

South Kilworth News

July 2026



South Kilworth Directory

Name	Contact details	Description
Allotment Committee	Les Lucas 07712296376	For the green-fingered aspirants
Bowls Club	Gerry Byrne 01858 575080 gerrypatrickbyrne@gmail.com keithrickhuss@gmail.com	New or potential members are welcome to come along on Wednesdays at 3 pm, for a roll-up, information or advice.
Community Café	Tina Morley 07786496041	Community café is usually held 2 nd Tuesday of the month in the Village Hall, 11 am-1 pm. See posters around the village for details.
First Saturday Weavers at SK Village Hall	Helen Brotherton 01455554647 helen.brotherton@icloud.com	An informal group of hand weavers who meet on the first Saturday of the month
FOSKS PTA	FOSKS@ski.learnat.uk	Friends of South Kilworth School, Parent Teacher Association.
Kid's football	Brian Robbins 07795105591	On the village hall playing fields
Kilworth Help Group WhatsApp	To be added, WhatsApp administrators Kate 07990504734 or Suzanne 07889449180	Set up to help people during Covid, but now used for general enquiries (not advertising). Covers North and South Kilworth.
Kilworth Village's Facebook pages	1. The Kilworth villages and 2. North and South Kilworth village.	To join the groups, you need to have a Facebook account and search for the groups to request to join.
KOIL	Mark and Sarah: admin@koil-group.com	Group ordering of Oil
Korks (ladies only)	Contact Claire Hubbard on 07590254043 to be added to the Korks WhatsApp group.	A ladies' social group from the Village meets monthly. Add your name to the mailing list.
Parish Council	Parish Clerk: Karen Brown parishclerk@southkilworth.co.uk	Meet on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:15 pm. Chair: Phil Alcock 575978 philalcock@aol.com
SK Security WhatsApp group	Pete Moore 07775795761	Alerts regarding security issues in the village are posted with a link to the Community Police. Contact Pete to be added.
Skittles Teams	Ray Dorman 07780846002 Tracey 07733235306 (Ladies team)	Games take place at the pub
South Kilworth Art Group	Maggy Roberts 07912031816 and 01858682173 magsroberts@yahoo.co.uk	Thursdays, 9.30 am to 12.00 Midday, Village Hall
South Kilworth Neighbourhood Plan	Contact the Parish Council	www.harborough.gov.uk/directory_record/2256/south_kilworth_neighbourhood_plan
South Kilworth News	sknews@southkilworth.co.uk	Community news for the village – contact us with ideas, photos & news.
South Kilworth Village Website	Kevin Coyne: admin@southkilworth.co.uk	southkilworth.co.uk.
St Nicholas Church	Avon Swift office Lutterworth: 01455 558797 https://www.avonswift.co.uk/ https://www.facebook.com/avonswiftbenefice	Administrator: Karen Morgan: 01858 882032 PCC Secretary: Joanna.wilson17@btinternet.com & 01455 558 372 Church Warden: James Perowne 07810 886030
Table Tennis	Bob Morley 575832 bobjmorley1953@gmail.com	Thursday at 7 pm in the Village Hall
Travelling lunch club	Alison Anderton: 0870 240 6993	Lutterworth Age Concern currently has two travelling lunch clubs, travelling to different pubs each month.
Villages Community Lunch	Jacky: 07776905898	First Wednesday of each month 12:00 – 2:00 pm The Belgrave Village Hall, North Kilworth – see poster in Snippets
Village Email circulation list	southkilworthlist@gmail.com	Send an email to become a member of this list. It is a post-box that doesn't reply! If you send something for circulation, please put your contact details in the email. Email addresses are never shared and cannot be used for commercial purposes.
Village Hall Committee	Secretary:Tina.morley@me.com 07786496041	Bookings: colinjedderrick@btinternet.com 07711054622
Women's Institute	nkilworth.wi@lrfwi.org	3 rd Thursday of the month at Belgrave village hall, N. Kilworth LE17 6EZ at 7.30 p.m. Visitors and new members welcome.
Yoga	Jessie McQuillan: 07860937892	Tuesdays, ladies 6 pm-7:30 pm in the Village Hall. All abilities and those new to yoga are welcome.
Youth Club - SKY (8-16yrs)	Kay Hillier, Youth Projects and Mentoring Project Coordinator 07704614154 kay.hillier@hcyc.org.uk	SKY Youth Club, all ages, meets in the village hall every Wednesday, 6:45-7:45 pm. Ages 11-16 only, 7:45 – 8:45 pm. Admission is free.

From the Editorial Team



The next edition will be in September 2026, and the deadline for the submission of news and articles is 16 August 2026. The SK News is published every other month. The electronic version can be found on the South Kilworth website. Please send news, photos, and articles to sknews@southkilworth.co.uk. News that does not coincide with the printed SK News may be uploaded to the South Kilworth website. Links to our advertisers can also be found on the South Kilworth website.

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<https://www.novatesolutions.co.uk/>

Cover Picture taken from Tanser Cottage.

Additional pictures provided by Elaine Derrick

South Kilworth Snippets

South Kilworth's next **CAFÉS**

July 14TH

August 11th



Free cake and a cuppa

Village Hall 11-1pm

Save the Dates for 2026 St Nicholas' Church, South Kilworth

7.30pm Saturday 24th October

Dolly Parton Tribute

Tickets £15 to include a glass of wine – ALL proceeds to Rainbows and the Laura Centre

7.30pm Friday 11th December

Salvation Army Band

Tickets £10



5.00pm Thursday 24th December

Christmas Carols

For further information and tickets - COLIN

[http://colinjedderrick@btinternet.com](mailto:colinjedderrick@btinternet.com)

07711 054622



Church Services at St. Nicholas' South Kilworth

All very welcome!

Sunday 26th July 8.30 am

Sunday 30th August 8.30 am

short services of Holy Communion

*The church is open for all visitors every Sunday
and Wednesday 10.00am - 4.00pm*

Village Community Lunch

A welcoming monthly group to meet fellow villagers, share good company and enjoy a complimentary lunch together. For all residents of any age from North & South Kilworth, Husbands Bosworth, Walton and Kimcote.

First Wednesday of each month 12:00 – 2:00 pm

The Belgrave Village Hall, North Kilworth

Upcoming Dates: 5 August & 2 Sept 2026

Please call Jacky if interested in attending or would like further information 07776905898. Funded by Harborough District Council Ward Improvement Grant. Facilitated by Amber Community Interest Company.

**MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT**



Friday 25th September at South Kilworth Village Hall
10.30-12.30

Refreshments, crafts, cakes, Tropic beauty products, Preserves by No 14, raffle, Long Buckby Ukelele Band.

Contact Liz 07802 154593 for information
or if you would like to have a stall

Women's Institute Invites New Members



The 3rd Thursday of the month in North Kilworth village hall at 7:30 pm, LE17 6EZ. For more information contact Elaine Derrick 07985935498. Visitors welcome.

Upcoming events:

16 July – A talk by Lorraine Tucker of String of Pearls Tai Chi. With Tai Chi demo and active participation.

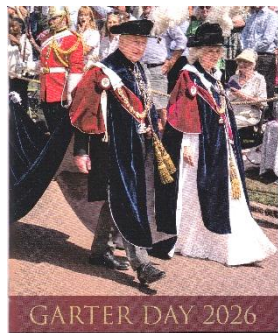
20 August – An afternoon garden party. Check updated time and location.

Raffle Prizes from Summer Proms Concert

1. Food hamper. Jackie Durbar ticket 144
2. Pack of 6 wines. Mary ticket 518
3. Meat Voucher from Morris's Butcher. Rachel Gardiner ticket 790
4. Bayliss & Hardy Gift set. Henry from Northampton band ticket 986
5. Candle set. Paul Gallayhan ticket 996
6. Pimms summer drink set. Mo ticket 870
7. Cookbook. Liz Biscombe ticket 389



From Crécy to Claret



We seem to have a Royal theme this edition, and June gave us a lot of royal theatre. The King's official birthday brought *Trooping the Colour* to Horse Guards Parade on 13th June, and two days later Windsor staged the rather more decorous — and considerably less televised — Garter Day procession and Installation Service. Cameras love a bearskin; they are less keen on 700-year-old prayer societies. So it fell to our own village insiders, James and Nicola Perowne, to give us a glimpse behind the pageantry, which they did with their customary good grace.

A Knighthood, Twice Over

Our readers will recall from our January 2023 profile that James took his first knighthood in 2000, while still serving in the Royal Navy. In July 2022, as his six years as Constable and Governor of Windsor Castle drew to a close — a few months before the death of Queen Elizabeth II — he and Nicola were among just eight guests invited to a private farewell luncheon with the Queen. Afterwards, in the drawing room, she handed James a box: his second knighthood, the Knight Commander of the Royal Victorian Order. A second knighthood, James explained, dispenses with the ceremony of the first. Asked by Rob how he'd reacted, he offered the sort of reply that has kept the British upper lip stiff for centuries: "Thank you, that is very kind."

Six-and-a-Half Centuries of Praying for Other People's Souls

This year, one of the Military Knights invited James and Nicola to Garter Day — the same procession James once led as Constable. The Order of the Garter itself is an ancient institution, founded by Edward III in 1348 in the afterglow of Crécy, and based at St George's Chapel, part of the College of St George. Alongside the King and up to 24 Knights and Ladies Companion (plus assorted royal and foreign supernumeraries, who thoughtfully don't count against the limit), the founding statutes created a second, humbler body: 26 "Alms Knights", later renamed Poor Knights — impoverished veterans, many ruined paying ransoms after Crécy, whose job was to pray four times daily for the souls of their grander colleagues. Divine intercession, it turned out, came with a salary: twelve pence a day, forty shillings a year, and free lodgings, which by any medieval standard was not a bad little sinecure.

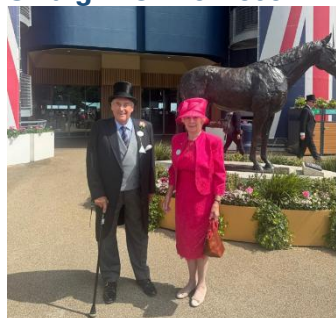
Henry VIII later trimmed the establishment to thirteen, and in 1833, William IV rebranded them the Military Knights of Windsor, a title they hold to this day. They now live in the Lower Ward opposite St George's, are retired Army officers rather than paupers, and no longer pray quite so much. Application, we're told, remains open to retired officers who have fallen on harder times.

The Day Itself at Windsor

At 11 am, the King and Queen received the three new Knights of the Garter in private, who swore an oath of allegiance. Lunch for some 65–70 guests followed in the Waterloo Apartments, James and Nicola among them; James, no stranger to the finer points of protocol, expressed a preference for claret over port, which the staff duly noted. He cut a dapper figure in his morning dress, spared this time the twenty-minute dash he remembers as Constable, when lunch ended with a sprint up three flights of stairs to change into naval uniform before leading the parade downhill by 2.45 pm. This year's pace was rather more leisurely: a spot in the garden of their friend Barry, one of the Military Knights, to watch the procession go by.

The order of march is, naturally, strict: the Band first, then the Constable and Governor of Windsor Castle, the Military Knights, the Officers of Arms (the heralds), the 24 elected Knights — including Princess Anne and Prince Edward — and finally the King and Queen. The service itself runs 35–40 minutes, during which the new Knights are installed in their own stalls, each with its banner and crest, freshly designed by a Garter Knight of Heraldry for anyone not already equipped with one. Afterwards, the senior royals process into the Horseshoe Cloister and depart by carriage, while everyone else makes do with a car.

Straight On to Ascot



Garter Day always falls on the Monday after the second Sunday in June, which conveniently sets up Royal Ascot for the Tuesday — this year, 16th June. James and Nicola attended as "TMOG" — Their Majesties' Official Guests Marquee — a distinction extended to Royal Household connections, for the 12 pm sitting among five tables of ten. The King, we're assured, arrived at 2 pm precisely. A lovely time, enjoyed by all, and one that we are happy to share vicariously.





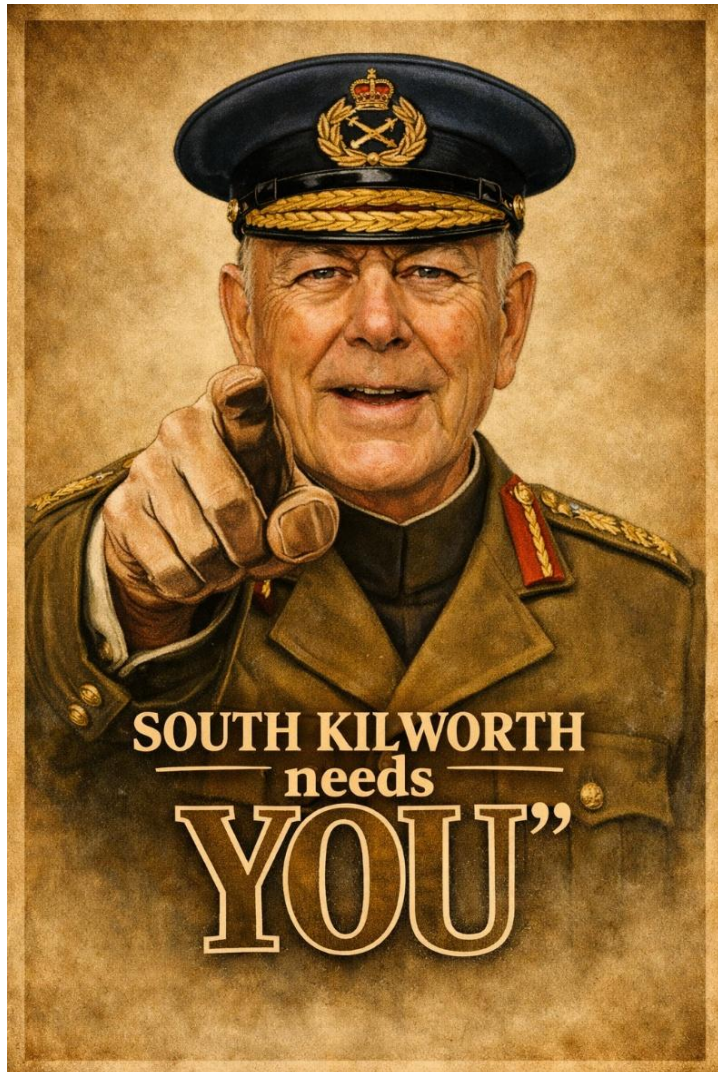
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The Future of the Village Hall

A key discussion of the Village Hall AGM was about the future of the Village Hall. It is not too late to have your say. Please check out the Village Hall News page in this edition and see how you can get involved.

You are needed!



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South Kilworth with their new playhouse thanks to Joseph Morris Butchers

Following an incident of vandalism last summer, South Kilworth Primary School was understandably left shaken and saddened. However, in the months since, an outpouring of kindness from local businesses, community groups and sports clubs has helped restore not only what was damaged, but also a deep sense of pride and belonging within the village community.

Reflecting on the experience, Headteacher of South Kilworth Primary School and St Andrew's Primary School in North Kilworth, Kerry Willars, said: "Last summer, our lovely village school, South Kilworth Primary, was targeted by vandals. Windows in our Woodland Hall were broken,

outdoor musical instruments along our Woodland Walk were damaged, and our early years play area was left in disarray, with learning equipment, toys and even the children's garden destroyed.

"This was a real low point for our school and staff, who work so hard to make the children's experience as positive as possible. It was a huge shock to our school community — something we had never experienced before — and it was difficult to believe that anyone would do this."

"But as soon as news spread, our friends and neighbours stepped forward to help. Over the past year, we have been overwhelmed by the generosity and kindness shown to us, and we feel incredibly fortunate to be part of such a supportive community."

Support came from across both Kilworth villages. Joseph Morris Butchers, an immediate neighbour of the school, kindly replaced the outdoor wooden playhouse and also donated a storage shed to St Andrew's Primary School to help keep play equipment safe. Meanwhile, Kilworth Springs Golf Club has offered golf lessons to Year 6 pupils at St



Andrew's, as well as hosting a special end-of-year celebration for South Kilworth leavers — opportunities that the children will remember for years to come.

This is just a snapshot of the many acts of kindness shown. Buckwell Organic

Farm and the Leicestershire Young Farmers have provided engaging trips and workshops, helping to inspire the children's learning beyond the classroom. Local Bowls Clubs have also welcomed pupils back for a second summer, introducing them to the enjoyment of this traditional sport.

Kerry continued: "Like all schools, our budgets are tight, so the support of local organisations who give their time, expertise and resources to enrich our curriculum through visits, assemblies and experiences is invaluable.

"We would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who has supported South Kilworth and St Andrew's over the past year. Your kindness and generosity truly reflect the spirit of our communities — you have made a lasting difference to our children."

Georgie Willock,

Engagement and Comms Coordinator, Learn Academies Trust



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Saturday 7.30 am – 1.00 pm



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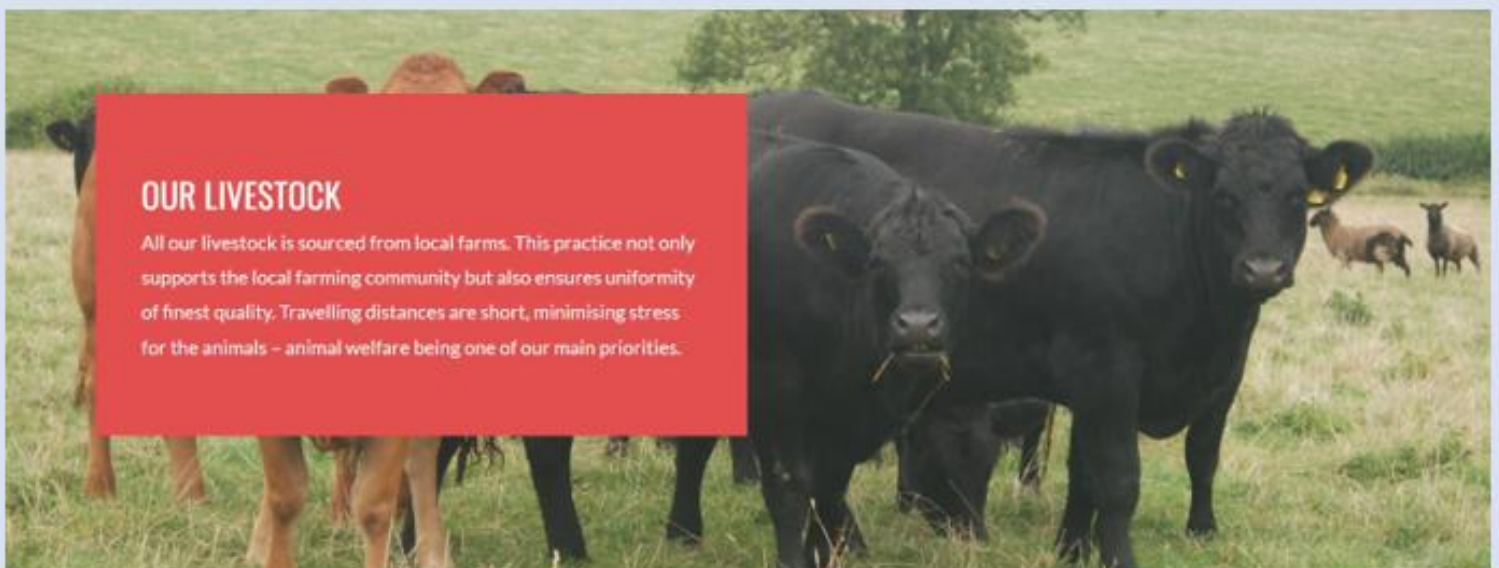
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FUTURE OF THE YOUTH CLUB

You may have heard a rumour that the weekly SKY Youth Club in the Village Hall will be closing at the end of term - this is not the case. Unfortunately, HCYC, who run the club, have lost their lottery funding, and so will be having to charge full price, rather than the 50% subsidised price we've enjoyed to date. We are confident that we can find the funds ourselves to cover the Autumn term and are applying for a variety of different grants to make sure the Youth Club continues into 2027.

The good news is that as we have worked hard this year to improve numbers attending and are now full and have been able to welcome children from neighbouring villages and Lutterworth, and we can increase places to accommodate more young people.

We are fortunate to still be sponsored by the local CIC Windfarm Initiative for over half of the funds needed, but we still need to raise a considerable amount of money. So, if you know anyone who can help, please let us know.

Phil Alcock, South Kilworth Parish Council
07825057363

Bob Morley, Village Hall Management Committee
07785397233



Advance Notice – St Nicholas' Church

After many years, the church is going to be internally redecorated. The work will hopefully commence on 7th September and may last for up to 3 weeks. During this time, the building may not be fully accessible to visitors, although the churchyard will continue to be open. Nearer the time, there will be further details placed on notices at the church gates. We apologise for any disruption, but hopefully the redecoration will restore the inside of the church to its former glory.

St Nicholas's church PCC



Gym Equipment near the MUGA

The Gym equipment was installed by the Parish Council for all to use. Villagers are encouraged to make use of it for general fitness, resistance training, mobility and flexibility or help with rehabilitation after injury.

Gerry Byrne, PC

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KORKS – Ladies Social Group

Korks is a ladies' social group from the Village, and all ladies are welcome to join. You need to join the KORKS WhatsApp group to find out about events. You will be notified at least a month before the event of all the details. You can then sign up for the event if you are interested. If you are not on the KORKS list, please WhatsApp Claire on 07590254043 to be added.

Date	Event	Organiser
20 July	MakeUp Masterclass by Bliss & Beauty	Toni
August	Walk and Pub Meal	Vic
2 Sept	Talk: Rise & Decline of the Country House - Len Holden, Cotesbach	Claire D
Sept	Comedy Night	Claire H
Oct/Nov	Supper Club	Tina
7 Dec	Christmas Wreath Making with Vicky	Caroline
TBC	Archery (Buckwell Lodge Farm)	<i>Volunteer please!</i>

In May, the Korks group enjoyed a lovely evening in Cotesbach, attending a Ladies Full Moon Circle, organised by Claire D and Lucy.

Sitting outside in the beautiful countryside, they learned about cyclical living and how the moon and planets can influence mood and energy. They also explored ways to harness these rhythms to support wellbeing and personal growth.

The evening was both informative and relaxing, finishing with a guided meditation led by host Zoe Whitehead. If you'd like to find out more about the Ladies Full Moon Circle, you can find Zoe

on Instagram @lunarlightworker.



Lucy Conners



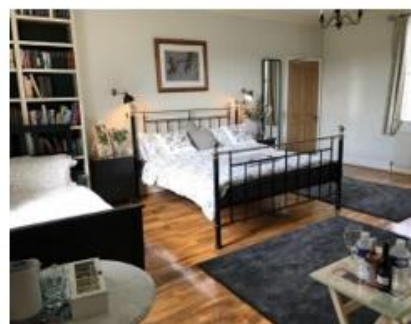
residents to his lovely 200-year-old upmarket bed and breakfast guest house and venue.

The Hollies Bed & Breakfast South Kilworth

Hosts, Tim & Vivi Mills would love to welcome visiting family and friends of South Kilworth



Situated next to the pub, Tim has 6 beautifully appointed smoke-free guestrooms with all the expected amenities, including a barbecue and a terrace area. He offers a Full English/Irish breakfast daily.



For 'Home Cooked at the Hollies', try the dishes from our Thai menu. We make Tom Kha Gai, Thai Green Curry, Pad Ka Pao and Massaman Curry to name a few. We also do traditional pub classics: Burgers, Pies, Bangers and Mash, Chili Con Carne, Spaghetti Bolognese & Beef Bourguignon. We provide vegan, vegetarian and gluten free options. Please give us a call – we do need some notice (for large orders, the day before please) as we only use authentic ingredients and freshly prepare our meals.

There is no excuse for not having family and friends over for a visit with this home-from-home location on our doorstep. Please call Tim on 07811 652267 or email: Mills.Tim3@icloud.com to check on availability or order food.

South Kilworth Bowls Club

We are pleased to report our friendly matches are well underway, together with our in-house competitions busily being planned. Hopefully, these are not too interrupted by the hot temperatures predicted over the next few weeks.

The green is still looking good, with additional watering being considered to maintain this during the season. The surrounding borders are an array of colours and a joy to the eye in presenting a well-maintained venue.



Bowling is a nice, easy sport to try and a great opportunity to be outdoors throughout the summer months. Quintessentially English, with the sun shining, playing on a lovely, well-maintained greens, visiting beautiful village locations, meeting new people, and enjoying afternoon tea and cake after the match. A great day is always had by all.

Our Wednesday roll-up sessions continue weekly between 2.00 pm and 4.30 pm. Come and join us. There are spare bowls to give it a try. We are a friendly bunch, and we are happy to support anyone wanting to give the sport a go. First-year membership is FREE, so nothing to lose in giving it a go.

We are always looking at ways to promote and raise funds for the club and would welcome your support in seeing this village facility grow and continue. Look out for our Fun Summer Event in August.

We are also linked with The Harborough Lottery, whereby half of the money you spend comes back to the Club funds. Please copy the link below into a Browser or if you are reading this online, copy and paste it into the search bar. Thank you for your support.

Wendy Barber

<https://www.harboroughlotto.co.uk/support/south-kilworth-bowls-club>

Bowls Club Vandalism

The access fence to the green water controls has been attacked, and the sprinkler system has been damaged, resulting in the bowling green being affected due to no water. An access gate has also been broken and shall require replacement. This is unacceptable behaviour. We have new CCTV cameras in use, with videos being sent directly to mobile cameras held by villagers on the Parish Council and Village Hall Committee. Parents should be aware of this, and please advise their children.

Gerry Byrne

JMR Autos



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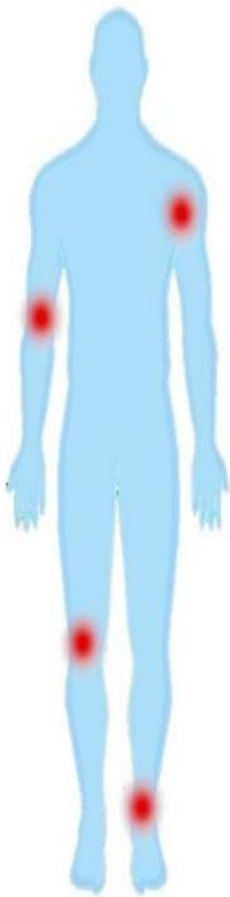
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Fun & Games Day

South Kilworth Village Hall

Saturday 29 August • 2~5pm

Weather dependent.

Try Something New This Summer!

 Bowls
 Pickleball
 Table Tennis
 Football
 Tennis
 Yoga
& Creative Groups

Alongside the Bowls Club
Open Day,
many of our village clubs will be
opening their doors for a
fun, friendly afternoon.

Come explore and have a go!

 Demonstrations
 Taster Sessions
 "Have-a-Go" Activities
 Exhibitions & Displays

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Check the village website
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More info: keithrickhuss@gmail.com • kevincoyne@gmail.com


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Last Night of the Proms Concert

Thanks to all those who supported the Proms Concert on 27 June at St Nicholas Church. The Northampton band was outstanding and flags were flying! An amount of £1250.00 was raised for the Loros Hospice.

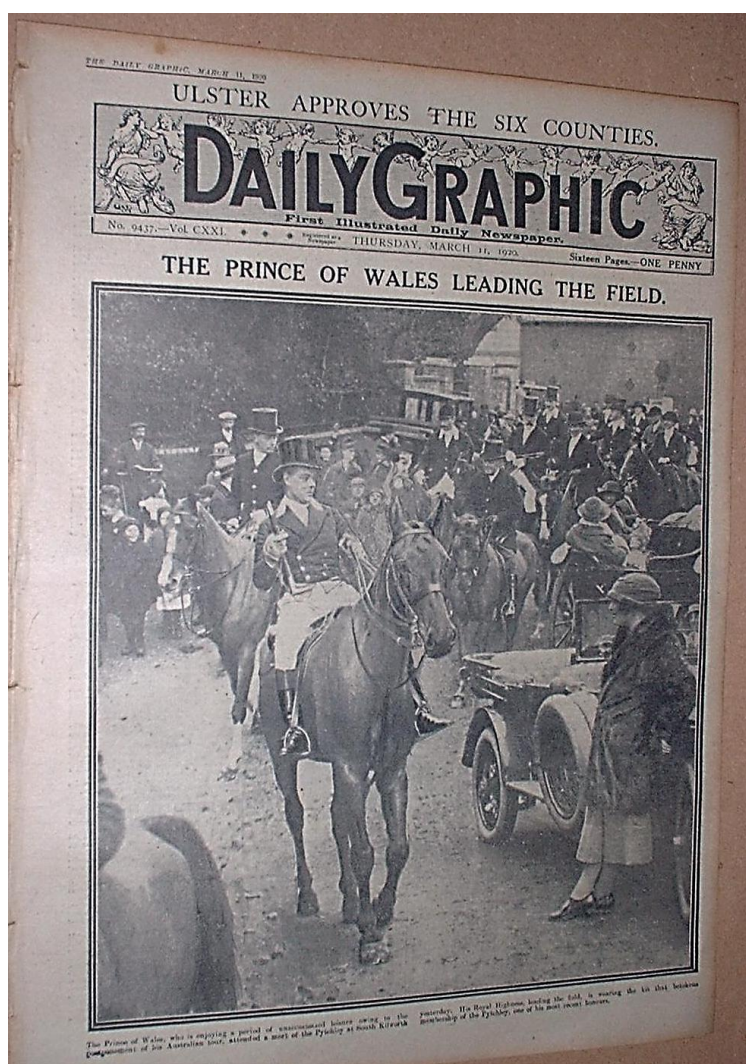


Farming, Teaching, Winding and Chronicling South Kilworth: John and Marie Keal

We met with John Keal and his wife, Marie, two of the village's leading authorities on all things South Kilworth. Keeping to a single topic proved almost impossible; John has a treasure trove of stories and photographs, and we intend to make full use of our newfound access to the mother lode.

By way of introduction for those who may not be familiar with this fact, John has faithfully wound the clock of St Nicholas', South Kilworth, for the last twenty years. He and Marie now farm at Walcote, having previously lived in South Kilworth, and both their families go back a long way in the village — readers may recognise the surnames Hutt, Dorman, Williams and Peabody. Marie is the daughter of village icon, Ray Dorman, and on her side, the South Kilworth branch of the family can be traced all the way back to Tudor times, the 15th and 16th centuries. John holds an agricultural qualification and later trained as a schoolteacher, at one point job-sharing a teaching post with Marie, herself a primary school teacher.

With plenty more stories still to come, John and Marie helped us with the story of the day royalty came to South Kilworth in 1920.



The Prince of Wales in South Kilworth

In March 1920, Edward, Prince of Wales — the future King Edward VIII — was due to sail from Britain to New Zealand and Australia aboard the battlecruiser HMS Renown, as part of a major Empire tour marking the end of the First World War. Renown had spent January to March being refitted as a royal yacht for the purpose, her guns removed to make way for extra accommodation, a squash court and even a cinema.

The departure was then postponed by a week after reports emerged of an influenza outbreak aboard ship — one Australian newspaper of 11th March 1920 put the number of cases at 33. The Prince eventually left Portsmouth on 16th March 1920.

It was in the delay before that departure, on 10th March 1920, that the Prince led a Pytchley Hunt with the Meet at South Kilworth — meaning the hunt gathered in the village before setting off. The Pytchley Hunt takes its name from the Northamptonshire village of Pytchley, and is considered one of the leading foxhound packs in England. Several newspapers covered the occasion; the photograph below is from the Northampton Chronicle and Echo.

THE PRINCE'S DAY.

The Prince of Wales was out with the Pytchley again yesterday at South Kilworth, and, though scent was moderate, some excellent sport was enjoyed, and his Royal Highness rode in the forefront throughout. From North Kilworth House hounds ran fast, but marked to ground just short of Walcote. Then from Hinmarsh Reeds they ran by Walcote, through Mr. Entwistle's coverts, and away pointing for South Kilworth. Circling left-handed round the village, they reached the Old Covert, but doubled back through Stamford Park to Swinford Old Covert. Afterwards, with Swinford village on the left, they went on by Swinford Corner to Misterton Old Covert, where their fox made good his escape.

...



THE PRINCE WITH THE PYTCHLEY

At a recent meet at Kilworth, which was his last hunt before starting on his tour. On his left is Captain Cruise, the famous oculist



Photograph

Topical Press

THE PRINCE WITH THE PYCHLEY
His Royal Highness at the meet held last week at South
Kilworth

Minutely examined by John, the first picture (Daily Graphic) above shows the Prince of Wales outside the bus stop in South Kilworth. The riders can be seen wearing white collars on their jackets, and the rectory wall — opposite Culzean House (previously called Ellson House) — is clearly visible behind them.

Tradition has it that the hunting party would have been offered a 'stirrup cup' before setting off — a drink such as port or brandy, given to a mounted rider with one foot still in the stirrup, along with a welcome and a toast to a successful day's hunting.

By all accounts, a thoroughly enjoyable day was had by everyone — including the fox, who made good his escape. A further Pytchley meet took place in December of the same year.

Toni and Rob Snell

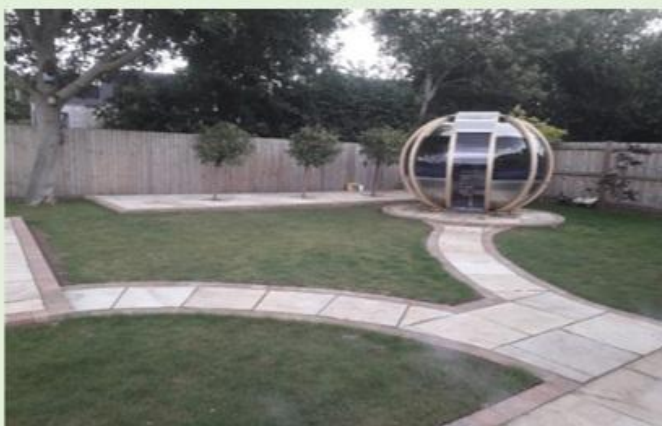


The approximate route of 12 miles taken by the Prince of Wales and the Pytchley hunt in March 1920. The reservoir was not built until 1926.

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To Feed or Not to Feed?



I often get asked whether you should continue to feed birds throughout the spring and summer. The RSPB has issued updated guidance on feeding garden birds in response to disease risks, particularly trichomonosis, which has contributed to marked declines in a number of species, most notably the Greenfinch. The disease can spread rapidly at feeding stations, with even a single infected bird capable of turning a busy feeder into a transmission hotspot.

The revised advice centres on two key principles: 'feed seasonally' and 'feed safely'. From 1st May to 31st October, when disease risk is highest and natural food is more abundant, householders are encouraged to stop offering seeds and peanuts, instead providing only small quantities of alternatives such as suet. Full feeding can resume between 1st November and 30th April.

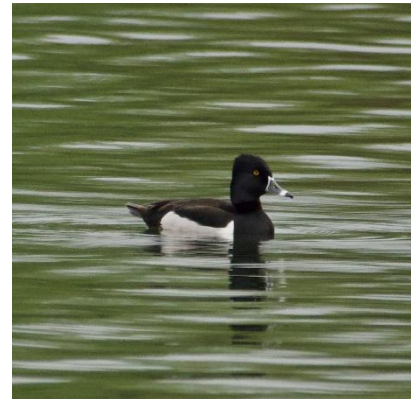
Improved hygiene is strongly emphasised. Feeders should be cleaned at least weekly, moved regularly to prevent the build-up of contaminated debris, and any waste food or droppings should be cleared from below. Feeders with flat surfaces, where food can accumulate, are discouraged. Food should be kept dry and provided in moderation to avoid spoilage. Water hygiene is also important – when providing water, it should be changed daily using fresh tap water and bird baths should be cleaned weekly.

The guidance reflects growing evidence that supplementary feeding, while beneficial in some situations, can facilitate disease transmission if poorly managed. Encouraging natural foraging through wildlife-friendly planting is highlighted as an important longer-term measure.

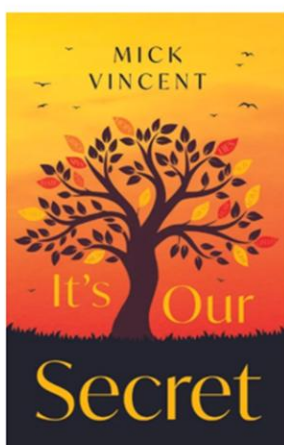


Highlights from the reservoir

There have been some excellent records since the last article. These include the first Nightingale to be ringed since 1994, an Avocet on the dam on May 26th was the first record since 2017, a drake Garganey and up to 3 Grasshopper Warblers holding territory. The top bird in the period came in the form of a Ring-necked Duck found on May 3rd. These ducks, which originate from the USA, are scarce nationally, and this is the first sighting at the reservoir for 48 years.



Chris Hubbard, 07803 374541, c.hubbard2@icloud.com



It's Our Secret by Mick Vincent

This novel is very relevant today in the light of revelations of the abuse of children by the Anglican evangelical, John Smyth and the resulting resignation of Justin Welby. It is also important to those involved in the safeguarding of young and vulnerable children in churches and understanding how abusers 'groom' young victims.

This insightful and tender novel about sexual abuse of children within the Church of England is both harrowing, and yet, also heart-warming. The story of the abuser, Archdeacon, later Bishop Colin, and the abused child, Jack, takes us through the evil and darkness in the first part of the book but, through the love of other characters such as Maria, Luigi and Katherine, the continuing storyline brings hope and healing, eventually allowing the Light of Love to shine into Jack's life.

Written by a former vicar, this fictional novel is based on his experience of pastorally caring for the abused and abusers.

The book can be ordered from the Publisher's Bookshop via this website address: <https://troubador.co.uk/bookshop/contemporary/it-s-our-secret> or from your local bookshop.

Also available as an ebook.

Draft MINUTES OF AN PARISH COUNCIL MEETING FOR SOUTH KILWORTH

Held on Tuesday, 9th June 2026, 7.15p.m.

Minutes Ref: 864/0626

Members Present

Cllr K Coyne – Vice Chair (Chaired)

Cllr T Wood (TW)

Cllr T J Wood (TJW)

Cllr G Byrne (GB)

Parish Clerk – Mrs K Brown (KB)

1.0 To Receive Any Apologies Cllr P Alcock -Received and Accepted.

2.0 Disclosure of any Members' Interests None

3.0 To Confirm Number of Other Attendees Seven attendees

4.0 To Confirm Minutes of Previous Meeting of Council, held on 12th May '26

These minutes were confirmed to be a true record of matters discussed, and decisions reached by the Parish Council, and duly signed.

5.0 Public Participation

The meeting was attended by 7 representatives of NKFC, who wished to discuss the annual licence renewal for the use of the playing field for training and matches, also their request (see item 14.4) to erect a small wooden shed (3x1.3m) on the village playing field to enable the provision of soft drinks, tea and coffee (no food) for parents etc, at a nominal charge to cover the costs.

The attendees provided an update on the club's activities, structure and membership. Several of the club coaches with teams playing at South Kilworth were introduced and they spoke about the sportsfield maintenance they carry out on a voluntary basis. The Club's aim is to preserve the facilities for the good of the club and other users in the community.

KC thanked the reps for attending and both parties acknowledged that, going forward, there was a need for improved communication between the PC and NKFC and that the reinstatement of a NKFC Liaison officer would be beneficial. KC confirmed that there would be a full discussion during items 14.0.

6.0 Planning Matters

6.1 New Application/s: None

6.2 Planning Decisions / Updates Reported: None

6.3 Enforcement Cases Raised: None

7.0 Village Hall Agreement

7.1 VH Proposed agreement covering ownership and maintenance of the MUGA, solar panels, storage battery and associated equipment: This item still pending. Action - PA to liaise with the VH committee.

8.0 LRALC Correspondence / Updates received, of particular note.

8.1 KB outlined the legislative change to Members' Register of Interests, in that members' private addresses must no longer be published for public view unless an individual specifically requests for this to happen.

9.0 Accounts / Finance Matters

9.1 The PC approved the following payment/s:

Nett	Vat	Total	Details / Comments
10,000.00	0.00	10,000.00	Trasfer to H&R Reserve Act from Lloyds c/a
50.00	10.00	60.00	Payroll Service re Apr-June'26
1,407.45	0.00	1,407.45	Payroll Apr - June'26
428.19	0.00	428.19	PAYE / Er's N.I. Apr-June'26
11,885.64	10.00	11,895.64	Total

9.2 PC approved the cash balances held by the Parish Council at 31st May '26 along with corresponding bank reconciliation and bank statements. Documents duly signed.

10.0 War Memorial Clock

10.1 Repairs and Maintenance: The PC confirmed that the clock was now in full working order however seemed to be running a little slow.

10.2 Donations Appeal for Future War Memorial Maintenance Costs: No new donations received to date. Action – TJW to contact SKN to request that this appeal be included as a permanent item in each SKN edition from now on.

11.0 Highways and Footpaths

11.1 LCC village lamppost numbering record: PC reported that PA was still waiting for a response from LCC re the reconciliation of this record. Action -PA to contact for a response.

11.2 North Road Bus Stop, Hard Standing Request: PC reported that PA was still waiting for a response from LCC regarding his meeting with Harrison Fowler, HDC County Councillor. Action - PA to contact for a response.

11.3 Request received for Brown Tourist signs re MUGA and Bowls Club directions, to be erected on entry to the village: PC reported that PA had still not received any feedback following his onsite meeting with Harrison Fowler, HDC County Councillor. Action -PA to contact for a response.

11.4 Missing Reflector Posts on Walcote Road: KB reported that she had spoken to the LCC officer dealing with this issue, who had confirmed that the road area in this location had been assessed as requiring repairs however, a date had not yet been scheduled for the work to be carried out.

LCC had not taken any further action regarding the missing reflector post, having previously considered this not to be a significant safety consideration. KB again requested that this be reconsidered as per her email dated 9th April. Action -KB to monitor.

11.5 Accident Debris on Walcote Road: KB reported that LCC had inspected the road area however, as the debris was situated on the grass verge, and not the highway itself, removal of the debris was the responsibility of HDC, not LCC. Action - KB to contact HDC and request clearance.

11.6 Petition Appeal to LCC re traffic calming measures to be reintroduced on Rugby Road: PC reported PA had had no further contact from the County Councillor regarding the petition. Action - PA to contact for an update.

12.0 Grass Cutting and General Outdoor Matters and Maintenance

12.1 Request for a refuse bin to be placed in the area of the Playing Field, along with slabbing to be laid in front of MUGA shed: Still pending. Action - KC liaising with contractor.

13.0 Children's Play Area

13.1 Regular Play Area Safety Inspections: On inspection TW had no new issues to report.

13.2 Fence sections needing tightening, paintwork requiring attention. Action: TW to instruct contractor to go ahead with repairs.

13.3 Risk Assessment for the play area: No update.

13.4 National Lottery Grants for renovation, replacement, or new play equipment: PC agreed in principle to compile a grant application, following feedback sourced from parents / carers of small children in the village, as to what improvements to the play area might be preferred. Action: All councillors to seek feedback.

14.0 Playing Field

14.1 Playing Field Risk Assessment: No update.

14.2 Village BBQ, proposed date, 29th Aug'26: KC confirmed that, following a meeting with members of the VH committee and due to insufficient numbers of volunteers to participate in the running of this event, unfortunately the proposal would not go ahead. Resolved.

14.3 AFC North Kilworth Football Club enquiry re hiring the playing field for training purposes: KC confirmed that this item is still pending consideration. Action – KC to liaise.

14.4 NKFC's request to erect a 3m x 1.3 m wooden shed on the village playing field to provide refreshment drinks during matches: The PC discussed the request (see Public Participation item 5) and agreed to carry forward for further discussion.

14.5 NKFC's annual licence renewal: The PC discussed an increase for the year 2026-27, renewal rate (see item 5) and agreed to carry forward for further discussion.

15.0 Proposed MUGA (Multi Use Games Area)

15.1 CCTV erection: KC reported that the contractor now hoped to commence this work during the week commencing 15th June'26. Pending.

15.2 Tree Council Grant (£250-£2500) deadline 19th July'26: The PC agreed that it would not be possible to compile all application requirements in time to meet this grant deadline, however it was hoped that there will be future relevant grant options available at a later date. Resolved.

15.3 TW suggested that an event be organised to mark the official opening of the MUGA: Action - TW volunteered to arrange.

16.0 S106 and CIC Funding

16.1 PC confirmed that PA was expecting to collect a CIC cheque for £2317 and should be able to pay into the PC's bank account within the next few days. This to cover the costs of the HCYC Youth Club, Spring Term '26. Pending.

16.2 HCYC funding - see item 20.1.

17.0 Village Communication

17.1 No update.

18.0 Neighbourhood Plan, Monitoring and Review

19.1 No update. Action: PA to contact the editor.

19.0 Community Emergency / Resilience Plan

19.1 The review of SK's Community Emergency Plan dated June'14: The PC agreed to defer this item until further notice. Resolved.

20.0 Village Youth Club (HCYC)

20.1 KC summarised (see below) the emailed report received from PA regarding the threatened closure of the village youth club, due to HCYC'S loss of National Lottery funding, as notified last month.

Summary Regarding Autumn '26 term:

HCYC has proposed an increase charge for the Autumn '26 term, which the PC considered would leave a funding shortfall of £1200. As the club is regularly attended by several children from neighbouring parishes, the PC agreed to a request for contributions from these parishes, and it is hoped that any forthcoming funds would cover the shortfall, allowing the Autumn'26 term to go ahead. Confident that the above costs will be covered, the PC resolved to commit to HCYC continuing with the youth club for the Autumn'26 term only at this stage.. Action - PA to liaise with concerned parishes and HCYC.

Summary going forward, from Jan'27:

The Village Hall committee have been very supportive in seeking options to allow the club to continue next year. They have applied for funding from Leics. Rutland Community Fund, to go towards next year's total costs. Alternative Youth Club providers are also being considered to ensure cost efficiency. Additional funding options are being explored. Pending.

- 21.0 Summer Sports Club 2026**
- 21.1** TJW confirmed that clubs for the weeks 20th to 24th July, and 17th-21st August'26, had been booked with Football & Fitness. Action: TJW to liaise with F&F re advertising and sponsorship acknowledgement.
- 22.0 SKPC Policy Review / Update**
- 22.1 CCTV and Surveillance (draft only):** Review process continuing.
- 22.2 I.T. Policy:** PA considering.
- 22.3 Publication Scheme:** TJW considering.
- 23.0 Community Safety Vehicle Visit**
- 23.1** KB reported that HDC were not able to offer a visit date to coincide with one of the monthly Community Café dates as requested and therefore the PC agreed not to accept the offered date of 29th July'26. Resolved. Action – KB to inform HDC.
- 24.0 Items to be Considered for the next Agenda.** KB informed the PC that HDC had offered to carry out the annual ROSPA at £114 (inc vat), being the same cost as last year.
- 25.0 To Confirm Date of Next Meeting:** 14th July'26

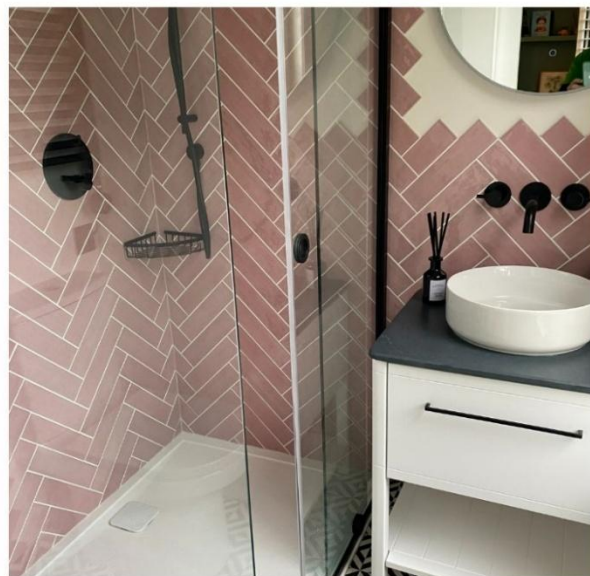
Meeting ended at 9.40 pm

A copy of these minutes will be published on the South Kilworth Website, no later than thirty days from the date of the meeting.



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From Field to Wellbeing

How Gemma Rawlings is Helping People Connect Through Cows

Did you hear the news that a local farmer reported that his cow has taken up Tai Chi? She's brilliant at moo-ditation in motion.



But seriously, we all recognise the positive impact animals can have on our wellbeing. Spending time with pets has been shown to lower stress hormones like cortisol, while boosting oxytocin—the “feel-good” hormone—helping to ease anxiety and lift our mood.

For Gemma Rawlings, this isn't just theory—it's something she lives every day. In a field on Welford Road in South Kilworth, kindly leased from John and Mary Guppy, Gemma has created a unique and calming space with her four pet cows.

Having grown up around cattle, Gemma understands first-hand the positive effect they can have on mental health. Inspired by her own experiences, she wanted to

allow others to experience that same sense of calm and connection in a safe and welcoming environment.

Gemma's herd includes a mix of much-loved Scottish breeds: two Highlands, one Belted Galloway, and one Shetland. The Shetland in particular is quite special—there are thought to be only around 850 remaining, making it a rare breed that requires a special licence to keep.

More recently, Gemma has also been contacted by the Highland Cattle Society in relation to her 'more recent model' of an ancient breed of Highland cow. Gemma had what is known as the ancient breed, dating back hundreds of years, and Gemma also has, as Gemma says, an up-to-date version.

Visitors—both adults and children—can spend time with the cows, including favourites Amanda and Hettie the Highlands, Juliet the Belted Galloway and Brenda the Shetland, by appointment from Monday to Friday. Gemma said she has children visiting from SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) schools, which has proven to be very beneficial for the children. Booking details can be found via Facebook

Walking with Beasties, and all funds raised go directly back into the care and upkeep of the cows.

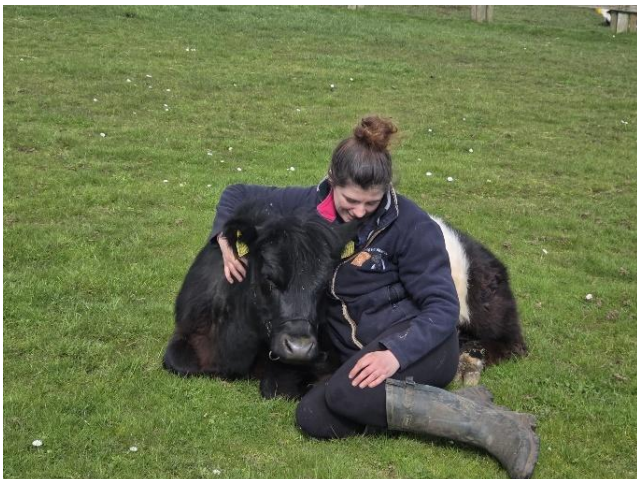
Gemma hopes to grow her herd over time, continuing to expand this special space within the village.

Her passion for farming runs deep. Gemma's always worked around cattle and has always had a passion for highlands, as well as people she is close to, also owning some when Gemma was younger, which has then rubbed off onto her.

Today, Gemma follows in her father's footsteps, working full-time as a butcher for Joseph Morris in South Kilworth, with a long-term ambition to rear her own beef.

Supporting her is her partner, Jack—who is also Mary Guppy's step-grandson—an arable farmer who supplies hay and straw.

At the heart of it all, though, is Gemma's vision: creating a place where people can slow down, connect with animals, and experience the quiet, restorative benefits she has known all her life.



Toni and Rob Snell



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YOUR VILLAGE hALL

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Did you know?

Our present village hall was built in 2000 with lottery funding to replace the old "Reading Room". It was built on land given to the people of the village and managed by a committee of villagers. It costs about £9,000 yearly to run (includes all the utilities/cleaning/security/insurance/health & safety reviews etc). Income comes from the hire of the hall and fundraising.

The purpose of the hall is identified in the original hall deeds ... to "advance education and provide facilities in the interest of social welfare for recreational and leisure time activities, with the object of improving the conditions of life, for the inhabitants of South Kilworth."

NEXT EVENT

SUMMER SCHOOL (KIDS)
JULY 20-24 AND AUG 17-21

*Come
Join
us!*

JOIN A GROUP

The village hall is home to many different groups including

Table Tennis
Yoga
Art Group
KORKS

Bowls Club
Upholstery
Weaving Group
Youth Club

SAVE THE
DATE
Quiz:

20 November



FUTURE OF THE HALL

The village hall belongs to the people of South Kilworth - what would you like to use it for?

We have seen a gradual shift, especially since Covid: some social events organised by the committee have been poorly attended. This may be because the choices of entertainment are now so wide that there are other things to do, or we are not meeting the villagers' expectations, or perhaps there is not the commitment to the village social life. Whatever the reason, apart from one or two events we really struggle to sell tickets.

On the other hand, though we now have over 15 regular village groups who use the hall. These groups such as bowls, table tennis, youth club, art, upholstery etc are well supported by villagers and are the biggest source of income for us.

IS THIS THE WAY FORWARD?
ARE WE PUTTING ON THE EVENTS YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE?

Can you help sell tickets - is there any further PR you feel we should be doing?
If you missed the AGM in June, we'd love to hear your views.
Email Bob bobjmorley1953@gmail.com

THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Is made up of Voted members (at the AGM) and Representative members of the main users of the hall. We meet about 5 - 6 times per year on a Tuesday evening.

WE ARE LOOKING FOR A NEW BOOKING CLERK

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**What
Do You
Think?**