

# NEWSLETTER



The latest news from Kingsthorpe Parish Council

ISSUE 3 • WINTER 2023



## WREATH LAYING CEREMONY TRIBUTE TO THE QUEEN

Following the sad passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, a short wreath-laying ceremony took place on Saturday 10th September at the Kingsthorpe War Memorial.

Cllr Samuel Kilby-Shaw, accompanied by Cllrs Titus Ajayi, Rachael Ball, Sally Beardsworth, Aishat Oguntuga, Dilip Kumar, Mamun Ali, and local residents came together at this time of sombre reflection.

Master Ali ▶



## WELCOME

Firstly, I would like to thank my fellow Councillors for electing me as Chairman, once again, and to congratulate Cllr Titus Ajayi on being elected Vice-Chair.



Thank you to everyone who came to the Annual Parish Meeting and the Council Roadshows. It's always interesting to hear comments from our many residents.

The Council has lots of exciting projects underway for the coming year, including the reopening of the Library and a Community Plan.

The Council year started on a high note with the celebration of The Queen's Jubilee, but then proved to be like no other, with the passing of Her Royal Highness Queen Elizabeth II, the Proclamation of a new monarch, the appointment of a new Prime Minister, and it certainly felt like the hottest summer on record here in Kingsthorpe!

I'd also like to mention the actions the Parish Council is taking to respond to Climate Change. Although many of the actions needed are beyond the scale of our reach, we have focused on working with local groups and inviting residents to join our Climate Change Committee.

As we head into the following months, many people in our community will likely face considerable hardship, and it is my hope that our Parish Council will continue to support many of those local charities and voluntary organisations which will be mobilising to help those in need.

Finally, we will continue to listen to residents' comments and concerns and in so doing will endeavour to do our best for the Parish and work hard for the community.

*Sam*  
Cllr Samuel Kilby-Shaw  
Chairman

## WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

We want to hear what's going on in the community so please let us know your news. Email us at [clerk@kingsthorpe-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@kingsthorpe-pc.gov.uk)



@kingsthorpePC



@kingsthorpePC

[www.kingsthorpe-pc.gov.uk](http://www.kingsthorpe-pc.gov.uk)

## QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE

June last year was a very special month as we celebrated the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Despite the drizzly weather first thing in the mornings, it didn't stop residents throughout the Parish, getting together all over the Bank Holiday weekend to mark the big occasion. It was wonderful to see so many homes decorated around the Parish.

The Council agreed a pot of funding to allocate to local community groups and charities to help fund festivities, prizes for two competitions, as well as purchasing five commemorative benches, one for each ward.

Thank you to everyone who entered our competitions. We received some wonderful entries. Congratulations to Mr and Mrs Carpenter for winning the Festive Front Garden Competition and to Miss Isabelle Clarke-Rogers (aged 9) for her wonderful Jubilee poem (see right).



## ‘CELEBRATE OUR QUEEN ELIZABETH’

*Our Queen Elizabeth II has served us right,  
Worked equally hard in her royal days and slept at night,  
Our Majesty has protected and led us through peace time and wars,  
She also has been involved in making many fair laws.  
From 1952 she has led for 70 years,  
She has inspired confidence to us and her fellow peers.  
For as long as time continues, she will be remembered through life,  
A daughter, a sister, a mother, a wife.  
Her selfless service to country and commonwealth shines,  
Dedicated, committed . never have we heard her whine.  
So, hang out the bunting and eat cream teas,  
Strike up the band and dance with glee.  
Celebrate this occasion across the land,  
Thank you, Ma’am, I’m glad you are mine!*



By Miss Isabelle Clarke-Rogers  
Aged 9  
Winner of the Jubilee  
Poem Competition

## JUBILEE TREE - PLANTING A LASTING TRIBUTE TO QUEEN ELIZABETH II

Kingsthorpe residents were invited to “Plant a Tree for the Jubilee” supporting the Queen’s Green Canopy. This UK-wide tree planting initiative was created to mark Her Majesty’s Platinum Jubilee in 2022 and to help the environment by planting trees sustainably.

To form part of the late Queen’s Green Canopy and create a legacy in honour of The Queen’s leadership of the nation over the past 70 years, Anthony Bentley, on behalf of the Friends of Kingsthorpe New Churchyard Pocket Park, Cllrs, Tony Ward, Rachael Ball, Sally Beardsworth and children and teachers from Kingsthorpe Village Primary School were welcomed to the park for a tree planting ceremony.



Mr Anthony Bentley and Cllr Tony Ward ▲

The tree is a Cherry tree called Pink Perfection. Described as a small deciduous tree with a compact crown of ascending branches. Leaves open bronze, later green, with some orange tints in autumn. Double, light pink flowers 5cm in width in drooping clusters, bloom in late spring.

This species of cherry tree was developed in the UK and has been in cultivation since 1935. It also received the Royal Horticultural Society’s Award of Garden Merit in 2002.

## GRANTS AWARDED

The Council welcomes and values the work of local voluntary groups and non-profit organisations, so each year it makes an annual provision. The Council has a policy for making grants to groups and organisations which contribute to the welfare of the community by improving or supporting activities and facilities. The application form and policy are available at [www.kingsthorpe-pc.gov.uk](http://www.kingsthorpe-pc.gov.uk), alternatively, please email [clerk@kingsthorpe-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@kingsthorpe-pc.gov.uk).

Northampton Leisure Trust	Doorstep Sport Club	£2,000
Shine Development Concept	Support vulnerable families and residents	£1,440
Obelisk Spinney Pocket Park	Trail improvement	£534
Friends of Thornton Park	Outdoor activity event	£1,050
KIDZLINK	Youth Club	£2,000
N&L Railway	Tools	£500
Time for Tots	Class materials	£500
Kingsthorpe Jets	Park event	£2,000
Kingsthorpe Team Ministry	Disabled toilet facilities	£6,500
Chicken Rescue (Kingsthorpe)	Chicken crates	£2,000

## HELPING TACKLE THE COST-OF-LIVING CRISIS

Kingsthorpe Parish Council made a pledge to allocate £10,000 to support its most vulnerable and struggling families. Whilst it is very limited in the direct help it can give; the decision was made to donate and work with the Church of England and St Aidan's St Vincent de Paul Society to bring together key resources to help its residents across Kingsthorpe.

The money helped fund St David's Church Foodbank, Christmas food parcels for families from our local schools and provide gifts and support to some of our local elderly and housebound residents. The money will also continue to enable both Churches to offer warm places for residents.



Cllr Mike O'Connor presenting cheques to Ann Comerford, Treasurer on behalf of St Aidan's St Vincent de Paul Society



Revd Canon Jane Butler Team Rector for Church of England Kingsthorpe



## BLANKETS PURCHASED TO HELP OUT KINGSTHORPE RESIDENTS

We know that so many people are struggling to keep warm at the moment and wanted to help in some small way. In December, Council purchased 100 Blankets. In the run up to Christmas, the main man himself was busy and unable to help, but fortunately Cllr Arthur Newbury very kindly stepped in, and handed out blankets to our residents who were in the most need, including distribution to St David's Foodbank and homeless organisations.

Cllr Arthur Newbury with Cheryl Lowe, St David's Foodbank ▶



## CHICKEN RESCUE UK

Chicken Rescue UK are passionate about rescuing and rehoming chickens from commercial UK egg production.

Chickens that produce the eggs are deemed not commercially viable at a mere 72 weeks of age. It's around then that their egg production naturally starts to slow down, and farmers look to replace them with newer, younger chickens who will keep egg production rates up. These chickens are sent to slaughter to be used in a range of products despite a potential to live from 5-10 years; their lives are cut short.

This is when Chicken Rescue UK steps in. They are a 100% volunteer run community interest company. They are associated with a number of farmers around the UK from whom they purchase these hens in order to give them a new life with loving new owners.

Rescue chickens find their way to smallholdings, allotments, schools, homes in towns, cities, and the countryside. You might not realise that chickens make great pets, and you get the added bonus of fresh, home-produced eggs. If you'd like to volunteer your time to help rescue or if you can offer a lovely retirement home to some chickens, please or contact Jacquie on 07852 966453

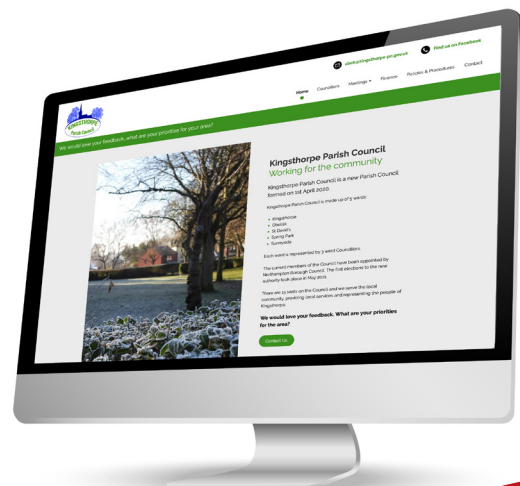


▲ Ms Jacquie Breakwell, Miss J Gold

## NEW PARISH WEBSITE

January will see the launch of our new website. We hope this will make it quicker and easier for residents to interact with us. The brief was to make the existing website simpler to use, and more responsive, ensuring that visitors will be able to find what they are looking for within a few clicks.

The web address remains the same at [www.kingsthorpe-pc.gov.uk](http://www.kingsthorpe-pc.gov.uk)



## YOUR 2022/23 PARISH COUNCIL BUDGET EXPLAINED

The Parish Council is committed to deliver, protect, and enhance community facilities, improve the environment, delivering aspirations to help reduce its carbon footprint and improve local services and facilities making Kingsthorpe an even better place to live.

The key priority this year is to re-open the Library. So far, Council has supported £30,000 in Grant Aid. In addition, we are hopeful by the end of March 2023, to have completed the installation of five 'Welcome' signs, three Speed Activated signs, five Jubilee benches, two recycling bins, additional bike racks and a Defibrillator. We will also be looking this year to introducing Parish Floral and Christmas displays.

Members of the Council are fully aware of the cost-of-living crisis and the need to be prudent, so estimates and proposed expenditure were considered very carefully, as well as a review of the level of General Reserves held by Council.

This year the Parish Council has requested a precept of £300,000, which is a rise of £79,750 +34% on the 2022/23 figure. Last year we reduced the amount you paid by -2.9%, however, to incorporate the running costs of the Library and

other community projects planned, raising money through the precept was necessary.

Residents' Council Tax bills in real terms will show as £41.82 per annum per household, or £3.49 per month or 80p a week. This is less than the national average of £74.94, and we hope will represent value for money.

Residents in Bands A-C will pay less and those in receipt of Council Tax Support will be unaffected. Bands E to H will pay more.

**The full budget can be found on our website in the Finance/ Budget Section, and the Council invites any resident with questions to get in touch.**



## CONNECTING WITH TAIWAN

On the 29th April 2022, Mr Kelly Hsieh, the Representative of the Taipei Representative Office in the UK, and his colleagues be Dr Pin-Chuan Chen, Director of Cultural Division, Mr Andy Bi, Director of Education Affairs, and Ms Maggie Fang-Ju Kuo Assistant Director, Political Division, met with Councillors from Kingsthorpe Parish Council, West Northamptonshire Council and Northampton Town Council to discuss UK-Taiwan Relations

Cllr Kilby-Shaw, Chairman commented:

***"It was a great honour to meet with The Representative and his colleagues.***

***Taiwan has a rich history and culture. It is a thriving democracy and has an advanced economy. There is a great deal that our countries have to offer to each other. There are many opportunities to learn about, and showcase, one another's distinct culture and traditional arts and crafts and music through the Taiwan National Center for Traditional Arts, and for our local schools to be partnered with schools in Taiwan through the International Exchange window. The Council will be looking into whether these initiatives will be of benefit to the Parish."***



## KINGSTHORPE COMMUNITY LIBRARY

The Library is set to open its doors again! After being closed for two years, members voted unanimously at its meeting held on Wednesday 28th September 2022, to re-open the Library thus protecting its long-term future.

This is a very exciting project for the Council. It will provide a very worthwhile community facility, fit for the future of our growing and changing parish.

Council is now working with West Northamptonshire Council to finalise the Terms of the Lease. As part of the project, the vision is, to open 35 hours per week with the help of two full-time members of staff and volunteers.



## PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS - ALL WELCOME

Residents are welcome to attend any Council or Committee meeting and can speak to the members about an agenda item under public participation.

The Parish Council normally meets at 7.00pm, on the third Wednesday of each month (except August). The Planning Committee meets at 6pm, with the Climate Change and Environment Committee at 6.45pm on the first Monday of each month (except August)

**Times and dates of meetings are published on the Parish Council website.**



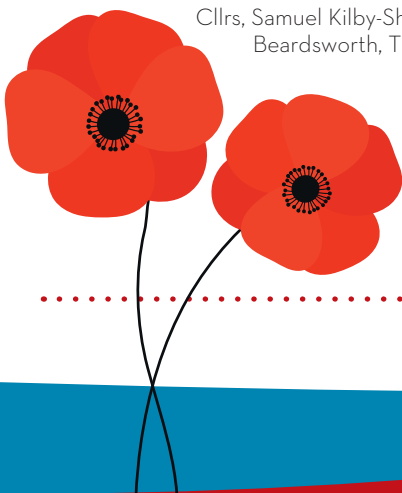
## REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

The Remembrance service took place on 13th November 2020 and was extremely well attended. A beautiful service was led by Rev. Jonathan Lee, Curate and took place at Kingsthorpe War Memorial. This provided an opportunity for residents to come together and remember those members of the armed forces who have fought and died in the line of duty. Cllrs, Samuel Kilby-Shaw, Rachael Ball, Sally Beardsworth, Titus Ajayi and Arthur Newbury attended and laid a wreath on behalf of our residents.



Cllrs, Samuel Kilby-Shaw, Sally Beardsworth, Titus Ajayi ▶

Cllrs, Rachael Ball, Titus Ajayi ▲



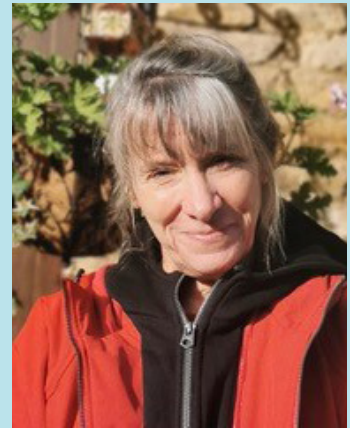
## WELCOME TO OUR NEW COUNCILLOR!

We are pleased to announce that we have filled our vacant position with the co-option of Eluned Lewis-Nichol. Cllr Lewis-Nichol officially took her seat in October, representing the Obelisk Ward

*“I have lived in Northampton for over 30 years. I raised my children here and taught at Northampton College.*

*I am a campaigner for safer streets and a supporter of community activism.*

*I am really looking forward to representing the Obelisk ward, along with Cllrs, Steve Miller and Mike O’Connor, and to working towards making Kingsthorpe a cleaner, greener place with well supported community organisations”.*



## YOUR COUNCILLORS

<b>Kingsthorpe Ward</b>	<b>Cllr Samuel Kilby-Shaw</b>	01604 979460	skilby-shaw@kingsthorpe-pc.gov.uk
	<b>Cllr Rachael Ball</b>	01604 979460	rball@kingsthorpe-pc.gov.uk
	<b>Cllr Sally Beardsworth</b>	01604 721216	sbeardsworth@kingsthorpe-pc.gov.uk
<b>Obelisk Ward</b>	<b>Cllr Steve Miller</b>	01604 979460	smiller@kingsthorpe-pc.gov.uk
	<b>Cllr Mike O’Connor</b>	01604 979460	moconnor@kingsthorpe-pc.gov.uk
	<b>Cllr Eluned Lewis-Nichol</b>	01604 979460	elewisnichol@kingsthorpe-pc.gov.uk
<b>Spring Park Ward</b>	<b>Cllr Bryan Lewin</b>	07920 108300	blewin@kingsthorpe-pc.gov.uk
	<b>Cllr Elaine Miller</b>	01604 979460	emiller@kingsthorpe-pc.gov.uk
	<b>Cllr Arthur Newbury</b>	01604 979460	anewbury@kingsthorpe-pc.gov.uk
<b>Sunnyside Ward</b>	<b>Cllr Titus Ajayi</b>	07506 176540	tajayi@kingsthorpe-pc.gov.uk
	<b>Cllr Nilesh Parekh</b>	01604 979460	nparekh@kingsthorpe-pc.gov.uk
	<b>Cllr Tony Ward</b>	01604 979460	tward@kingsthorpe-pc.gov.uk
<b>St David’s Ward</b>	<b>Cllr Dilip Kumar</b>	07551 912890	dkumar@kingsthorpe-pc.gov.uk
	<b>Cllr Mamun Ali</b>	07828 801317	mali@kingsthorpe-pc.gov.uk
	<b>Cllr Aishat Oguntuga</b>	01604 979460	aoguntuga@kingsthorpe-pc.gov.uk

## AND FINALLY...

**For all information or for up-to-date Council news, please contact us on 01604 979460, visit our website at [www.kingsthorpe-pc.gov.uk](http://www.kingsthorpe-pc.gov.uk) or follow us on Facebook.**



@kingsthorpePC



@kingsthorpePC

[www.kingsthorpe-pc.gov.uk](http://www.kingsthorpe-pc.gov.uk)