



**KINGSGROVE**  
W A N T A G E

# KINGSGROVE NEWSLETTER



ISSUE | March 2021

## WELCOME

This community newsletter is designed to keep you updated on progress as the various phases of the project are brought forward. Information can also be found on the website:

[www.kingsgrovewantage.co.uk](http://www.kingsgrovewantage.co.uk)

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*Progress photography from March 2021*

## MEETING MILESTONES ON SITE AT KINGSGROVE



Works continue to progress on site at Kingsgrove, with big milestones being achieved in the first few months of this year.

The easterly-most phase, known as Yellow Fields, has been bought by Bellway, who are already working on site on the Greensands phase. They are due to start on site on this new phase of housing in October this year.

Another landmark in the development was the sale of the 1.1 acre plot consented for a care home to Care UK in February this year. Alongside the delivery and opening of the new GEMS Wantage Primary Academy and plans progressing on the public square Art Commission (see p.2 for info), the sale of the care home site is the next milestone in cultivating a new intergenerational community at the heart of Kingsgrove.



As we now have 150 occupations in Kingsgrove, St. Modwen is providing the town council with S106 funding to help support community development initiatives in the wider area, as well as funding for public transport and the upkeep of Betjeman Park.

# KINGSGROVE ARTS COMMISSIONED ARTIST

Over the last year, St. Modwen has been on the lookout for an artist to bring public art into the neighbourhood centre at Kingsgrove.

At the beginning of March, the Kingsgrove Art Commission steering group chose Kerry Lemon, experienced public artist, museum lover, botanicals enthusiast and teacher, to help them achieve this vision.

Kerry has been commissioned to create a series of permanent sculptural works inspired by the heritage of Kingsgrove, that aid in wayfinding and help make the public square and park a place to enjoy.

"I want to create encounters with art which surprise and delight, so will make this work interactive to encourage play, learning and exploration."

Kerry will be engaging with local groups to ensure that the people that live in Kingsgrove have the opportunity to shape the art they will see every day.

Keep an eye out on [kingsgrovewantage.co.uk](http://kingsgrovewantage.co.uk) and follow us on Twitter



[@KingsgroveStMod](https://www.instagram.com/KingsgroveStMod) to make sure you're up to date on the latest news on Kerry's commission. To take a look at Kerry's work, visit: [kerrylemon.co.uk](http://kerrylemon.co.uk) or check out her [@Instagram page @KerryLemonArt](https://www.instagram.com/KerryLemonArt).

## GEMS WANTAGE PRIMARY GETS OUTDOORS



Principal Leah Perring writes: At GEMS Wantage Primary Academy, it has not been the return to the Spring term that we expected. At the start of term, our staff were ready to welcome all pupils and were so excited to share all that they had planned.

We then suddenly found ourselves putting our Remote Learning plan into action! The engagement from our parents and pupils has been fantastic and the teachers and school staff have been overwhelmingly impressed with the work that has been completed at home.

The mental and physical health of our children and their families is of utmost importance to myself and the staff at WPA. With that in mind, we recently held Outdoor Week. Alongside all the amazing remote learning going on, we wanted to encourage our children

and their parents to get outside and explore, experiencing nature and making memories. WPA's parent-child community relished the challenge, put on their wellies and headed out into Kingsgrove, Wantage and beyond! Our parents then sent photos, videos and work created from Outdoor week:



# LOVE KINGSGROVE PHOTO COMPETITION

Last month we ran a 'Love Kingsgrove' competition, where we asked you to get outdoors and take photos of what you loved doing and seeing around Kingsgrove.

Our judging panel chose these two images as they perfectly captured the joy of being outside with our loved ones (both two and four-legged!) Check out some of the other wonderful submissions below.



# THE WANTAGE MIX

## HELP YOUR COMMUNITY

The Wantage Mix is a community space run by Sustainable Wantage, and St. Modwen sponsored The Mix over lockdown to ensure they could continue their great work. We share their latest initiatives below:

### Laptops available

At The Mix our IT volunteers have been refurbishing old laptops to give to people who need to get online for school, work, training, or to access support services or social groups. If you or someone you know would benefit from getting online but isn't able to buy a new laptop please get in touch:

E: [wantagemix@gmail.com](mailto:wantagemix@gmail.com)  
T: 07768 767787

### Can you take One action a month to help reduce our impact on the environment?

'One action a month' is a Sustainable Wantage initiative for 2021 to support all those who wish to take steps to help nature, climate and community but aren't sure where to start.

Each month – via email – an action will be suggested that will make a difference, with information about why and how this action helps our local

community. As everyone has different interests, resources and priorities, we'll also suggest some alternatives. February's email was all about Saving energy whilst keeping warm if you'd like to [have a look!](#)



## MEANWHILE AT KINGSGROVE

### EXPRESS YOUR INTEREST

While plans are being firmed up for the **Community Building and Public Square**, we want to ensure our current residents have a place to meet and enjoy on site in the meantime.

With that in mind, we're exploring options for meanwhile uses of these areas, to breathe life into all possible spaces, before we begin construction of the permanent uses in 1-2 years.

Are you a local food and beverage business, cafe owner or retailer and interested in becoming part of the growing community at Kingsgrove? We'd love to talk to you.

Get in touch with us at [info@kingsgrovewantage.co.uk](mailto:info@kingsgrovewantage.co.uk) and tell us a bit about your business, and we'll be in touch.



### Keep In Touch

For more information about Kingsgrove, or to be added to our e-newsletter circulation list, please email [info@kingsgrovewantage.co.uk](mailto:info@kingsgrovewantage.co.uk)

Please feel free to circulate this newsletter to other interested parties.

Or visit or visit [www.kingsgrovewantage.co.uk](http://www.kingsgrovewantage.co.uk) to download a PDF version.