we would most likely be liable if there are any accidents of people walking straight out into the roadway. It was agreed that the path as it stood seemed useable, so as a Council we should not encourage people to walk it.

Outdoor Cinema

An outdoor cinema was suggested by a Councillor, who has spoken with the film society and they may be keen to look at an outdoor movie night, she is progressing this idea further. Possible locations were discussed where cars could park these being the KSCA or the Constitutional Club, subject to permission.

View from Danesford Gardens

Suggestions re the tree screen opposite Danesford Garden were discussed including clearing small scrub trees and bushes, and the removal of lower branches so that the trees do not obstruct the vista. New quotes were obtained and it was agreed for this work to go ahead as permission (subject to seeing a map of the works) had been given by the landowner and Kinver Colts who have a 99-year lease to use the adjoining ground.

Funding support was requested at the Finance and General Purposes in February who have made recommendation for full council on 5th March to address. The amount of £1200 for clearing of view opposite Danesford Gardens, could be funded from the Internal Grants Budget head.

Chenevare leaflet

The Chairman of the Council had found a previously printed leaflet that the Council had prepared and thought it would be useful to revamp and re-launch alongside the Ancient Borough. There is a second leaflet prepared

by the Historical Society and this also could be revised and the two combined.

Members had requested that the Clerk contact Dr Paul Collins to ask if he may be able to help with the revision of this information. He was currently looking at the Ancient Borough information and hoped to have time to look at this afterwards.

Use of the School sports activities

The Chairman has held two meetings with the Head Teacher Chris Rogers who was joined by his Letting Officer and Business Manager. Councillors Lin Hingley, Harry Rogers, and co-opted member John Fallon also attended the meeting. The Chairman had also invited the Chairman of Finance Councillor Dudley Light to attend.

At the November discussions had been centred round what availability there was at the school for letting, the organisation of lettings cost etc and the use of the sport hall and tennis courts

The school is looking at a future project to improve the tennis courts and install a multi-use area: the projected will cost £130,000. If this is done, the school will look into the possibility that there could be open access to them. The LEA cannot support this level of funding, and the project is too large for the Edgecliff Association.

Councillor Mrs Rogers along with Councillors Light and Harry Rogers and co-opted member John Fallon

Met again with the Head Teacher on the 7th January; and discussed funding possibilities for the proposed improvements to the Tennis Court area of the school. Councillor Mrs Rogers supplied several pages of funding research and funding organisations for the school to explore.

An application to Sport England would be ideal for this project and it was thought this would support 30% of project costs, and a Community Group or Parish Councils could apply for also get 70% funding but the project has to be for land in the ownership of whoever applied for funding.

The Chairman is having regular meetings with the school to look at all funding opportunities, including Lawn Tennis Association, National Hockey Association, Cllr B Edwards County fund, Wrigley Trust etc.

On viewing the Sport England applications, she noted that 30 and 70 % is the percentage of £83 million pounds being allocated for projects not the project cost.

Letters of support would be required for the project and members have discussed the possibility of using the Parish Office to receive completed questionnaires if required.

The Chairman reported that KAG have since discuss supporting the project and if necessary applying for the funding on the schools behalf. The cost of the project is approximately £150,000. Members suggested it might be possible to use the Parish Office to receive completed questionnaires about the project.

The Chairman has left a list of actions with the school to identify for her next meeting in March, which included permission from Governor, County Education permission, and quotes to be gained for there next meeting. She had checked with District Council and no planning permission was required for the project providing the fencing does not exceed the permitted allowance. This will not be a five-minute project, as there has to be lost of consultations not like an individual group dealing with the project

Boxing Club and Five-a-Side Football

Following on from the item above "school activities," discussions have taken place at L & A also Chris Rogers Head teacher at Edgecliff and PC Wayne Green (at Council, Edgecliff and at KAG) Following on form this a Five- a-Side group is being launched on Saturday 8th March at 6pm at Edgecliff Sports Hall. PC Green has applied for funding from Parish Council and this project will be supported by members of KAG. The Chairman (in her KAG capacity) had organised the insurance policy and bibs (ordered local) and PC Green has booked the school hall for an initial 18 weeks until more funds can be gained.

It is hope that later this year the boxing club will get off the ground; a venue is being sort at present again KAG are assisting with arrangements.

Cycle tracks / ways

A Council member brought this matter to the committee and asked if this could be looked at; 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. She suggested making a track on the verges so cyclists are safer. Members felt it would be expensive to do this work, but worth asking the question of the County. An email and copies of location maps were sent to Highways, they have acknowledged receipt and are looking at it.

Legion Drive.

Legion Drive has been the poor state of repair for some time the landowner of which is unknown.

The District / County did partly resurface the road as a one off gesture following the initial road works, and at that time there was talk of this road being tidied up to the junction with the High Street when all the works were complete. However, no one that was involved with the original project is still working for the County

Health Walks

A co-opted member had been reporting on the Health Walks that had been arranged for locally and activities attached to them. He agreed to keep members informed of any development for 2014, as his wife was involved with the organisation.

Members Reports

These are of greatly valued at meeting especially Right of Way issues, which are regularly brought to our attention that need addressing regarding paths. Co-opted members and councillors who walk the paths have been of great assistance in this matter, as has one councillor (with knowledge on landowners for various areas and his background) has been able to assist with identifying land owned for particular areas.

Hyde Wood Footpath -

The Clerk obtained an update on the legal position of making this path an official right of way. It is currently

No 66 on the list for action. The Chairman of the Council had spoken 18 months ago to the landowner and he had agreed for a path to be made permanent through the woods, but the chairman has had no further contact since then. The Clerk has written to the landowner to ask formally for him to give written permission for the path to be signed as a permissive right of way.

Tuesday Walking Group

The Tuesday walking group has now got to the stage where there are few Kinver leaders and most of the members are from out of the area. Paths walked in Kinver are recorded but last year several were not walked. He asked that members think about the situation and discuss it further at the next meeting.

Walk leaders, are desperately needed from Kinver to keep the paths being walked.

Small Village Leaflet

A member of Council had passed some leaflets to the Chairman on small villages in Cornwall that highlight the historical areas and a walking trail around the villages. Members thought this would be good for Kinver with its long history and it was suggested that this was passed to the new Traders Association.

Annual Parish Meeting and Engaging with the Public

This item was raised by two Councillors at Council who passed the matter to our committee. They had attended a training day and discussed with other Councils how they operated their Annual Parish Meeting. Some Councils (to improve communications with their parishioners), made it a social event, meeting followed by refreshments. Two Councillors reported that when they had been chairman they had held a variety of events to engage with the public.

The committee recommend to the Parish Council that members of Council could visit Parish organisations to discuss ways to improve communications, and raise the profile of the Council.

It was agreed that this would be discussed by the new committee in the 2014/15 Council year.

Ideas will also be sought to help to encourage residents to stand as councillors at the next elections.

Again, in closing the Chairman wishes to thank all member of the committee for their participation over the past year.

4.4 CLLR D LIGHT, CHAIRMAN OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE, THEN PRESENTED THE REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2013/2014

Firstly let me confirm that the 2013/2014 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

We have faced a few unforeseen challenges during the past few months which have incurred additional expense. Due to long term staff issues we have had to employ external help with the Christmas lights and general maintenance in particular. Our thanks goes to everyone in the local community and the District Council who helped us, free of charge, through the challenges.

We have continued carry out projects within the Parish aimed at improving the quality of the facilities and the environs of the local area. The play area was completely re-surfaced, new leases were granted to the Model Light railway and Kinver Bowling Club. Soon new Ancient Borough signs and notice boards will appear and the railings at the War Memorial on Kinver Edge have been renewed in preparation for the World War One centenary commemorations later this year.

We have spent £75,000 to resurfaced the play area with soft-pour; new leases have been issued to the Model Engineers and the Bowling Club taking 19 months to be processed, the War Memorial railings on Kinver Edge have been replaced to recognise the 100 year anniversary and will be rededicated on 3rd August 2014.

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

To end this report with good news, I can confirm that for the fifth year running there will be no rise in the Parish precept charge for 2014/2015.

5 REPORTS FROM PARISH ORGANISATIONS

5.1 Kinver Volunteer Bureau

The Bureau continues to be very busy throughout the year with Driving Jobs, a lot of these are now further afield to specialist Hospitals such as Queen Elizabeth and New Cross, and we still do a lot of jobs to the Dudley Hospitals

Our shopping trips to the village have very much diminished we only run this service on a Friday now as numbers have very much diminished, hopefully it may pick up when we get some better weather.

The Luncheon Clubs held on 1st Tuesday and 3rd Wednesday at the Constitutional Club continue to be very popular and are well attended.

We hold our annual get together in June each year for our members to meet on a social basis and enable them to put names to faces.

We are always requiring Volunteers for driving, manning the Bureau and helping with Luncheon Club - we need Kinver People to help us maintain our help in the community.

Marilyn Beattie - Organiser KVB

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## 5.2 The Rotary Club of Kinver

The snows at the beginning of 2013 played a significant part in the activities of the Rotary Club of Kinver: just 30 of the 41 teams booked into the club's Children in Need Quiz (normally held in November) made their way to the Edward Marsh Centre for the annual event, but once again it raised more than £1,000.

The club allocated more than £4,000 to charities from the 2012 Christmas sleigh collection, with donations ranging from £50 to £700, including the annual seniors' New Year party which had to be postponed because of the snows that hit the area on the precise day planned for the annual event. The April date of the rearranged function was, in fact, welcomed by the 130 guests who indicated they would prefer the Party to be held during the spring in future years.

A working party from the club spent a morning tidying up the canal-side picnic site that the club provided in 2005 to mark the centenary of Rotary International and manpower was also to the fore as members worked along the High Street as the club's contribution to the Best Kept Village competition.

The club's International Committee raised more than £170 at a Soul and Motown night while a walking treasure hunt along the High Street and the canal raised £120 towards the canalside picnic works.

During the year the club has been strengthening its links with local schools in Kinver and Wollaston and also a primary school in Wolverhampton: during the run up to the end of term the club presented commemorative personalised dictionaries to every pupil leaving Brindley Heath, The Ridge and St James, Wollaston, primary schools - a total of 186. Cheques were also handed over to The Ridge and St James as contributions towards a visit to each school by the Life Education Caravan.

Also before the end of term President John Brown joined staff and pupils at Edgecliff School to present prizes and certificates to successful entrants in Rotary's District writing and photography competitions.

A group of club members visited Goldthorn Park Primary School in Wolverhampton to assist with the erection of a tent which forms part of the contents of a "Shelterbox" which also contains pots and pans, crockery, blankets and other items desperately needed in times of emergency and tragedy in all parts of the world. The school raised £590 over a two year period to purchase and equip a box for the charity after head teacher Julia Roseblade, whose husband Clive is a past president of Kinver Rotary Club, discovered the full extent of the impact of the charity in times of crisis. Foley Infants School received cash from the club - and then DIY expertise from members - for the refurbishment of a "boat-shed".

In July Nick Geoghegan, the Kinver resident who won the village Civic Society's award for services to the community through his dedication to enhancing the High Street with floral decorations, was elected club President.

The 10k run and 2k family fun run in aid of Action Heart, produced in excess of £3,000, all going to the charity as the overheads had already been completely covered by main sponsor BodyKraft of Pensett, together with Dudley Motor Company and Granlyn Specialist Coatings of West Bromwich.

The run, which attracted almost 200 runners, was started by local MP Gavin Williamson, who also joined President Nick to present the prizes to the winners.

Club members donated scores of items for the annual harvest auction, including a Norwegian meal, a holiday in an apartment in Turkey, and a hand-made planter as well as copious amounts of food and drink. Members and guests who then purchased them raised over £1,600 which went into the club's general charities fund.

The Kinver club joined the Rotary Club of Hagley to stage a musical evening at Kidderminster Town Hall featuring the Band of the West Midlands Fire Service and the Stourport Choral Society, who were making their first ever combined appearance on stage. The evening, and its associated raffle, raised more than £1,800 which will be divided between Kemp Hospice in Kidderminster and the local charity funds of the two clubs.

Two surprise cheque presentations more than doubled the usual total cash made at the Children in Need Quiz back in its usual November slot.

Before BBC's "Voice of the Balls" Alan Dedicoat began the quiz he has hosted for the club for the past 13 years, Clive Corbett, a Kinver Rotarian who is Head Teacher at Pershore High School, gave him a cheque for £1,500 raised by the students.

He was followed onto the stage by Julia Roseblade, who presented a cheque for almost £400 from the pupils at Goldthorne Park School Their contributions boosted the final total for the evening to £3,153.

Once again the Edward Marsh Centre in Kinver was filled to capacity with 42 teams of four taking part in the quiz which

Seven members of the Rotary Club of Kinver who took part in the nationwide "Movember" moustache growing exercise in aid of Prostate Cancer research raised over £1,200 in sponsorship from family, friends and fellow Rotarians.

Two additional collections ensured that Kinver Rotary Club's Christmas sleigh collection hit yet another record high.

Residents in the Millers Green and Tythebarn Drive areas of Wall Heath who gave £446 and shoppers who put £490 in the tins on Kingswinford car park (of which half will go to a charity nominated by Co-op travel) meant that the total collected by Rotarians, wives and helpers hit a staggering £6,045. The traditional routes produced a record so the two additional collections were bound to result on new highs for the sleigh.

2013 was a successful and thoroughly enjoyable year for the members of Kinver Rotary Club through the cash they collected, the "manual labour" they put out in and the many social activities they organised.

Mike Deathridge. Past President

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5.3 **Anglo American Association**

I was in Park Ridge in September and October 2013 for my annual visit. Most specifically, I was there visiting old friends and promoting a visit to Kinver by our Sister City friends.

The Sister City group in Park Ridge has confirmed a visit from 5 - 17 June 2014, and the timing was specific to be present at the Kinver Country Fair. Over the years they have all heard how the Country Fair is such a wonderful day and the new location in the field and on the High Street will be ideal for them.

Their plan is to stay at the Talbot Hotel in Stourbridge, and use that as their point of call. They plan to have a number of different events, and details are now being organised.

So far 11 are planning to visit, and 3 of these are new people to the Sister Cities group.

We trust that all will be present when they are available because all are looking forward to meeting their old friends!!! Best Regards - Dom Toni

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#### 5.4 Kinver Civic Society

The Society has had a busy year in which it has seen its membership steadily increase.

Monthly meetings have been well attended with an interesting range of speakers on Civic and environmental topics. In addition visits to Bletchley Park, the Kidderminster Carpet Museum plus the famous David Bills Emporium proved very popular.

The Annual commendation Evening was particularly rewarding as the recipients were long standing Civic members Gill and David Tibbetts. The event was greatly enhanced by the presence of District and Parish Councillors.

A full range of speakers and visits are planned for the coming year. We also hope that with the support of local Councillors 2014 will see the implementation of the Blue Plaque Scheme, which together with the revised Bridle and Street maps (currently being prepared by Civic) will greatly promote the Village and enhance tourism.

The Society will continue to promote its core aim of protecting the Green Belt and Conservation Areas of the Village and its environs, stressing the natural beauty of the area and will actively work with others to this end.

Mike Cooper - Chairman

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5.5 Community Action - C A

Report from Margaret Rogers Secretary and Newsheet Advert Co-ordinator

Community Action was formed by its benefactor Sam Harris in 1972 it was originally called Christian Action.

C A are a group of people who have worked for many years to improve the life of the village and contributed funding towards a wide range of projects and help set up or instigated things in the village.

Derek Hemming 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 also passed away last year just days after Derek. Both Helen and Derek had represented C.A on Parish Council. Both of them being amongst the first members of the Footpaths and Rights of Way Committee, before it became one of the Parish Council committees. They both led the 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.

We still produce the Newsheet four times a year, our next edition number 149 will be collated in March and I will be putting together the advertising section as usual and our Editor Mike Deathridge will shortly be receiving articles from local village organisations, schools etc.

The Newsheets is self-funding and is distributed by our band of over 40 volunteer who make it possible to get the newsheet right across the Parish from Iverley to Lawnswood to 3100 dwellings. The newsheets are distributed in bundles and boxes by Ena and Harry (Ena talking the larger amount for Kinver) to those who deliver door to door.

New distributors are always needed as people look forward to the newsheet dropping on the mat. They find it a good source of local news and the adverts provide a great trade directory.

With advances in technology I am now able to offer the newsheet in an electronic format sending to people who have moved away from the Parish, but like to keep in touch, even sending a copy to Margaret Cartwright who lives in New Zealand. Margaret was an early producer of the newsheet, putting it together in cut and paste format and typing all the articles for many years.

Derek Hemming and myself set up the Dorothy Round Bursary in 2001 and although this has been dormant in the last few years (as Derek was not well) we are taking this up again and I will be meeting with PE teachers at Edgecliff soon to look for new applicants to apply for the Bursary. Prizes of up to £100 are given to 3 successful applicants.

The applicants have to have two references one being from a P.E teacher or coach. Judging the applications is done by two P.E teachers from schools outside the village.

A presentation evening is then arranged and Dorothy Rounds' nephew Nigel Round comes to award the bursary funding and certificate. The Bursary and the Kinver Flag Fund were both the brain child of Derek Hemming

The Flag Fund "FLYING THE FLAG" is looked after for us by Marita Fullwood. People make a donation to fly the flag and the money raised by this is given to local causes each year, the recipients of the fund are chosen by Marita and Sarah Sparkes.

Our Chairman is Ena Ray, Carol Groucutt deals with issuing cheques and I collate and design the adverts and collect advertising money and deal with banking.

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## 5.6 Kinver Action Group - KAG

Report from the Press, Media and Fundraising Officer Margaret Rogers

KAG continues to raise money and provide activities for the youngsters in Kinver. The Skate Park opened on 31st October 2010 and is used every day regardless of weather and it is very rare to see it empty.

This along with the Bike Track which opened in March 2009 forms the very popular Wheels Park.

Gary Rogers our IT co-ordinator continues to engage with the youngsters, who have built their own webs site and are getting to grips with the two Go Pro Cameras and Apple Mac lap top provided through funding Edgecliff High School are supported of our activities and allow us to circulate literature for meetings, training and visits to indoor skate venues.

In August 2013 the youngsters went by Community Bus with Val Davis and Gary Rogers to Creations in Birmingham and were able to display their skills and use the cameras to video their stunts.

Their behaviour was excellent during the whole trip and we were told by Gary and Val that it was a pleasure to take the youngsters out.

Although there were no big events last year, mostly due to the prime skateboard and scooter trainer being booked months ahead, the groups continue to look for ways to engage the youngsters. They youngsters have met at the KSCA with Gary and given their views on the development of the Skate Park and Bike Track. Two items were lighting and a cover over the skate park to give longer usage and the Bike Track being extended for greater use.

We applied and gained planning permission for the Bike Track to be redeveloped in 2013 providing more jumps, dips and a berm. John Fallon has been meeting with contractors one of whom suggested "we use what we had with a little expansion and increase the runs to 4 almost touching in places to allow the bikes to jump from lane to lane". The contractor drew up new designs and we are now submitting a slightly changed plan and then will be looking for £23,000 funding.

The Ken Wrigley Memorial Charity has already agreed in principle to support the project and it is hoped the Wylde Memorial Charity will help with funding and we hope to apply to the Councillor Brian Edwards fund.

I will also be making an application to the Lottery Awards for All. John Fallon has also suggested we apply to the National BMX organisation, which are interested in new facilities.

We meet monthly at the KSCA and invite various representatives to join us from across the County, including Police and Funding Agencies. PC Chris Baker and Nikki Robins used to come to some of our meetings. PCSO Paul Wilkes joined us last year and PC Wayne Green who moved back to Kinver last year has been engaging with our committee. KAG are supporting two new activities the Police had earmarked for the village youth these being A Five-A -Side football (which will be launch on 8th March) and it is hoped a Boxing Club can be reinstated.

Funding has been applied for at Parish Council by PC Wayne Green and I have applied to the Wrigley and Wylde Memorial Charities. KAG and the Police have a contract with the school to hire the sports hall every Saturday evening from 6pm to 7pm for the Five-a-side. An initial 18 weeks has been booked (taking into consideration any bookings Edgecliff already had for Saturday evenings) already arranged before our hiring.

I am trying to raise funds to support the running of the five-a-side club as the initial set-up cost will be £1,325.61 to which KAG will be contributing which includes. Room hire is £450 for 18 weeks, 2 indoor footballs at £32.00, Insurance Public and Employers Liability (which I have arranged) at £556.00 to cover 45 events, Bibs ordered from Forever Memories at £287.61p. The Insurance Policy will also cover the Boxing when it starts with a few modifications.

PC Wayne Green has also applied to Parish Council for a grant, to support the Five-a-side. The booking fee is being paid upfront and it is hoped this would be a permanent fixture. The cost of booking 45 weeks at the sports hall would be £1125.00p.

At our AGM in November officers were re-elected Ray Jones our Chairman decided to retire and John Fallon is now Chairman and treasurer , Val Davis has become Vice-Chairman along with her post as minute secretary Gary Rogers is the Youth and IT Co-ordinator and I still deal with Funding, Press and Media

The group would like to pay tribute to the work done for several years by Ray Jones, as Chairman.

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5.7 Peter Pan Pre-school Playgroup Stourton

Report from the Early Years Leader Margaret Rogers

The Pre-school has been open 45 years established in February 1969 and the leader has been in school 42 years. The setting has cared for many children over that time and for some years have seen those children, who came as children returning with their own families.

Children attend on reaching their second birthday. The 2+ funding for 15 hours weekly is available for families in specially circumstances. 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

From 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ years ago children in Staffordshire and (6 $\frac{1}{2}$ years) in Dudley Met have been able to go to fulltime school if they are 4 years old by 31st August. This has greatly affected on numbers in rural settings.

We have great support throughout the year from our local PCSO's visiting to talk to children and parents.

Kinver Fire Brigade (complete with engine) come and encourage children to dress up and use the hose on the engine and talk about safety. Another popular visitor is Sue Coombes who is the Youth Co-ordinator for the local branch of the Royal National Lifeboat Institute who brings lots of activities for the children to do.

Carol Evans a local guide dog trainer also comes to visit. We also have an open day in the summer and celebrate children's achievements at the end of each term with certificates being presented and Father Christmas comes every December.

The fencing around the perimeter of the building was provided from funding, by Early Years at County under the Quality and Access grant. This also paid for the two outside play areas developed in the summer of 2010.

A large steel swing gate and fencing at the approach to the car park (put in for security) has also helped as we can now use the car park for nature walks and balls games. Funding for this was from the Wylde and Wrigley Charities.

Being at Stourton, we cannot walk to the local facilities so hire the Community Bus or catch it when it comes to Stourton on Wednesday to come into the Village.

The Ken Wrigley Memorial Charity gave us a grant of £500 to have both play area (soft play flooring) steam cleaned as it had deteriorated so much since being laid. We were given various reasons by the contractor for this "too hot when laying" or "it is surrounded by trees" and "someone must have brought in contamination on their shoes" It is only accessed through the main hall and only used by pre-school children and staff.

A grant of £810 was received in September 2013 from the Ken Wrigley Memorial Charity to pay for a Paediatric First Training Course. We invited staff from Kinver Wrap Around, Kinver Pre-school, Potter Cross Pre-school and Children's Centre to join us so all the settings benefitted from the funding. We had a grant of £150 towards room hire cost from the Kinver Country Fayre Committee to help cover the four Tuesday evening training again benefitted all the settings.

We have a rolling programme of four sets of A-Z Topics which we return to every three years unfortunately because of the changes in the Development Matters of the Early Years Foundation Stage every time we return to the project the paperwork has to change.

We now have a Facebook page Peterpan preschool, which gives up to date information about our setting and displaying projects topics information and children's work and newsletter. (No children's images are published.)

In 2013 a Steering Group, was formed between The Kinver Primary Federation (Foley Infant School) and the childcare settings in Kinver and Stourton. Meetings are held each term for us to discuss with staff at Foley what developments the settings have in place for children starting school. We had hoped this would include joint training to benefit the settings.

Training is mandatory and has to be paid for with the nearest venues in Penkridge, Kingston, Stafford and beyond so travel is a major factor as well as organising replacement staff and travel costs.

Staff are dedicated and work many voluntary to keep the provision open our registration 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 very stringent so we only have Viewing is by APPOINTMENT. We also have a CCTV camera in place scanning the car park when school is open

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## 5.8 Stourton Village Hall

Report from Margaret Rogers Licensee, Premises Manager, Secretary and Treasurer.

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.

The village hall has been provides a venue, for local people to celebrate special occasions, events, group meetings, and clubs. The hall is also available for weekday evening hire and all day Saturday

We like many other community buildings are suffering from the recession as people draw back on their social spending. We are also in competition with local schools, pubs and other community rooms where the public can hold functions or operate club in some cases at no room hire costs

The Village Hall is totally self-funding so no big grants to help with running cost. We are responsible for all our bills including the upkeep of the building, grounds and our large marked car park, (which including parking for disabled persons) and our own street lighting.

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 to keep cost down.

For many years, we have had a rolling programme of maintenance, repairs, and improvements and are slowly working down our wish list.

In 2013 trustees held three successful Table Top Sales to support our cost for Audit Fees and winter heating bills, without this income donated by the trustees the village hall would struggle.

As a flat roof timber, building it has little or no insulation and we looked at having studded walls, insulation and a lowered ceiling but this would cost in the region of £18,000 as all the electrics would have to be removed and reinstated. It would also mean the building would be out of action for three weeks or more

We have in past years, benefitted from An Awards for All grant, to upgrade the gents toilets and in 2012 a grant from County Councillor Brian Edwards Local Members Fund to upgrade four of our heaters. In 2013, we had a grant of £1200 from the Ken Wrigley Memorial Charity to help cover the cost of changing our mains electricity boxes and rewiring which meant a repeat electrical inspection after only having one at the end of 2012.

The barrier and gate (added in 2010 through funding from the Wylde and Wrigley Charities) has been a great bonus and has stopped fly tipping and antisocial behaviour. The gate is only open when we unlock the hall, any Cars Parked illegally during that time would be locked in.

At our AGM in 2013 all officers and trustee were re-elected, John Fallon President, and Gloria Barnsley and Carol Groucutt Vice Chairmen, Mrs Julie Rogers Booking Secretary and myself dealing with the day to day running of the hall. Our Chairman of many years Diane Jones stepped back from the position due to family commitments

We are listed on [hallshireshire.com/halls/view/712/Stourton-village-hall](http://hallshireshire.com/halls/view/712/Stourton-village-hall), so anyone can look at what we have to offer. We also advertise in the local Newsheet and are both Julie's and my details are displayed so we are easy to contact.

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5.9 Kinver Community Bus

Report from the Secretary and Treasurer and Bus Operator Margaret Rogers

The Community Bus started life after a public meeting in 1986 and we launched our first bus in 1988 Last year we lost Derek Hemming (who had served with myself since the organisations inception) passed away and we have had permission at the November Parish Council meeting to plant a tree on Jubilee Gardens in memory of Derek's. Harry will deal with this on behalf of the bus committee

It is hoped to have a plaque at a later date .

I am the only remaining member from our original committee in 1986 and we launched our first bus on 21st April 1988. The current bus (The Green Bus) was purchased mainly with funding from a Rural Transport Grant (which allowed us to carry on saving funds ourselves) and we took delivery on 1st November 2002. Now almost 12 years on our directors decided it was time to look for a new bus, which we have been saving for, for almost 20 years.

Ian Lowe and myself went to Mini Bus Options at High Peak in late October and a new bus was ordered. We should take delivery of the bus a silver Fiat Ducato (which is being converted

to our own specification) in March at a cost of £34,999.00p plus VAT. The Wrigley Memorial Charity have given us a grant of £2,000 towards the new bus.

For many years we have been very fortunate to have support towards running cost for our service, (operating on a timetable, bus stop and hail and ride provision), from The Wrigley and The Wylde Memorial Charities. We have in the past had donations from Kinver Bingo Club and each year we have donations from Kinver Rotary £200, Angela De-las Casus (Mr Ron Marsh's daughter) £100 and a £300 donation from Enville Parish Council.

This funding has helped greatly to provide a voluntary service, which is registered with the DfT,

County Council and has a Road Transport Permit to carry passenger

Our service runs each week on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday from 9am and 12 noon. Covering Enville, Westley Court and Kinver village on Tuesdays, Prestwood, the Oval and Kinver village on Wednesdays and Kinver village and Enville on Fridays. Timetables are available from Kay's Butchers or myself

At last year's AGM officers were re-elected these being Ian Lowe is Chairman, John Oxley Vice Chairman, Julie Rogers deals with Fuel administration and passenger numbers, I deal with the day to day running of the bus as the bus operator and have been its Treasurer since 1990 and secretary for almost as long. Other members of the committee are Dawn Carter and Robert Kay.

Drivers are all volunteers, most of whom do not live in the parish and travel in to drive our bus on a weekly basis. Drivers retire at the age of 70 to comply with our insurance requirements. They assist with shopping and getting people to appointments on time as well as their daily run.

Our constitution allows us to hire the bus to recognised parish organisations that have a constitution and bank account in the clubs name. Hiring is dealt with by myself and charges are £25 for the first 25 mile plus 50p for all extra miles. 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

We looked forward to many more years providing a service to the Parish of Kinver and Enville.

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5.10 Kinver Old People's Welfare

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

The Voucher distribution in December was again a resounding success as we gave out almost 900 vouchers at £7 each voucher. This put £6300 in the high street shop over the Christmas period as people cashed their vouchers.

Whilst collecting vouchers people enjoyed a cuppa, and catch up with friends.

In place of the vouchers I take gifts Prestwood, the Coach House and Homestead Nursing Homes which are greatly appreciated and we had letters and phone calls from people thanking us for providing the vouchers

Vouchers can only be spent in Kinver at participating shops. Traders phone me when they have vouchers to exchange and I collect them in exchange for a cheque for the given amount. We really appreciate the shops supporting the scheme, and thank them for accepting the voucher each year.

A big thank you to the six ladies who assisted us in handing out vouchers and those making the drinks. The scheme continues to grow each year as Kinver has an ageing population we had to put on an extra collection desk this year as the queues grew.

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 a £300 donation from the Monday Bingo Club held at the Constitutional Club.

We continue our work in the community, and at our meetings the sick are noted and anyone needing advice can be referred to the appropriate contact.

Committee members re-elected in 2013 were Cllr Lin Hingley Chairman, Pam Perry Vice Chairman, Cllr Val Davis, Minute Secretary, Adrienne Spaul and myself: Margaret Rogers

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5.11 Kinver Allotment Association

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

The Kinver Allotment Association held their AGM in January.

The Committee for 2014 is Margaret Rogers. Dave Cooper. Mike Hails. Annie Hails. Marie Roberts. Brian Roberts. Bernard Sparkes. Paul Roche. Roy Carrier. Mick Gadd. Mick Ford. At its first management meeting of the New Year the following officers were elected Mike Hails as Chairman, Dave Cooper Vice Chairman. Treasurer - Paul Roche, Secretary - Marie Roberts, President and Fundraising Officer Margaret Rogers

It now seem a long way from when the KAA was formed, and the inaugural meeting was held on 12th November 2009, following interest express to Parish Council and the project from Councils Recreation and Environment Committee now Leisure and Amenities (of which I was and am chairman) started ,when we were looking for land. We have had a fantastic journey through land given by Roger Pauli and great funding support. Councillor Lin Hingley and myself held the first meeting with people who had expressed an interest in having an allotment locally.

In a little over 2 years from April 2010 to October 2012 I acquired for the association through grants, donations and lottery funding a grand total of £12,585.00p. No large grants were applied for in 2013 but in November

I applied for funding to kick-start the area taken on by Marie and Brian Roberts for the benefit of the association.

This was so the basics could be put in place during winter months, such as fencing, a gate, eventually put in turf to create a picnic area for children and visitors and benches and tables. We were awarded £250 towards this project by the Ken Wrigley Memorial Charity

We had been looking to create a community garden which we hope other groups and schools would visit and share in the beautiful tranquil surrounds. We also created a wild flowers to encourage biodiversity and good pollination. This community garden was initially going to be a major project with a sensory area for special needs, but there was concern the site might be too exposed to do this, so Brian and Marie Roberts have taken over the area in exchanged for their plot and are developing it in a more modest way. Funds are still required for raise beds benches and grassed areas as it is intended to use this for visitors and visiting school to develop skills,

Working parties continue to meet regularly to maintain the site in general and each plot holder is responsible for their own patch. In 2013 the group aimed to produce even more honey and look at other ways of raising our own funds. The poly tunnel also got more use last year as plot holders start their seedlings ready for planting out. The orchard did well and members hoped for a good yield of honey and fruit again to help with fundraising.

Committee members with roles and responsibilities report back at committee meetings and Policies for Health and Safety using and looking after machinery along with a Constitution which was updated at the AGM to meet current need. We also have forms for booking out machinery and a tenancy agreement with plot holders

During the year we hosted the Kinver Horticultural Society and a group of people wanting to start an allotment site in Wolverley laying on tea and cakes on both occasions

The site flourished in 2013 despite the late spring, then very dry weather, but crops flourished and the site has looked wonderful. Regular working parties, take place which are always good fun, raise the community spirit and we continue to oversee the upkeep of our fences, water use, and the care of the poly tunnel.

Our wild flower area has provided excellent forage for our bees and has been a delightful spectacle!

We have some ideas in the pipeline, which will need funding, and we are looking at fundraising ideas as well as applying to the Lottery and other agencies. We have been busy with our visiting school and continued to research the Community Garden Project, which has proved to be a worthwhile activity for the children who have visited, and has been well supported and encouraged by our landlord Roger Pauli.

Last year we did lots of fundraising with donations made for jam, pickles, honey and pies. The Association organised an apple pressing weekend which was very successful and lots of fun!

Our community was strengthened in 2013 by the communal activities held on site, culminating in a bonfire on the 2nd December, where the soup, hot dogs, mulled cider and mince pies went down a treat!

On a sad note we lost one of our first plot holder in February Alan Massey

At the close of last year there were no vacant plots. 24 Full Plots, 15 Half Plots. 39 in total.

We have our own website on <http://kinverallotments.weebly.com> looked after by John Burrows

The motto of the association is "To share with other what has been shared with us"

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#### 5.12 Kinver Minibus for the Elderly and Disabled

The "Red Bus" has been operating since 1976 providing transport for the elderly and less mobile members of the community. The project is run by a Charitable Trust managed by committee of voluntary Trustees nominated by the various organisations that make use of the bus. It is run entirely by volunteers.

The minibus provides a service that picks up individuals from home to attend a number of local activities including the Senior Citizen's and Senior Activities Clubs, the weekly St Peter's Church Service and Methodist Fellowship Meetings and for the Voluntary Bureau's twice-monthly Luncheon Club and weekly shopping service.

Each user organisation contributes towards the running costs of the bus but for a large proportion of its income the Trust relies on donations from other sources. It is particularly appreciative of the generous support received each year from the Anthony and Gwendoline Wylde Memorial Charity, the Ken Wrigley Memorial Charity and the Rotary Club of Kinver and additionally, this year, Kinver Parish Council.

Secretary Colin Weaver

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5.13 THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION KINVER AND ENVILLE BRANCH.

The Remembrance Service on the 10th November was so well attended that there was standing room only in St. Mary's Church Enville. Thank you for your support. Last year the Poppy Appeal raised £10,705.53. My thanks must go to the British Legion members and the volunteers for collecting, and to the churches, schools, traders, pubs and KCSA that kindly had poppy boxes for us. My thanks must also go to the people who counted the collection for the wonderful help they gave.

Lin Hingley. poppy appeal organiser.

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#### 5.14 BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION.

This year we are again competing against other villages in Staffordshire and South Staffordshire for the title of being the Best Kept Village.

Two years ago we gained first place in South Staffordshire, last year we gained Highly Commended. Although the people of Kinver worked hard in litter picking, weeding and keeping their front gardens in wonderful condition. However we were very disappointed with the few dog walkers who fail to clean up their dog poo. Apparently the judges found dog poo on our High Street and the playing fields and Brockley's Walk Park. Because of this we lost points from our score.

I plead to you, please carry a plastic bag with you and scoop up your dog poo and put it in the appropriate bin or take it home with you, it should not be left to other people to have clean it up!

The judges will be judging at our village from the 1st MAY to the end of JULY so we need everyone to help and pull together so that we can gain first place again. I know we can because we are very proud of our beautiful village and the environment we live in and a clean and tidy village can attract in more visitors.

Thank you to all the people and organisations who helped last year. PLEASE put your names forward again.

PLEASE, PLEASE HELP. We can only achieve success with the help of many volunteers so if you have a little free time please contact me to volunteer and keep your village free from litter and weeds and looking beautiful.

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6. **ANY OTHER MATTERS RAISED BY THE PUBLIC**

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