

Kilsby Kronickle

Also available on the village website - www.kilsby-pc.gov.uk

Edition no. 166. December 2025 - January 2026



The Kilsby Players in action.

Welcome to the December - January edition of the Kilsby Kronickle.

Welcome to the December/January edition of the Kilsby Kronickle.

It's been another busy few months in Kilsby with Halloween festivities kicked off by the wonderful Halloween Trail around the village organised by Kilsby Playtime & friends. Then on Halloween itself it was great to see lots of Trick or Treaters out enjoying themselves gathering treats from so many houses - a special mention has to be made to the dinosaurs and shark outfits that I'm sure raised a few laughs!

And November saw the return of The Kilsby Players (pictured above) who are now back in full swing and planning the next production.

Christmas is always a lovely time in the village with the Christmas Tree Lights Switch On event (fingers crossed for good weather this year!) and with numerous Christmas parties and events lined up there is something for everyone.

We also have some good news that we can now recycle soft plastics in

our blue bins so less waste going to landfill.

So get yourself a nice hot drink and settle down to read all the latest updates from Kilsby.

We hope you have a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

The Kilsby Kronickle Editorial Team

Please get in touch with us by emailing:

kilsbykronickle@outlook.com

What's On in Kilsby

December 2025

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
1 Kilsby Playtime	2	3 School Christmas Fayre	4 Coffee Morning (Kilsby room)	5	6 Christmas tree switch on	7 St Faith's service
8 Kilsby Playtime	9	10	11 WI Christmas Party	12 Youth Club	13	14 St Faith's service
15 Kilsby Playtime	16	17	18	19 School breaks up	20	21 St Faith's Carol Service
22	23	24 St Faith's Midnight Mass	25 St Faith's Christmas Eucharist	26	27	28 St Faith's service
29 Kilsby Players script read	30	31				

January 2026

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
			1	2 Oil Order Point	3	4 St Faith's service
5	6 Back to school	7	8 WI Meeting Coffee Morning (Kilsby Room)	9 Youth Club	10	11 St Faith's service
12 Kilsby Playtime	13	14	15 History Society Meeting	16 Deadline for Kilsby Kronickle	17	18 St Faith's service
19 Kilsby Playtime	20	21	22	23 Youth Club	24 KAG quiz night	25 St Faith's service
26 Kilsby Playtime	27	28	29	30	31	

Want to include your event or club? Please email details to kilsbykronickle@outlook.com

KILSBY PARISH COUNCIL

COUNCILLORS		AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY
CHAIRMAN Howard Gibbs	01788 824718 hgibbs@kilsby-pc.gov.uk	Employment/staffing School Governor Liaison
VICE CHAIRMAN		
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Robin Nicholls	07807 694524 rnicholls@kilsby-pc.gov.uk	Planning Committee Employment/Staffing
Caroline Haycock	07801 492830 chaycock@kilsby-pc.gov.uk	Planning Committee Facebook/Social Media Internal Financial Control
Oliver Houlton	07738 356413 ohoulton@kilsby-pc.gov.uk	Planning Committee Recreation Ground Website Support
Ian Weston	01788 823332 07587 143939 iweston@kilsby-pc.gov.uk	Planning Committee Highways Warden Cemetery
Tony Kerr	07840 038 701 tkerr@kilsby-pc.org.uk	Planning Committee Litter-picking equipment contact Village Hall Representative
Jenna Palmer	jpalmers@kilsby-pc.gov.uk	Planning Committee Police Liaison Representative
Cheryl Sibley	csibley@kilsby-pc.gov.uk	
Rob Chamberlain	rchamberlain@kilsby-pc.gov.uk	
WEST NORTHANTS COUNCILLORS		
Rosie Humphreys	07890 112504 rosie.humphreys@westnorthants.gov.uk	
Andrew Simpson	07973 560432 Andrew.simpson@westnorthants.gov.uk	
CEMETERY ADMINISTRATOR		
Phil Martin	01788 822700 07881 271768 cemetery@kilsby-pc.org.uk	
DEFIBRILLATORS		
Mike Dowson	01327 220722	Phone box and village hall defibrillators
PARISH CLERK: Mrs Emma GIBSON, Tel: 07547 113996 E-MAIL: clerk@kilsby-pc.gov.uk WEBSITE: www.kilsby-pc.gov.uk		

Revised November 2025

Kilsby Parish Council Chairman's Annual Report

Howard Gibbs - Chairman, hgibbs@kilsby-pc.gov.uk

As we move towards the end of 2025, I would like to share a few updates from the Parish Council, to keep you informed about what is going on and what we are proposing to complete around our village.

Policing.

Cllr Jenna Palmer together with our PCSO carried out a walkabout to identify local issues. Concerns have been raised regarding parking on walkways, over dropped kerbs, too close to corners and not least speeding through the village. More details can be found in councillor Palmer's report in this addition of the KK. Some solutions have been found, such as using the George car park. I would ask you all to consider all our residents when parking and driving around the village. Some of the actions being taken by drivers are not only inconsiderate but also dangerous. Come on Kilsby let's sort the problems out. We are also considering reigniting the Neighbourhood Watch scheme in Kilsby and would welcome any residents interested in helping to get in touch with Cllr Palmer.

Kilsby House.

There have been several reports regarding vans and light HGVs together with cars causing issues in and around the works being done. The Village Hall have been working with the contractor to improve the situation while work continues, some solutions have been found, and the Village Hall have started to allow the contractors space on the car park. The work is due to complete in February 2026.

Highways.

On a positive note, the works to Butts Lane are now complete and I do hope that the residents who use it are finding it much better to walk through. At least you will not be needing wellies in the bad weather and certainly won't be needing to clean mud from your shoes. The council will also be meeting with WNC Highways to discuss the speeding issues and looking at potential traffic calming measures especially in light of the new developments that maybe happening around and near to Kilsby.

Planning.

The council is continuing to work with WNC to progress outstanding applications, especially Barby Gun Club's, which have taken an unacceptably long time to reach a decision. We are also engaging with WNC about high traffic volumes through Kilsby, including exploring possible HGV diversions from DIRFT to ease the pressure on our roads.

Budget 2026-27.

On a positive note. The council have agreed not to increase the Precept for next year and to maintain the current amount. We are asking village organisations to enquire about possible grants to maybe buy some things or even organise an event for the village. If you have any ideas where funds may be used, please do get in touch with Emma our Clerk, she will be pleased to hear from you and assist in your applications.

In closing I would like to say, it has been an honour to serve as Cllr and Chairman over the past years, and I would say thank you to everyone who has supported me and contributed to the Parish Councils work. Kilsby is a special place, I will carry my thoughts with me as Heather and I move to our new home. I know Kilsby will move forward and I will look forward to reading about your progress.

Again, Thank You and may I wish you all a Very Happy Christmas and New year 2026.

Cllr Howard Gibbs

Chairman

Kilsby Parish Council

KILSBY OIL CLUB

The next order points for the Oil Club are:

2nd January 2026

6th March 2026

We will be open to receive orders for nine days, closing a week on the Sunday following the announcement. Members will be advised of the price and delivery dates when the buying process has been completed early the following week.

Anyone interested in joining the Club, or helping out with the ordering process, should contact:
kilsbyoilclub@gmail.com

News from your West Northants Councillors

*An Update from Your West Northants Councillors –
Cllr Rosie Humphreys & Cllr Andrew Simpson*

1. Council News

a.) New 'Family Hubs'

The number of children in WNC's care is at its highest level since 2022-23 (an increase reflected nationally). The increased demands on Children's Service is one of the biggest challenges for the council.

It is recognised that 'early intervention' can help stop children going into care, so the council is opening a number of 'Family Hubs' to provide a 'one stop shop' bringing together a number of services offering support and a welcoming space for families with children from 0-19 years (or to 25 for a child with a special educational need or disability). Part of the purpose of the hubs is to prevent family and parenting issues from escalating. The Family Hub in Daventry opened in November and is located in Staverton Road, NN11 4EY. More details can be found at www.westnorthants.gov.uk/family-hubs

b.) Council's Budget

We are now in the 5th year of the new council, and it has been described as the "toughest budget-setting process for the Council yet", meaning that this is the most challenging year, financially for the WNC. Spiralling costs of adult and children's services continue to be the biggest cause of the financial pressures. The Government is due to confirm whether WNC will get extra funding as part of a fair funding review into all councils. This is due to be announced just before Christmas so leaves WNC having to set its budget at the very last minute.

Election pledges to cut council tax and borrowing are proving challenging for the Reform UK run council to deliver in the face of these pressures, and alongside the lack of savings having been identified so far by their DOGE (Dept of Government Efficiency) initiative.

The budget will go out to public consultation in the new year.

c.) Council Group Changes

Rosie and Andrew are delighted to welcome Cllr Farzana Aldridge to the Lib Dem Group as she has left Labour to join the party. Farzana represents Kingsley and Semilong ward in Northampton and has a professional background in education and children's services.

2. Local News

a.) Soft Plastic Recycling pilot for Kilsby

We are delighted that Kilsby has been selected, along with Barby, Braunston, Lilbourne, Norton and 500 properties

in Daventry to be part of a pilot scheme for collection of soft plastic bags and wrapping to be collected as part of the normal blue bin collection.

The pilot is being run ahead of a launch across the whole of West Northamptonshire by March 2027.

This recycled plastic can be used to make plastic packaging, "bags for life" and materials used in farming and construction. Almost all new plastic comes from fossil fuels which contributes to greenhouse gas emissions and climate change.

The pilot has been launched because of a visit in May by the Kilsby Residents Climate Action Group (KRCAG) to the Sherbourne recycling facility near Coventry where WNC takes recyclable waste. It is a state-of-the-art facility which accepts soft plastic for recycling which was something not previously promoted by WNC because it only applied for homes in the Daventry and South Northants area as Northampton recyclable waste goes to a different facility which cannot process soft plastic.

Attendees on the site visit questioned this approach and as a result Rosie met with WNC Officers to see if it could be promoted. The result is a pilot is now underway.

Please see further information at www.westnorthants.gov.uk/plastic_pilot

b.) Barby Gun Club

This planning application is still outstanding after nearly 4 years since proposals first came forward. We have been pressing the council for a resolution, and it now appears that the applicants are coming forward with more details about an additional bunding proposal. When received there will be a further full 21-day consultation. This will mean that any potential planning committee would be into early 2026 (January or February) assuming no new issues arise from the consultation exercise. So regrettably there is continuing uncertainty as to when this will be decided.

Finally, we would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Get in Touch:

Cllr Rosie Humphreys

Mobile: 07890 112504

Email: rosie.humphreys@westnorthants.gov.uk



Cllr Andrew Simpson

1 Manor Villas, Manor Road, Kilsby,
Northants, CV23 8XS

Mobile: 07973 560432

Email: andrew.simpson@westnorthants.gov.uk



News from Kilsby CE Primary School



It's been a hectic but brilliant start to the school year at Kilsby CE Primary! The children and staff have hit the ground running and the school is already buzzing with activity, achievements and community spirit.

Sport has taken centre stage this term, with our Year 2 girls' Rugby team showing fantastic teamwork and determination. Our Year 5 & 6 Footballers gave it their all on the pitch in their tournament, coming joint 5th out of 16 teams. The cross-country event was another highlight – all the children ran brilliantly and we're especially proud of five of our Year 5 runners who finished in the top 20! They'll now go on to represent the school in the South Northants District Team Championships in January. What an achievement!



We also enjoyed a wonderful evening at the KSA BBQ and Firework Display. The turnout was amazing, the fireworks were spectacular and the whole night was full of smiles and laughter.

A massive thank you to the KSA for organising such a fantastic event and to all the school staff and volunteers who helped make it happen – we couldn't have done it without you!



There's plenty more to look forward to as we head into the festive season. The run-up to Christmas is always one of the busiest (and best!) times of the year. We've got our Christmas Jumper Day and Carols by Candlelight on Wednesday 10th December, our Christingle service on Friday 12th December and of course the Christmas Fayre on Wednesday 3rd December – where everyone is warmly invited to come along and join in the fun.

Finally, you might be interested to know that we have a Facebook and an Instagram page for 'Kilsby CE Primary School', so you can keep updated as to what is going on in school whenever you like.



News from your PLR and NHW Coordinator

Jenna Palmer

Hi everyone! 🙌

I wanted to share an autumn 🍁 update from me, Cllr Palmer - Police Liaison Representative and Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator.

Thank you to those who came to speak to PCSO Tara Cooksammy and I on 27th October 2025, during the autumn walk around the village. The village walk offers residents the opportunity to raise any local concerns or issues, get advice on community safety and crime prevention, learn more about what's happening in Kilsby or an opportunity to stop for a friendly chat. 🗣️

Kilsby is a great place to live. We appreciate residents taking the time to park considerately, so that if vehicles are parked on pavements, they do not cause obstructions or serious inconveniences to pedestrians.

Residents that use pushchairs, wheelchairs and mobility vehicles need space on pavements to pass vehicles, and unobstructed dropped curbs to safely cross our roads.

If you have any concerns about inconsiderate parking causing obstructions, please email our local PCSO 📧: tara.cooksammy@northants.police.uk.

I also wanted to take the opportunity to promote the Kilsby Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) group! 👁️

Neighbourhood Watch 🏠 isn't just about preventing crime, it's also about looking out for one another, especially vulnerable residents.

A grant application has been submitted, to enable us to buy NHW merchandise including more signage around the village. We will find out if we've been successful in January! 📅

If you are interested in joining our scheme (D60);

1. You can sign up on the Neighbourhood Watch Network website which can be found at:
<https://www.ourwatch.org.uk/joinNW>

2. Contacting me directly 📧 so I can add you to the scheme.

Residents are always welcome to reach out to me via email 🙌: jpalmer@kilsby-pc.gov.uk to share any worries or concerns, or to any ask questions 😊.

News from St Faith's

Alastair Wood, Rector of Barby and Kilsby

First a list of the **Christmas time services** which Kilsby and Barby Church share:

Sunday 21st December: Carol Service Kilsby 6pm

Mon. 22nd December: Carols by Candlelight Barby 6pm

Christmas Eve: Barby Family Christmas 4pm

Midnight Mass: 10.30pm Kilsby

Christmas Day: Christmas Eucharist 9am Kilsby
10:30am Barby

Sunday 28th December: Joint Service 10:30am Barby

And other news:

The **Community Choir** started on a high note! Around 35 singers are now meeting regularly every Monday from 7pm to 8:30pm at Barby Church. A good number of Kilsby folk travel over. We will be singing at both Carol services, around both villages and an appearance at the Red Lion will be arranged and enjoyed. We sing a variety of styles from Merry Christmas Everyone by Shakin Stevens to trad carols. You are very welcome to come and join us.

We look forward once again to Kilsby School holding their service in Church, which they do so very well, and our Sunday services continue in the usual format.

Don't hesitate to contact
Rev'd Alastair for information
or a chat.

Alastairrevapwood@
btinternet.com

01788 726306



Photo from our Harvest Festival

Church Floodlight Commemorations

11th December - Remembered with love:
Dora and Malcolm Cant

20th December - 3rd January - In memory of
Sheila and Ray Hartwell

The Community Choir needs you

IF YOU CAN PLAY THE PIANO OR THE ORGAN!

We really need someone to come along to our rehearsals and play the piano for us, so that Alastair can give his full attention to conducting and making us even better than we are (yes, metaphorically blowing our own trumpet!).

We have good fun on a Monday and we're even starting to produce something that sounds like music! But if we can have a little help, Alastair can make us even better.

If you think you might be able to come along - even now and then - do get in touch with Alastair (revapwood@btinternet.com).

6th Feb

7:30 pm

Nostalgic Lines

Alastair Wood In Concert

Barby
Village Hall

Kilsby Rd
Barby
CV23 8TT



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or contact Alastair direct

01788 726306
revapwood@btinternet.com



Dear Friends

I have just launched my fund raising concert which will take place in February, looking to raise funds towards the toilet installation at St Mary's Barby. I met a new architect today, and we have a plan. Sadly when the plans are drawn, they will cost!

I can promise you an entertaining evening, travelling around the countries railways in song and photographs.

I have written all the music, will play on a number of different instruments, all the songs are on screen & illustrated and have the lyrics too. You don't need to be a train spotter to enjoy a

very different night out.

You can book through the ticket source website, or you can purchase direct from me.

Do let folk know: We all need something to go on!

Alastairrevapwood@btinternet.com
01788 726306

'TIS THE
SEASON
TO BE
JOLLY!



Christmas

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Kilsby Women's Institute

Rachel McIntyre

October's meeting saw us listening to one of our legendary longstanding members, Linda Hartley, talking about the activities our Kilsby WI engaged in 30 years ago. It was very funny and all highly entertaining and gave us some ideas for next year's programme!

Sarais Crawshaw joined us for November's meeting to speak about Life as a Wildlife Artist. She uses many forms of collecting information for use whilst compiling her pictures; just looking, to photographs, to observing colours and form on film to get the composition right, and makes on the spot sketches in pencil to create a memory book to go back to at a later date.

Working in various mediums, Sarais went on to demonstrate her immense talent by completing an on the spot 'sketch' in a variety of chalk pastels in approximately 35 minutes.

Sarais has a number of exhibitions and sales coming up in the Rugby area on the lead up to Christmas. Please check out her website for details www.saraiscrawshawart.com or on Instagram @saraisb.

From this

to this in 35 mins!



Such a talented lady.

(It is the same picture – just taken from a different angle and with different light!)

We are looking forward to our December Christmas Activities, which include a visit to Lamport Christmas Market, an evening Wreath making which will include Prosecco and mince pies and our legendary WI Christmas Party on 11th December, which will conclude our activities for 2025.

If you are female and over 18 yrs old and would like to know more, please join us at Kilsby Village Hall on the 2nd Thursday of each month or contact one of the Committee. Guests are charged at £7, we begin at 7.30pm and refreshments are served. The cake is fabulous!

After a year of amazing talks and visits, Kilsby WI wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a prosperous and peaceful 2026.

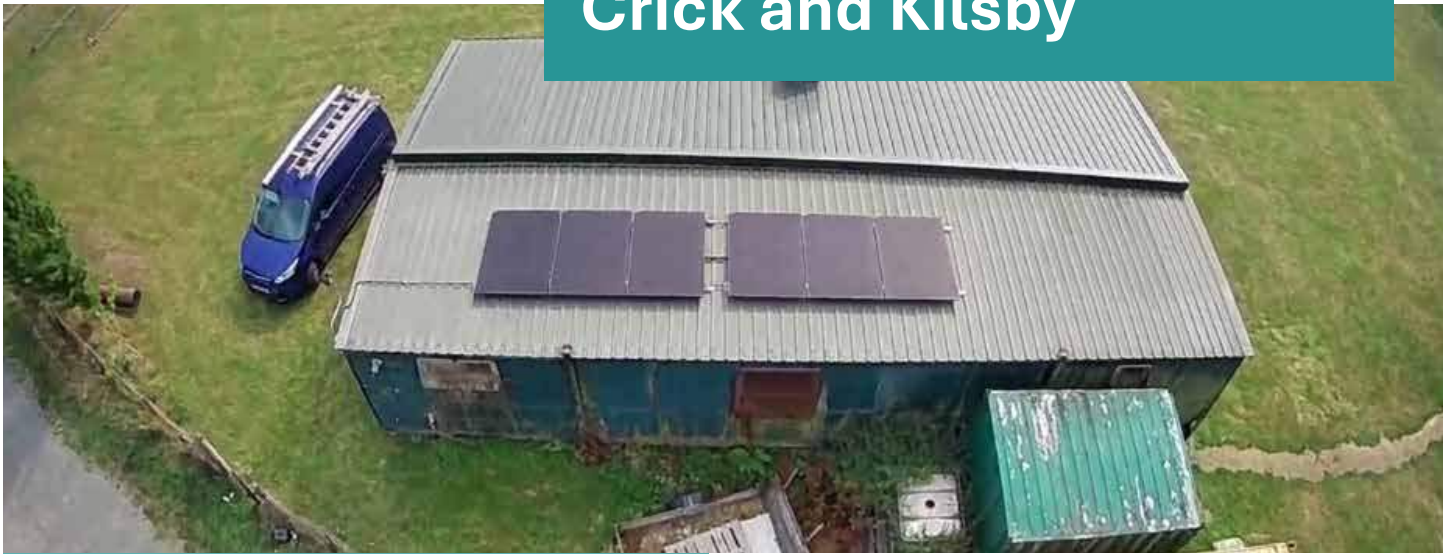
For further information contact:

Jules Cartwright (President) badboybinks@aol.com

Rachel McIntyre (Secretary) rae.mcintyre@hotmail.com

Elaine Morrice (Treasurer) pmmorrice@aol.com

Community Fund for Crick and Kilsby



▲ Crick Lions Cricket Club: Pavilion Solar Panel, Battery, & Solar Floodlight Installation, completed Sept 2025

➔ Fund Overview

Daintree Wind Farm Ltd has committed **£12,000** each year into a community Fund, which is split equally between the Parishes of Crick and Kilsby in Northamptonshire.

- Grants between £250 and £6,000
- Closing date: **8th April 2026**
- Final decisions: End of June 2026

Projects must be located within the Parishes of Crick or Kilsby.

➔ Who can apply?

Eligible Organisations, who can apply for funding include:

- Voluntary, community groups
- Parish Councils
- Schools and educational establishments
- Social enterprises, provided they operate on a not-for-profit basis and have minimum of three unrelated directors.

➔ What can be funded?

Priority will be given to:

- Energy efficiency or renewable energy projects, such as insulation, efficient boilers or small scale renewable energy installations
- Training or education projects, especially vocational training for unemployed young people under the age of 25 years old
- Projects for school age children, or older people
- Any other community projects for the benefit of residents of the local area

For full details of what can be funded (there are limited exceptions) and to apply, please visit GrantScape's website.

➔ Contact and Further Questions?

☎ 01908 247630

🌐 www.grantscape.org.uk

✉ info@grantscape.org.uk

GrantScape 

Gardeners' Corner

Ron Kickle

Wet, wet, wet..

Rain at last, and rather a lot of it!. As I write this we have had over 12 hours of steady rain. According to the forecast, by the time you read this we may well be dry and even frosty.

Keep off the ground

The ground has been very dry and is now wet, so it is likely to cake if you go on it so keep off! It can now all be left until after Christmas, even until the first bulbs peep through. This will leave lots of shelter for hibernating garden life over the winter.

Keep paths safe

Paths can get very slippery with leaf fall and long thorny rose stems can be dangerous, so do clean the paths and cut back any nasty stems people might walk into in the dark.

Don't rush into winter pruning

It is worth checking your fruit tree stakes and ties, particularly those on dwarfing rootstocks which will have weaker roots, but don't hard prune yet as that risks new growth starting too soon. There is plenty of time to prune fruit trees and bushes in February. It is worth just shortening and tying back the long shoots on bush and standard roses enough to stop them rocking in the wind.

Jobs to do in December

Plant that garlic you should have planted in November!
Sit in the warm reading your gardening catalogues
Finish your planting plan for next year.
Order any remaining seeds and plants

Jobs to do in January

Clean your paths
Fork over round your bulbs and top dress with bonemeal.
Expose pots of bulbs to frost but protect from rain

Times past...

Advice for December in "Kalenderial Index", Mr Loudon, 1850:-

"December: The gardener's operations are chiefly of the laborious kind but the days are short and the nights are long. He may console himself with the shortness of the day and hail the approach of evening when he may lay aside his wet dress and fortify his mind by converse with books."

Perhaps a hot toddy to fortify the body too!

Good Gardening!

Ron Kickle



Kilsby Coffee Morning - Change of Venue

The Kilsby Coffee Morning will now be held at the Village Hall in the Kilsby Room

Everyone is welcome

Still the First Thursday of every month (except January 1st)

10-12 am

Tea, coffee, Hot Chocolate | Home made cakes
| Good company & Chat | A fabulous raffle

Pop along- bring your friends

As we go into the colder winter months - come and socialise in a warm space. We look forward to seeing you.

Future Dates for your Diary

All Thursdays:

4th December

8th January 26

5th February 26

5th March 26

LIVE JAZZ EVENTS



KILSBY JAZZ CLUB



Venue : Kilsby Village Hall
CHECK OUT FUTURE EVENTS ONLINE

WWW.KILSBYJAZZ.CO.UK

Event Dates for 2026

Friday 6th March 2026

**Paula Jackman Jazz
Masters**

Friday 5th June 2026

**Richard Exall 's
Shooting Stars**

Friday 11th Sept 2026

**Elaine Riches Cool
Jazz Collective**

Friday 4th Dec 2026

Alligator Gumbo Band



To Get Information on future events and ticket sales , visit:

www.kilsbyjazz.co.uk and subscribe for free.



Kilsby Players - A Fete Worse Than Death

A huge thank you to everyone who supported us by coming to see our first production, A Fete Worse Than Death. We had a great time working on the show and all the hard work of rehearsing, learning lines, putting a set together, selling tickets and organising Front of House was worth it to see so many people enjoying themselves!

And a special mention to Oliver's Fish Bar in Hillmorton for providing the wonderful food, and all the local businesses who provided raffle prizes.

We've had some great feedback and some pointers to work on as we start thinking about our next endeavour which is likely to be in the Spring.

We're looking through some options over Christmas and will read through a few scripts on 29th December - let us know if you would like to be involved! Please contact Polly on 07780601052



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Christmas
& a Happy New Year***

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Buckby Library & Hub



A big, big thank you to everyone who has supported Buckby Library & Hub in whatever capacity during 2025. And thanks, too, to all our wonderful volunteers without whom we would simply not exist! We wish everyone Seasons Greetings and all the best for the New Year.

Exhibitions and events

December: Drawings by Wyatt Watts. Wyatt is five and has a passion for art and the natural world. His drawings are mainly of the insect world and marine life. He can often be found at Mill Park Reserve or Cotton End Park exploring different habitats.

January: Long Buckby-on-Sea, an exhibition by local artist, Faye Spencer. Faye invites you to take a journey into an alternate universe which combines ancient tradition and future premonition. Along the way you may encounter strange and uncanny sights: Jackdaw Kings, churchyard mermaids and perhaps a rogue Morris dancer or two!

Tuesday, 16th December, 6.30pm: actor **James Hornsby** will give a dramatized performance of Charles Dickens' famous story **A Christmas Carol**. Suitable for children over 8 and above (and all adults). Under 12s to be accompanied by an adult please. Tickets are selling fast: £10/adult and £5 for under 16s, from the library and Peephole in the High Street. Doors open at 6pm. Refreshments available.

Monday 22nd December, 2–3.15pm: the Crimbo Limbo Magic Show with **Steve the Magician**. For young children up to 8 years; tickets are £7/child including a drink/biscuit,

balloon and book from the book trolley.

Tuesday 23rd December, 2.30pm: children's Christmas **craft** activities – a creative afternoon of making cards and baubles; also book hunts! It's £2.50 per child but please book your place at the library. Thank you.

Tuesday, 27th January, 7.30pm: our film is **Downton Abbey: The Grand Finale**. 'When Mary finds herself in a public scandal and the family faces financial trouble, the household grapples with the threat of social disgrace. The Crawleys must embrace change with the next generation leading Downton Abbey into the future.' Tickets are £7.50 and will be available from the library or Peephole in the High Street. Doors open at 7.00.

Join us!

Friends: have you considered becoming a Friend of Buckby Library & Hub and making regular donations? For details of our Friends scheme, please go to: <https://buckbylibraryhub.org/friends/> or pop in to see us.

We are seeking a fundraising trustee: we have some wonderful new trustees in our community managed library & hub team. We are now on the look-out for a trustee to steer and coordinate our fundraising into the future, supported by our manager and volunteers. Is this you? If you are interested, please get in touch with sam. holst@buckbylibraryhub.org for an initial chat.

<https://buckbylibraryhub.org>; 01327 842591; NN6 7QB

Kilsby Produce Show 2026

The next Kilsby Produce Show is now booked for
Sunday 30th August 2026.

To give all the budding photographers as much notice as possible the topics for next years show are:-

1. Canal Life

2. Insect and/or Insects

If you have any questions or queries with regard to the Produce Show or anything else that the Garden Association organise please contact:-

Charles Smedley by email: chassmedley23@aol.co.uk or call 07958 242822.





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Kilsby Action Group

Rob Chamberlain, on behalf of the Kilsby Action Group.

As we approach the end of the year Kilsby Action Group would like to thank all the residents of Kilsby for their support in 2025. We end the year as we started it with a threat to the green space buffer on the edge of our village. This time last year the threat was on Barby Rd and now it's from the proposal to build 63 houses behind Rugby Rd by Rainier Developments. Let's not forget that we fought off an attempt to build a new major warehouse development on the A5 not very long ago.

The reason that we have been able to frustrate speculative developers is unity. The village have supported KAG magnificently, the Parish Council and our Ward Councillors Andrew and Rosie are always quick to help us and our MP Stuart has spoken up for us whenever we ask. We ask that you continue to support us in 2026 because regrettably these threats will continue to come. If you are not on our mailing list please email us at kilsbyaction@gmail.com or follow us on Facebook @Kilsby Action and we will keep you updated.

We had to postpone our fundraising quiz, but it now is going ahead on Saturday January 24th in the village hall with a fish and chip supper. It's a great social evening and we would love to see you there. Tables are a maximum of 6 players, please see if you can sell a table or let us know if you have less than 6 and we will match you up with others. Outside of our pledge campaign for major expenses such as planning consultants / lawyers etc this is the major fundraising exercise for the year, and we really would be grateful if you could come. Please email

kilsbyaction@gmail.com or message 07952 404305 to reserve a table.

The latest situation is that we wait to see if Rainier move forward with a formal planning application to build houses behind Rugby Rd, we know that lots of residents responded to their consultation document and said we don't want their development on the edge of our village. The Parish Council responded to the consultation and said they don't support the proposal, and our MP has written to them in support of the village. Our Ward Cllrs have also challenged the fact that the consultation was not delivered to the whole village. Let's hope Rainier have got the message and decide that we are too much trouble. If not Kilsby Action Group will coordinate a robust plan of opposition to any formal planning application on that site.

The new Local Plan continues to work its way slowly through the process, and it's very slow and is made more difficult by the demands of national government. We continue to watch out for its progress because it will determine the process and framework for development in our region for the next decade and beyond. We continue to campaign on the basis that because we are a secondary service village and at the bottom of the settlement hierarchy, that building in our village should be restricted to infill only. We hope that when the Local Plan is finally published that this outcome will be adopted and with your support we intend to be represented at the enquiry where the Planning Inspectorate examine the final draft of the plan to try and make certain that it is.

Pet's Corner

*Meet Tiggs!
She is very
playful and
loving and
she loves a
Christmas tree
with baubles!*

Jo Reeve



Tiggs

£1.50

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Climate Matters



Ian Massey on behalf of the Kilsby Residents Climate Action Group | Email: krcag@btinternet.com.

Unlike previous editions of Climate Matters, this one starts with a matter close to home.

You will see on other pages in this edition of the Kronickle that Kilsby has been chosen to take part in a pilot exercise by West Northants Council to relax the rules on recycling plastics. The background to this is given in the Ward Councillors report. By the time you read this, it is likely that you will have received the official WNC leaflet about the scheme through your door. If by any chance you have not had one, or if you have suffered from “the dog ate my homework” syndrome, replacement copies can be picked up from the Village Shop. The leaflet is also shown opposite.

This pilot scheme marks an important step forward for WNC to allow more plastic waste to be recycled creating new plastic products and reducing plastic waste. All of this helps the environment by reducing the need for the manufacturing of new products from virgin plastics (which are made from fossil fuels). To add a little more on the background, this exercise was kick started by a member of KRCAG, Polly Redhead. She had researched plastic waste because of the confusion surrounding what can and cannot be recycled and led to her organising the trip to the recycling plant for Kilsby residents. This in turn led to the take up actions, as detailed in the Ward Councillor’s report. KRCAG is a small group with 8 active members so it is rewarding to know that it was our actions that paved the way to this pilot scheme being initiated.

The climate is continuing to experience extreme events. In September, typhoon Ragassa ravaged Laos, Vietnam and China, with wind speeds in excess of 160 mph, the equivalent of a category 5 hurricane. More recently hurricane Melissa destroyed Jamaica, another category 5 hurricane with a maximum sustained wind speed of 185 mph. This is one of the most powerful hurricanes on record in the Atlantic basin. As a guide, the destructive force of Melissa is around 5 times that of a category 1 hurricane which has wind speeds of around 80 mph (typical of some UK storms). In both cases, the storms were slow moving, maximising their destructive power. This is a recent development for hurricanes in the last few years, and the reason is so far unknown. Although it is difficult to associate an extreme weather event directly to climate change, the scientific community have used attribution analysis and are becoming increasingly convinced that there is a link. Not surprising given that a 1C increase in atmospheric temperature increases the water content of the atmosphere by 7%. Because of this, a recent (October) report to the Government by the independent

Climate Change Committee has said that the UK should be prepared to cope with weather extremes as a result of at least 2C of global warming by 2050. They warned the country was “not yet adapted” to the worsening weather extremes already occurring at current levels of warming, “let alone” what was expected to come.



And now to a did you know. What is the impact of our online activities? Sending each email, browsing online, uploading images, playing music and streaming video carries with it a small carbon footprint. Approximately 4.1 billion people, or 53.6% of the global population, now use the internet. A billion is a very large number, for example, a billion days ago was around the start of the Stone Age, 2.7 million years ago. These little scraps of energy, and the associated greenhouse gases emitted with each online activity, can add up. The carbon footprint of our gadgets, the internet and the systems supporting them account for about 3.7% of carbon dioxide emissions, according to some estimates. This is more than the amount produced by the airline industry globally, which is around 2.4%. If we were to divide the 1.7 billion tonnes (1.6 billion tons) of greenhouse gas emissions estimated to be produced in the manufacture and running of digital technologies between all internet users around the world, it means each of us is responsible for around 414kg (912lbs) of carbon dioxide a year, equivalent to around 400 bags of sugar. Something to think about when using our devices.

As I’m writing this, the COP30 meeting is taking place in Brazil. COP30 is the 30th annual UN climate meeting. COP means Conference of the Parties (the nearly 200 nations who signed up to the original UN climate agreement of 1992). COP30 takes place at a crucial moment, with global climate targets under strain. Yet many leaders are absent, including China’s President Xi Jinping and US President Donald Trump, and most countries have failed to submit new climate pledges ahead of the summit. This indicates that climate matters are going down in

countries' priorities and that little action will be taken by them to achieve further reductions in greenhouse gas emissions. We have seen this at a local level where West Northants Council has abandoned its existing commitments to achieve 'net zero' by 2040 and replace the word "climate" with "environment" in council impact

reports. So if anything is to be done, it is being left to grass roots groups like ours to progress the agenda. If you feel you would like to be involved, then please drop me a line at krcag@btinternet.com and I can let you know when the next meeting will be.

Welcome to your new plastic bags and wrapping collection

Your household is included in a pilot area for a new service which will allow you to recycle plastic bags and wrapping as part of your normal recycling collection. This pilot project is being run ahead of a launch across the whole of West Northamptonshire in 2027.

What do I need to do?



1. Your plastic bags and wrapping should be empty and free from food residue



2. Place loose plastic bags and wrapping into your blue lidded recycling bin with other recyclables



3. Put your blue lidded recycling bin at the kerbside on your collection day

Keep it loose

Do not place bags within bags, and make sure the material is loose so it's easier to be sorted and recycled into something new!

Why are we collecting plastic bags and wrapping?

Almost all new plastic comes from fossil sources, which every year, is creating millions of tonnes of greenhouse gases that harm the planet.

Recycled plastic bags and wrapping can be used to make plastic packaging, 'bags for life' and materials used in farming or in construction.

What can I now recycle?

All items should be **clean** and **free of food**.

 All plastic bags carrier bags salad/fruit/vegetable bags frozen food bags bread bags cereal bags flower bags	 Cheese, fish, and meat wrapping
 Confectionery wrappers chocolate sweets biscuits cakes ice cream and chewing gum wrappers	 Outer layer bags and wrapping multipacks toilet and kitchen roll magazine and newspaper wrapping
 Foil lined packaging crisp/snack packets coffee bags	 Plastic film and sleeves removeable film lids plastic sleeves for bottles and jars
	 Bubble wrap and cling film maximum 1m sections
	 Fruit and vegetable net bags

DO NOT recycle:

For the full list of items that can be recycled, please scan the QR code on the back of this leaflet

- ❌ Pouches, sachets and packets - microwaveable food, baby/pet food, cosmetics, detergent and cleaning
- ❌ Balloons
- ❌ Blister packs, pills, and tablets packaging
- ❌ Compostable or biodegradable bags and wrapping
- ❌ Crisp tubes
- ❌ Disposable gloves or masks
- ❌ Foam or polystyrene of any kind
- ❌ Plastic straws or cutlery
- ❌ Textiles and clothing - book a free collection by searching 'clothing collections' at westnorthants.gov.uk

Kilsby History Society

Diana Smith - Secretary of the Kilsby History Society

The Gunpowder Plot has very local connections to Kilsby with the Plotters sometimes meeting in the gatehouse at Ashby St. Ledgers.

Peter Walters, our speaker on Thursday January 15th, will be able to tell us how Coventry was also involved.

We meet in the Kilsby Room at 7.30p.m.

Members £3. Visitors £5.

If you haven't yet paid your annual subscription of £7, it is now due.

Tea, coffee and biscuits available.

Everyone is welcome.



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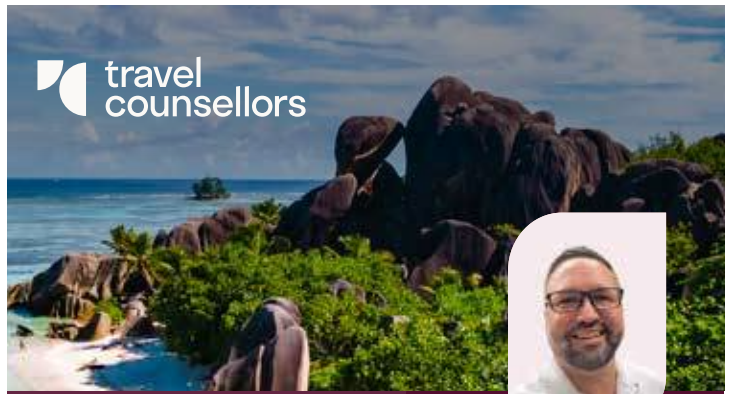
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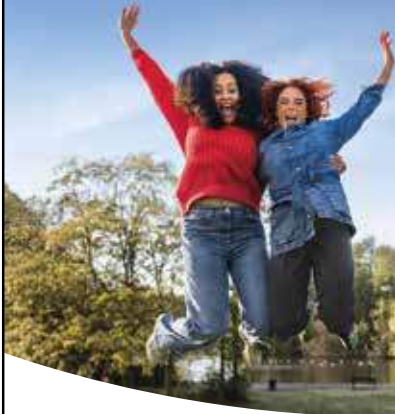
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Lufthansa Mulled Wine Cake

by Kath McBirnie.

This recipe was given to us on a Lufthansa flight home in December years ago. They also gave us a sachet of vanilla sugar. This cake looks very seasonal baked in a ring tin with icing sugar sifted on when cold.

Delicious served warm with thick cream as a dessert or cold as a cake. It doesn't freeze well but keeps in a tin for up to 4 days.

Ingredients:

250g butter, softened

250g self-raising flour

250g caster sugar

4 eggs

250ml mulled wine (ready-made or red wine infused with mulled wine spices, cooled and then strained)

1 teaspoon cinnamon

1 packet (8g) vanilla sugar*

1 packet (8g) baking powder

2 tablespoons cocoa

150g dark chocolate (chopped into small pieces)

Method:

Beat the butter until fluffy, then add the eggs and sugar along with the cinnamon, vanilla sugar and cocoa. Mix the flour with the baking powder and blend it with the butter/egg/sugar mass, gradually adding the mulled wine as you go. (This can all be done really quickly in a food processor). When the mixture is well blended, gently fold in the chocolate pieces. Place in a greased and flour Gugelhupf (ring cake) tin and bake at 150c for 50 minutes or until a skewer comes out clean.

If you don't have this kind of tin, use a deep, loose bottomed cake tin, 20-22cm diameter and cook for about 60 minutes. Leave to cool before turning out and dusting with icing sugar.

This cake will keep fresh for several days and can also be served warm with whipped cream.

*In Germany vanilla sugar is widely used in cooking and is sold in small 8g packets. As you probably won't have this, just increase the caster sugar weight to 258g. On the other hand, if you're really keen, you could buy a vanilla pod and leave it to infuse in some caster sugar in advance!!

A perfect cake to serve at Christmas time!!!!

Please email your favourite recipe to kilsbykronickle@outlook.com

The National Open Gardens date for Kilsby has been set for the afternoon of Sunday 21st June 2026.

It has been brought forward by a week in the hope that we can beat any possible repeats of the 2025 drought conditions.

Those who like to enjoy the Historic Narrowboats Rally in Braunston over the last weekend of June will be able to do both.



For those who may fear a last minute garden panic, the BBC Gardeners World Live exhibition is at the NEC between Thursday 18th June and Sunday 21st June.

If you would like to consider opening your garden for just that one afternoon for charity next June, or would like to persuade a neighbour to do so, please contact me on 01788 823206.

Janette Weekes



Kilsby Village Shop

A Community Owned Project

Christmas Opening Hours

Xmas Eve 9:00 - 12 noon

Xmas Day - CLOSED

Boxing Day - CLOSED



27th Dec 9:00 - 4:00

28th Dec 9:00 - 12 noon

29th Dec 9:00 - 6:30

30th Dec 9:00 - 6:30



New Years Eve 9:00 - 12 noon

New Years Day - CLOSED

✨ Shop local - don't lose it ✨

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Kilsby Village Shop

A Community Owned Project



Our later hours are proving popular; lots of lovely new customers who weren't able to come before and existing customers enjoying the extra convenience.

We are open until 6:30pm on Monday to Friday.

Our turnover is up so a big thank you to all our new customers and to everyone who has responded to our call for help by spending £10 a week in the shop. This is a very effective way to help us so please keep it up! And don't forget we can deliver for free in the village. Pop in or call 07469 255517 to arrange this.

It's coming up to Christmas and we've lots of Christmas goodies, so do pop in and see what we can do for you. We're also here for those essential bits you've forgotten!

Due to this we are in even greater need of some more helpers. If you have a couple of hours a week to volunteer we'd love to hear from you.

As a village shop we don't just operate as a business. Part of our aim is to be a community hub and also to offer a service for people in the village who may struggle to get out and about. If you're retired why not come in every day for a paper or a few bits; the exercise and the social contact will be good for you!

Remember:

Using your village shop is good for you, the village and the environment!



Playtime

Kilsby Village Hall
Mondays 9:45am - 11:45am
Term Time Only





Kilsby Christmas Tree

Light Switch-On Event

Saturday 6th December 2025



Designed by: Sofia, age 4, winner of the Kilsby Christmas Tree Competition

Come and join us outside the **Kilsby Village Shop, Main Road at 4.30pm on Saturday 6th December**. Father Christmas will be joining us, and we will then parade along Essen Lane, Independent Street to the village green.

Father Christmas will switch on the Christmas Tree lights at **5.00pm** with the help of Sofia and Evie, last year's competition winner.

There will be free mulled wine and mince pies for the adults and free fairground rides for the children. Thanks to the contributions of the Kilsby Christmas Tree Lottery, we are able to offer these free of charge. Money will be needed for the fairground stalls.

There will also be live music from **"The Tunnellers"**.

Get to Know the Villagers

Jan Bowden

How long have you lived in the village and why did you move here?

I first moved to Kilsby in the late summer of 1997. I knew friends who lived in the village and, as a single professional woman, I felt I could make my home here. I felt so lucky when the thatched cottage "Fernside" came up for sale in Essen Lane and I could just about afford to buy it, as long as I sold my car and everything else of material value! I did, however, have my beloved boxer dog, Ellie, who was two at the time and became my steadfast companion for the next ten years.

Essen Lane, at that time was a popular walk through route to the post office and general stores and regular training path for horses, so it never felt quiet or lonely. A further bonus was that Maggie, the landlady at the George, had just retired from her role as education advisor in Leicestershire where I had taught for 18 years; she always made me feel welcome in her pub and it was gratifying to watch her make such a success of her new venture. I would like to mention three more Essen Lane ladies who made a lasting and valuable contribution to Kilsby: Betty Ayres, Barbara Marlowe and Susan Massey; sadly they are no longer with us but fond memories remain.

This first residence in Kilsby lasted for ten years, during which time I met my husband to be, remarried and became a stepmum to three girls. We were given a church blessing by the Reverend Peter Beresford at St Faiths and held our wedding breakfast at the Hunt House, where the wonderful Lulu presided magnificently over the whole occasion.

My career flourished; I was Deputy Head teacher at Avon Valley School for seven years after which I was seconded to Warwickshire Local Education Authority until I was appointed as Head Teacher at Ash Green School in Coventry. I loved my job, but life was hectic; my elderly parents had moved to Rugby from Yorkshire and their health deteriorated. We sold Essen Lane and moved to a more spacious modern house in Crick. I took early retirement and began a second part time career working at HMP Rye Hill. I became an ordinary tutor again, teaching creative writing which I still do to this present day.

A decade passed, the girls grew up, went to universities, got on with their lives. Then tragedy struck: my only sister, who lived in London, contracted pneumonia and died. She was 44. Peter Beresford supported my parents' wishes and allowed us to hold Jayne's funeral at St Faiths as we all felt the village was our family spiritual home. My parents then chose to move to Kilsby and bought a bungalow on

The Banks where they remained until my father passed away six years later, at the grand old age of 96. That was my catalyst to return. In June 2018 we bought Northgate House and have lived there since.

What do you like about the village?

What I love most about Kilsby is its sense of community. Whatever age you are, there is a place for you and a feeling of welcome, if you make the effort and step over the threshold. The jazz nights, film nights and newly reformed drama group are all well attended and a great way of meeting people.

What aspects of village life do you like getting involved in?

Like my mother, I joined the flourishing W.I and would recommend it to any woman coming new into the village. The monthly meetings are fun as well as informative. There are a variety of outings scheduled for next year and we embrace change.

Since my late twenties I have been a Soroptimist. For those of you who haven't heard of us, we are a women's global organisation, very much like Rotary, who give service and raise funds to support education and enhance the lives of disadvantaged women and children. The WI has supported me in fund raising for the Hill Street Centre in Rugby and we have raised over £1400 to provide activities for disadvantaged local children. My garden will be open again this year for a fund-raising cream tea event.

I have recently joined the Community Choir and I'm loving it!

What would you like to change about Kilsby?

So, would I change anything? I have to say an emphatic NO, long may Kilsby flourish.

But.....It would be nice to see more participants in the Open Gardens' Scheme, oh and more shoppers in the community shop and, of course, if anyone fancies setting up a permanent café.....

Things to Do

- ✓ Recycle soft plastics in your Blue Bin -
page 21
- ✓ Join Neighbourhood Watch scheme -
page 7
- ✓ Apply for funding from Grantscape -
page 12
- ✓ Get involved with The Kilsby Players -
page 15
- ✓ Rally a team together for the KAG Quiz -
page 19

Carol Concert

at St. Peter's Church Wolfhampcote

13th December, Saturday, 4pm

Visiting Wolfhampcote church

The church is reached using the gated road from the nearby village of Flecknoe, or by a private track leading from the A45 where it crosses the Grand Union Canal at Braunston.

Postcode for the church is: CV23 8AR



Kilsby Church 100 Club

September 2025

1st - 20 Donated £40
2nd - 18- I.Mason £30
3rd - 9 - A.Brown £20
4th - 48 - P. Dalton £20
5th - 2 - J Thomas £10

October 2025

1st - 88 L.Tassel £40
2nd - 31 D.Liddington £30
3rd - 91 L Griffiths £20
4th - 15 A. Robert's £20
5th - 76 K Sitch £10

November 2025

1st - 42 - Shirley Gent £100
2nd - 35 - Brian Asbury £65
3rd - 9- Andrea Brown £40
4th - 1 - Anne Lewis £40
5th - 55 - Fiona Gibbs £20

Our next draw will take place Thursday 4th December during the Coffee Morning at The Village Hall 10-12 - All Welcome. We still have some numbers available. £5 per month gets you in the draw. Please contact me if you would like to join. Andrea Brown. 07861 295358. andreabrown0909@gmail.com

The deadline for the next issue is: Friday 16th January 2026

Email: kilsbykronickle@outlook.com

Note: When sending in a contribution please could you send photos as attachments, as well as shown within e.g. a Word document for placement requirements. Text can be supplied either within an email or in a Word doc.

Thank you to all our contributors, distributors and readers.

Editorial team: Polly Redhead, Catherine Peake and Vicki James