

## Apologies!

We apologise that there has not been a newsletter for some time. 2013 has been a very busy year and we are now planning to produce 3 newsletters every year. As you will see, this is a 'bumper' edition so we hope you find it interesting. We are also committed to keeping our website up to date, so please go online to keep in touch with our activities:

[www.kingsmeadpc.org.uk](http://www.kingsmeadpc.org.uk)

As always, if you do have any comments, questions or require Parish Council support, please contact our Clerk, Jo O'Donoghue, using either her email address: [clerk@kingsmeadpc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@kingsmeadpc.org.uk) or by phone: 01606 41862.

## Tree Work

**During the Spring**, we carried out a significant amount of work on the woodland in and around the Parish. This work was necessary for a combination of health and safety reasons and also essential maintenance where areas have been neglected for 10 or more years. At the time, there was some concern from residents regarding this work, however, we hope that several months on, everyone can see that many areas are much improved and our local wildlife has not been impacted.



This winter, tree work will mainly focus on pond and play areas. This will include the Kensington Way play area mentioned later in the newsletter. Most of the work will remove the dense growth on trees and shrubs, and will thin our overgrown areas. Some specific areas of woodland will be pruned to control the height and density of the foliage. All of this work will be carried out between now and the end of March 2014 by professional contractors.

## Diary Dates

\* 3rd Mon every month —  
Parish Council Meeting, 7.30pm,  
Kingsmead Primary School. Public  
open forum starts the meeting.

\* Xmas celebrations

Wed 4th December 2013, 5pm

This year join us for carols around  
the tree at the Kingfisher.



# Contact Us

Clerk: Jo O'Donoghue

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Telephone: 01606 41862

## Kingsmead Wild Flower Meadow

Our first experimental wildflower meadow was sown in May. The site is down by the River Weaver on unused land below the apartments (adjoining the fisherman's car park and Bickley Close). We decided to sow one half of the site, and leave the other half to nature—we will report back on progress, but there is some wildflower growth so we are keeping our fingers crossed!

### Why sow wild flowers?

There has been national support for the growth of wild flower 'meadows' in urban areas. There are many advantages which obviously include the provision of a fantastic habitat for insects and birds, restoring wild flower numbers and challenging bland, grass, landscapes. For Kingsmead, a wild flower meadow also provides us with an opportunity to reduce the maintenance cost of a large area which is neither landscaped or rough. We hope to identify other potential areas for wildflower sowing in future months.

## 20 is Plenty Success

Well done to the very patient residents of Monarch Drive! The road has recently been approved as a '20 is plenty' route. Fairly shortly, new signage will be installed on the road to ensure residents and students are aware of the new 20 miles per hour limit.

If you feel your road should be a '20 is plenty' route, please contact us and we can explain the survey process which requires the support of your neighbours.



### Pond Life by Councillor Laura Hoey

There are five ponds in Kingsmead Village under the care of the Parish Council. Over the years they have been neglected and have become overgrown and full of weeds. Upon expert advice, we have started a two-year plan of renovation.

In February 2013, we started by thinning the trees bushes around the Duke's Way ponds to let in more light and provide residents and visitors with a more pleasant environment. By doing this, the Duke's Way ponds have already improved.

However, recently we have been advised to carefully thin the alders around the duck-feeding pond (these trees are not good for pond-life) by a third in autumn 2013 and improve the bank area for wild-life. We will plant some trees and marginal plants around this pond to improve the aspect. If duck-lovers could feed the ducks on the grass, this would greatly improve the water quality.

We are currently investigating the 'dried-up' pond to discover why the water is draining away or not draining into the pond.

The Regency Way pond is totally overgrown with reeds and we have been advised to completed clean out the reeds apart from around the edges. We will try to save any fish and plants; making good any grass verges etc. So please bear with us. We will try to minimise any disruption.

The ponds along Moor Park Way are completely overgrown and one looks very deep and is fenced off. At the moment, we are unsure as to what to do with them.

We would welcome any suggestions or feed-back from residents for works to commence 2014. Please contact the clerk if you have any questions or comments about any of the ponds in Kingsmead village.



### Get involved at Poors Wood...

Work with Cheshire Wildlife Trust and help to make improvements to the nature reserve by making paths, planting wild flowers and many other practical conservation tasks. The group meets the 3rd Sunday of every month @ the fisherman's car park 10.30-4pm Buckingham Drive, Kingsmead. Bring your wellies and waterproofs—all tools and training are provided. For more information contact Matt Allmark – [mallmark@cheshirewt.org.uk](mailto:mallmark@cheshirewt.org.uk) or on 01948 820728 at the Cheshire Wildlife Trust.



## And then to Park Life!

As promised, we have looked at the first children's park work for 2013. Whilst all parks will be subject to routine maintenance and health and safety checks, we will gradually update run down parks as we have the funds to do so. Our first parks identified for improvement were Kingslawn Close and Kensington Way. In time for the summer holidays, we re-vamped **Kingslawn Close** park with some new play equipment, removed dangerous items and installed new benches outside the park for our young adults to meet. Over the summer, large groups of children regularly played in the updated park with parents meeting up too.

In addition to this, we have installed new gates to the park and to the opening onto the Spine Road—a concern for many parents. **On this note, please do not prop the gate onto the Spine Road open—it defeats the point of it being there!!!**



**And so to Kensington Way.....**After much consideration, we have decided to take a slightly different approach to this park. At the moment, there are two areas of 'park' - one small children's play area, and a field for older children. Unfortunately, both are significantly run down and surrounded by very oppressive shrubbery and trees, making them dark and unpleasant. On this basis, we feel it would be inappropriate to install new equipment before addressing the overall atmosphere in this large area, and taking the opportunity to make it into a place that inspires safe play.

Over the next few months, we will clear the 'woodland' on the perimeter of the small children's park. This will include removing the roof of the hut entrance which currently provides a very dark meeting place. Whilst residents will have no view into the park, the oppressive nature of the woodland will be gone, leaving us with a walled park area which will be gated appropriately. Once we have opened up this area, we will look to obtain grant funding for new park equipment.

## Litter, Rubbish, Fly Tipping.....

We have had a number of complaints about the litter in the Parish. Whilst we are reviewing the bins available and rubbish collection cycles, this will be at a cost. Please show respect for the Parish and your neighbours by disposing of your litter properly and in your own bins. The Parish bins are not for resident's excess dog food cans, or other unpleasant waste.

We will be engaging the support of the shops and the college to help to keep our environment clean. We know that pizza boxes block bins and therefore increase the likelihood of litter spilling out onto pavements. However, everyone can play a part. Take pride in our environment, and encourage children and young adults to also do so. Report issues to the Parish Clerk.



## Thanks Bill , Patrick, Steve and John

Our Chairman Bill Simpson has retired from the Parish Council to focus on his home life and hobbies. We would like to thank Bill, on behalf of the Parish Council and the community, for all his efforts. Bill has been working on behalf of Kingsmead residents for many years, having also Chaired the Kingsmead Resident's Association prior to the Council. Thank you Bill for everything, and enjoy the time off.

We would also like to extend our thanks to **Patrick Warner, Steve O'Donnell** and **John Ghader** who have also resigned from the Parish Council during the last few months. A combination of work commitments and house moves had left us a few Councillors short, however, we have also welcomed **Chris Reed, Andy Dawson** and **Tim Moore** to the Committee.

**1 more vacancy to fill—are you interested?** Contact the Parish Clerk for more details.

On Sunday, 10th November, councillors from Kingsmead Parish Council attended the Remembrance Day ceremony organised by Davenham British Legion. During the course of the ceremony a wreath was laid at the war memorial in Davenham on behalf of Kingsmead Parish in recognition and remembrance of those who committed the ultimate sacrifice and gave their lives in service to their country.

## Multi-Use Games Area

Last year, the top priority identified by the Kingsmead Community Council at the Primary School, was to install some form of multi-use games area within the school grounds, mainly to allow the children to continue to play games such as hockey, football and basketball at break and lunchtimes, even when the field is too wet to use. The school has now obtained some grant funding from the MBNA Foundation and funds from it's governors.

If there is anyone in the local community who has an interest or expertise in this area, we would love to hear from you so that we can make the most of this opportunity to provide a great resource for the children of the school and possibly the wider community.

Please contact Judith Annells, School Business Manager on 01606 333470 or email [admin@kingsmead.cheshire.sch.uk](mailto:admin@kingsmead.cheshire.sch.uk)

**Girlguiding**  
1st Leftwich Rainbows  
for 5-7 year olds  
Meeting Place: The County High School Leftwich  
Monday 4:30 - 5:30 Term time  
Contact Diane Neilson for more information  
01606 352184

Games  
Crafts  
Singing  
Sleepovers  
Sports  
Girlguiding Events

## Other stuff.....

- Did you notice the Clock tower was painted for the first time this Summer?
- We are getting ready to tender for next year's landscaping contract—are you interested in taking part? Contact us.
- Land encroachment—please think if you have expanded your garden onto Parish land. We cannot transfer the land to you; we are not allowed. For health, safety and legal reasons, we cannot let you stay on it either. It is a waste of other residents Council Tax precept if we have to use legal support....
- Social Media—during November we will be finding out how we can officially use social media as a communication channel for Kingsmead Parish. We will keep you posted, literally :-)



## Parish Council meetings

Kingsmead Parish Council meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month. We hold a majority of our meetings in Kingsmead Primary School Hall from 7.30pm. We have a public open forum for the first 15 minutes of the meeting and those who are interested are welcome to stay for the rest session. To formally raise an item with the Parish Council, please contact our Clerk, Jo O'Donoghue, at least 4 days before the meeting – this will ensure you are added to the agenda.

**Next meeting—Monday 18th November 2013**

## Finally.....

**We hope you have enjoyed this newsletter and we wish you an enjoyable Christmas and a very Happy New Year!**

# Contact Us

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