

Wheathill Priory Community Transport

Wheathill Priory Community Transport is a volunteer driving service by and for the residents of Keinton Mandeville, Kingweston, Lydford and Barton St David. The scheme has been in operation for more than a decade and has gone from strength to strength.

Our service can be used by those who do not drive, do not have their own transport or have difficulty with public transport for journeys such as to

- the doctor, hospital (if free transport is not available), post office, shopping
- friends or relatives (including when in hospital)
- bus stops, bus stations or railway stations for onward journeys.

This year we have made on average, 20 journeys each month (mainly for Keinton Mandeville residents). We now have 18 volunteer drivers to call on.

We continue to keep our charges as low as possible at 45p/mile (the Government approved mileage rate) plus an admin fee of 50p per return journey which goes towards our public liability insurance.

The scheme is well used by members of our community and by some on a regular basis. In particular we have a few clients who like to attend church but do not have their own transport.

In 2022 we applied for a small grant from SPARK Somerset which allowed us to provide free journeys for Covid and Flu vaccinations throughout 2022 and 2023. Unfortunately our request to them this year for further funding was turned down.

We are always keen to recruit new drivers so if you would like to join the team, please contact us on 07799 487719.

Geoff Gingell

Secretary for Wheathill Priory Community Transport

Playing Field Committee Report

1st April 2023 - 31st March 2024

2023 has seen the children's playground be updated with 2 new springer rides for smaller children and the replacement of the toddler cradle swings. These bright new additions to the park will enhance the facilities as we move into the drier months after a very wet last 6 months. We have also seen our storage container damaged beyond repair through a tree being blown down in strong winds and subsequently removed from the site leaving the sit-on mower to be housed in a resident's garage. We have secured a replacement shipping container which will be delivered when the field is dry enough to accept a delivery vehicle. This storage container will serve us well for the foreseeable future and provide secure storage for our most valuable assets. We welcome a new football team in September 2024, Keinton Mandeville FC will begin in the Yeovil & District League. We intend to upgrade the goal posts and consider dug outs for the side of the pitch as football returns to Keinton Mandeville. We held a very successful fund raising Easter bingo evening in March that raised significant funds for the committee.

The committee has a good membership including local people who are committed to ensuring the village has great sport and leisure facilities for the village residents to enjoy. Any new members who are interested in joining us would be very welcome.

Andy Graham

Chairperson

St Mary Magdalene Church, Keinton Mandeville with All Saints Kingweston

Report for 2023-2024

Keinton Mandeville with Kingweston PCC is very grateful for the financial support of £1,600 received from the Parish Council towards the upkeep of the churchyard. The grass cutting Keinton Mandeville churchyard maintenance bill, which includes grass cutting and work done by Mark Pilgrim and Paul Dilling, was £1,480. The rest of the grant was used to help offset the repairs to the churchyard walls which totalled £1,128. With the exception of the parish share paid to the diocese, it is our largest single overhead and although in past years we managed to balance the books we are not a wealthy church, so the help is much appreciated.

The parish church is there for the benefit of the community and all who live in this village are entitled to use it, and indeed in a normal year many do, for marriages, baptisms and funerals. There is also pastoral preparation or support given as appropriate. We are currently seeking to make the availability of the churchyard for the whole community more obvious.

It was really good to be able to hold worship in church throughout the year, including the service for the school at Harvest, although in December its Christmas service moved to school owing to the increase in numbers and lack of space in church. We have also welcomed people for services commemorating life events such as Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals. Our fortnightly services at Castle House Nursing Home have continued, supported by the parish choir on two occasions.

The Coronation of The King Charles III and Queen Camilla was celebrated in style by having a special service and a superb party at the Village Hall, organised by volunteers from the church and the village. In October 2023 the Harvest lunch took place in the village hall and was much appreciated by many from Keinton and nearby villages. The Christmas services, Christingle Service, and 'Midnight in Bethlehem' Holy Communion in Keinton Church were particularly well supported by the broader community. Faith 'n Fun, our monthly outdoor time, continues on the fourth Sunday of the month.

The church is a lovely but ancient building and an integral part of the village. It is open daily for those who wish to use or visit it. It is however costly to maintain, heat and keep in good order generally. The total outgoings for the combined parish of Keinton Mandeville with Kingweston during 2023 came to just under £34,000. Although it is not possible to divide all the expenditure precisely between the two churches, all matters relating to the fabric of the buildings and churchyards are recorded separately and Kingweston is entirely self-sufficient in this regard.

The parish magazine is now produced under the auspices of the Benefice (Barton St David, Keinton Mandeville, Kingweston and Lydford on Fosse) and not Keinton Mandeville Church.

A full set of audited accounts is available, and the Annual Parochial Church Meeting was held after the service in Keinton Mandeville on 28 April 2024.

Keinton Mandeville Village Hall – Annual Summary 2023/4

This year marks our recovery from the setback the previous year when our long term Treasurer, and only remaining continually serving trustee from the build, John passed away. It took far longer than any of us expected to recover fully, a testament to how much John did for the community.

This year, as you will notice, we have had the hall fully redecorated. We have also replaced the fire escape doors onto the patio area. We feel this has made a huge difference to the hall, which was starting to look a little tired. We have now turned our attention to the outside of the hall and surrounding area. We have already completed some fence repairs and started more regular cutting of the grass within the trim trail, aiming to make this more accessible to parishioners.

Behind the scenes, the committee have been busy investigating and planning some projects that will soon be very visible to you all.

Our website sub-committee have created a new, more interactive, website that will go live over the Whitsun Bank Holiday weekend. This will allow bookings and payment to be made online, however the current more personal method will also remain available. Clubs and societies will be able to manage their bookings themselves, which should make life easier. In response to feedback we will also bring the MUGA into the setup, so that it can be booked just like the rest of the facilities. Excitingly, we have taken the approach that includes plenty of built in redundancy, so we can add more interactive features going forward. Watch this space.

A separate solar panel sub-committee has been looking at the technical possibilities and gaining quotes from suppliers. We have now settled upon a large solar array on the roof with considerable battery storage. This should allow us to take advantage of sunny daytimes to power the hall in the evenings. Again, this is just the beginning!

Looking ahead, we are considering adding light and sound facilities to allow theatrical plays to be performed in the birthplace of Sir Henry Irvin, and maybe even cinema facilities too. This is very much in the Concept stage at the moment, but we'd love to hear from anyone who would be interested in using such a facility.

These projects will be funded by a generous gift left to us by our dear friend John.

Keinton Environment Group Report for the Parish Council APM 10th May 2024

Keinton Environment Group (KEG) exists to increase public awareness of environmental issues which can affect our everyday lives in the village and beyond. We hope to help residents to learn about, improve and care for the environment in and around Keinton Mandeville through a number of activities which this year (i.e. since March 2023) have included our tree planting scheme in the grounds of the Village Hall, a number of wildflower planting sites and our Environment Day event – soon to be repeated. In addition, the group have undertaken a number of visits guided either by our own “experts” or others which have included a tour of Lower Farm and the Kingweston SSSI, Plotgate Community Farm and guided hedgrow walks. Members of the group will build and fit bat, bird and hedghog boxes or provide instruction on how to make your own

We have regular meetings (2nd Wednesday of each month) at the Quarry Inn which are open to all – there is no membership as such, although we do have a committee of Chair (Neil Bain), Secretary (Karen Bain) and Treasurer (Trevor Ryder). The latter is a new post, recognising the fact that KEG now has a bank account to facilitate some of its project work. We are grateful to have received financial support from the Parish Council.

We already have plans for the coming year which include another Environment Day, guided bat walks (and other themed walks) and, of course, continued planting schemes.

Trevor Ryder

Happy Tracks report for Annual Parish Meeting 2024

Happy tracks underwent quite a transformation in 2023 as reported in last year's Annual Parish Meeting.

Our attention this year has turned to the flower meadow. Over the past few months we have been planning some work on the flower meadow including:

- Levelling of the site
- Removing the willows and brambles and other random plants
- Hedge cutting
- Re seeding and planting

The aim is to mow rambling paths in the longer grass and plant wildflower plugs in the grass, and along the edges of the paths – together with bulbs.

We obtained some quotes for this work and a contractor was chosen to do this work but he unfortunately has stopped communicating with us so it is assumed he no longer wants to do the work. We have therefore asked again for quotes for this work with a view to booking it in for March 2025. We will be using money from Glastonbury festival fundraising along with the donation from the Big Big breakfast committee.

We do still hope to have the fence painted in happy tracks.

In the meantime, the picnic benches are starting to rot and need replacing. We are in the process of getting quotes for some new ones and hope have those installed during the current financial year.

We are delighted that Paul and Pauline Wiliams will be looking after the flower beds in Happy Tracks and the planters in the flower meadow.

KEINTON MANDEVILLE TENNIS CLUB REPORT FOR PARISH COUNCIL – 2023/24

Firstly, thanks to two generous grants totalling £650.00 from the Big Breakfast Committee in 2022 and 2023, and a £500 grant from the Parish Council in 2021, we were able to complete the raising of both the northern and eastern perimeter fencing to match the other two sides. The court now looks fully complete and we thank Michael White Tennis Enterprises for his sterling work in carrying out these constructions.

The 2022/23 season has seen 12 families, 9 couples, 15 singles and 4 students join the club, giving us a total membership of 40. We have introduced an online booking system which has proved to be effective and popular. In addition to this, we reserve 2 hours each day for casual bookings through the Village Shop. We have also replaced the old padlock and key for a combination lock which has also shown to be more practicable.

Our new season will commence on 1st May 2024, and I will be contacting members and others to renew their subscriptions after our AGM, also on 1st May at Glengarth, Queen Street, commencing at 7pm. All members are welcome to attend.

We work in tandem with the Playing Field Committee, and donate 50% of our subscriptions to them in return for Insurance cover and access. We have a relatively healthy bank balance of around £4,500, although it will not be too long before we will need think about a possible resurfacing of the court, which of course will mean a considerable outlay of funds.

The Tennis Club continues to be well supported, but we are always on the lookout for new members who are welcome to join our small but friendly club.

Graham Bailey

Chair/Treasurer

Big Breakfast 2023

Report to the Parish Council May 2024

A fantastic event and an amazing turnout of hungry breakfasters and eaters of cream teas meant we were able to allocate £6,400 to those groups we support. Every breakfast, drink and cream tea enjoyed and every raffle ticket, tombola ticket, quiz and flower arrangement bought (also, every raffle or tombola prize donated) enabled us to help so many organisations locally. We are grateful to so many people as we wouldn't have raised this amazing amount without the help and support of local businesses and individuals, our community and the Parish Council.

We were delighted to have been able to make donations to Keinton School and PSA, Keinton Youth Adventure Group, Keinton Playing Field, Keinton Tennis Club, Keinton Netball Club, Barton St David Scout Group, Barton Pre School, Happy Tracks, Keinton Methodist Church Hall, Project Charltons, Charlton Tennis Club and Keinton Village Hall.

We have already heard from many of these groups who have said how much the donation means to them and outlined their plans for spending it. We are also really pleased to have been able to give donations to our chosen charities; Blood Cancer UK, Save the Children and WHY. The charities all said how much they enjoyed the day and, collectively, they took an additional £1,750 on their own stalls.

So, from the committee an enormous thank you once again to everyone who supported the Big Breakfast and we look forward to seeing you all again on **Saturday October 19th 2024!** We are very keen to welcome new members of the committee and are always happy to receive offers of help on the day.