

Doctors Practice at Kidsgrove Medical Centre is "inadequate"

A report by the Care Quality Commission has found one of the practices operating out of Kidsgrove Medical Centre on Mount Road to be inadequate.



One of the practices operating out of Kidsgrove Medical Centre has been found to be 'inadequate'

The practice, Dr Robinson & Partners, have been placed in special measures and will be inspected again in six months, if insufficient improvements are made the providers could have their registration cancelled leading to a closure of the service.

In the report Professor Steve Field, Chief Inspector of General Practice, states, "I am placing this service in special measures. Services placed in special measures will be inspected again within six months. If insufficient improvements have been made such that there remains a rating of inadequate for any population group, key question or overall, we will take action in line with our enforcement procedures to begin the process of preventing the provider from operating the service. This will lead to cancelling their registration or to varying the terms of their registration within six months if they do not improve.

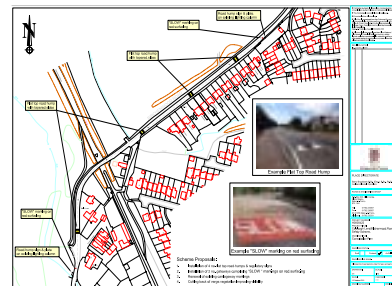
Special measures will give people who use the service the reassurance that the care they get should improve."

The role of the Care Quality Commission (CQC) as an independent regulator, is to register health and adult social care service providers in England and to inspect whether or not standards are being met. They monitor, inspect and regulate services to make sure they meet fundamental standards of quality and safety and publish their findings. The full report can be found on their website at: www.cqc.org.uk

Speed humps for Colclough Lane

Stoke City council are to install a set of speed humps along Colclough Lane/Birchenwood Road between Goldenhill and Newchapel to slow down traffic on what has been become a 'Rat Run'.

The country lane is narrow with some sharp bends and needs to be driven with care but many drivers using as it as a short cut avoiding the busier Tunstall Road, Biddulph Road, James Brindley Way route often exceed the 30mph speed limit and a number of accidents have resulted in the last few years.



The move has been welcomed by residents living in the vicinity who claim that drivers frequently speed recklessly and that they have seen numerous accidents over the years.

The speed humps are planned:

- Outside Morley House on Birchenwood Rd;
- Outside Fairway on Birchenwood Rd;
- Approx 71 metres north of the Scotia Valley Greenway on Birchenwood Road;
- Approx 98 metres southwest of the junction with Scotia Valley Greenway on Birchenwood Rd.

Councillor Daniel Jellyman, cabinet member for highways, said: "A speed assessment and public consultation has shown there is a need for the humps to improve road safety. The work will now be completed this financial year. Speed humps do tend to get a mixed response and it is usually a balancing act between putting them in and the impact they have on road safety."



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Ruth Smeeth MP for Stoke-on-Trent North & Kidsgrove Reflect, refresh and refocus



A very Happy New Year to everyone in Kidsgrove. After a challenging 2018, the new year is a welcome opportunity to reflect, refresh and refocus on the challenges and opportunities for our local community.

While Brexit will continue to dominate the headlines and Westminster, it is by no means the only challenge we face. There is plenty of work still to be done closer to home: whether that's improving our local public services, securing more investment in our towns or delivering the leisure facilities that we need.

The continuing work on Kidsgrove Train Station is a step in the right direction on this front. And now the new year has brought another possible opportunity to support residents in the form of a welcome boost to local finances.

It was revealed just before Christmas that Staffordshire County Council was set to receive over £5 million from a new business rates trial.

That's a welcome boost for a County Council which has been making headlines for all the wrong reasons in recent months.

Parents in Kidsgrove, and right across Staffordshire, have been hugely concerned about plans to cut our school crossing patrols. Our children's safety is paramount and it has been made clear by parents and campaigners across our county that losing this service would put that at risk.

County councillors have also been dragging their feet when it comes to stepping up and investing in new sporting facilities for the people of Kidsgrove. One and a half years since they cut funding for the swimming pool

we are no closer to seeing a business plan to rebuild it, despite the clear community need.

Previously, Staffordshire County Council have sought to justify these cuts and delays by pleading poverty. There is no doubt that local councils right across the country are feeling the pinch, with millions snatched from community coffers by the Conservative Government since 2010.

So this £5 million cash boost is welcome news. What is needed now is for the County Council to put that extra funding to good use and ensure that our local communities feel the benefit.

That is why I have called on them to use part of this money to reverse the reckless cuts to our school crossing patrols. This is a relatively small expense for something which makes a huge difference, and if just one child's life is saved as a result then it is worth every penny. You cannot put a price on the safety and wellbeing of our kids.

They should also set aside some of this cash to deliver on their debt to the people of Kidsgrove and bring forward a plan for the brand new swimming pool and sports facility that the town needs.



One and a half years since funding for the swimming pool was cut we are no closer to seeing a business plan to rebuild it



I have called for some of this money to be used to reverse the reckless cuts to our school crossing patrols

Lidl submit plans for new Kidsgrove store

Lidl UK have submitted a planning application to bring a new store to Kidsgrove, on land just off Liverpool Road.

If approved the plans will see the site currently used by Kidsgrove Working Men's Club, and also home to The Canal Tavern, redeveloped into a new Lidl supermarket.

The Working Mens Club, which was founded in 1945 and in its heyday had over 800 members, would relocate to a new site on Meadows Road, close to the railway station in the town centre. Although The Canal Tavern would lose an area of land as part of the proposals, the pub itself would be retained while gaining from the additional footfall to the store and the overall regeneration of the site.

The store could create up to 40 new full and part-time jobs for local people and would include a dedicated in-store bakery, longer style tills with dual packing, a customer toilet, baby changing, and ample parking for both cars and bicycles.

Jo Hawley, Lidl UK's regional head of property, said: "Our multi-million pound plans to bring a new Lidl store to Kidsgrove, on the site currently occupied by Kidsgrove Workingmen's Club, have now been submitted to Newcastle Borough Council for review and consideration.

"The development, if given the green light, will deliver a number of significant benefits to the local area, including the creation of new jobs and the provision of more choice and convenience for those living close by.

"Importantly, the proposals will also enable the relocation of Kidsgrove Workingmen's Club, which has been looking to move to a more appropriate site for some time. We're hopeful that the plans will be heard by the council's planning committee early in the New Year and will keep the local community updated on a decision in due course."



Artists impression of the new Lidl

Persimmon plans development of 69 homes on site in Butt Lane

Property developer Persimmon are proposing to develop a site formerly occupied by Celestica in West Avenue, Butt Lane.

The site is currently identified as employment land, but hasn't been occupied by a business for many years.

The proposals is not yet at the planning application stage and Persimmon are asking residents for their views before taking it further. A spokesman for Persimmon Homes

North West said: "We are currently preparing a full planning application on a parcel of land to the north of West Avenue in Kidsgrove.

"The site is currently vacant, having previously been occupied by Celestica for industrial uses around 10 years ago. Given the lack of market interest in the site being redeveloped for industrial use, it is considered that it can be utilised to deliver homes to meet the area's housing shortage, easing the pressure on Greenfield and Green Belt sites.

"The proposed scheme is for 69 dwellings comprising a mix of townhouses, semi and detached houses. Access is proposed via an extension of the adopted highway at West Avenue into the site. The proposals will also include amenity space and an equipped play area, either as an on-site contribution or as an off-site financial contribution to develop and maintain an amenity space elsewhere in the district.

"We are currently seeking the views of local residents and would welcome their comments."

You can have your say or ask for more information by emailing Persimmon on: event.consultation@persimmonhomes.com and type "West Avenue, Kidsgrove" in the subject field.



Persimmon Homes are proposing to build 69 new homes in West Avenue

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Work on station upgrade starts

Work is underway to install new lifts and a footbridge at Kidsgrove station to ensure it's accessible for everyone by spring 2019.



Work is underway to install new lifts and a footbridge at Kidsgrove station

nearly 20 years as the only step-free access is to the Manchester-to-Stoke platform (1). Trains to and from Crewe, and to Manchester, can only be accessed via the existing footbridge, making things difficult for people in wheelchairs, those with limited mobility and parents with pushchairs.

The investment has come directly from the Department for Transport's 'Access for All' programme, which was launched in 2006 to improve accessibility at railway stations nationwide, and forms part of our five-year, multi-billion pound Railway Upgrade Plan, which is the biggest investment in the railway since the Victorian era.

This programme of work will not be disruptive to travel, but the station will look and feel different whilst the work is being carried out.

Luke Jones, Network Rail scheme project manager, said: "This upgrade will unlock the railway network for many people in Kidsgrove, allowing them easy access to travel that was previously not possible.

"We are working closely with the station operator, East Midland Trains, to ensure our work brings as little disruption as possible to passengers at the station, which will only be until late spring 2019."

Kidsgrove Sports Centre news

The latest news from the Kidsgrove Sports Centre Community Group

Tesco Bags of Help Scheme

We are pleased to announce that we will be part of the Tesco Bags of Help Scheme (the blue tokens) in March and April. We hope that you will use your tokens to cast your votes for us, as winning will provide £4000 which will be spent on new equipment that can be used in the centre.

You will find us in the following Tesco stores;

Tesco Kidsgrove
Tesco Express Audley
Tesco Express Fegg Hayes



We can confirm that we have now set about the process of commissioning the survey for the provision of a gas supply to the centre, whilst also contacting all utility providers to establish the process of re-connection.

In addition, talks are now progressing regarding the renovation phase with the Council, which we expect to conclude with some positive resolutions within the very near future.

Mow Cop Community Hall

Mow Cop Community Hall, are having a Fun Prize Quiz Night on February 23rd at 7pm - tickets £5 per person.

This includes Buffet Supper with desert, tea and coffee - bring your own alcohol for your own consumption.

A beginners Ballroom & Latin Dance class started on the 11th January 6:30pm to 7:30pm at £5 per person. The class is for adults and children. The Dance teacher is the current European - UK Latin Dance Champion. Anyone interested please contact Michelle on 07970263254.

Our Art Class resumes on the 4th February. All other classes are now back to normal.



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Happy New Year To Everyone

Despite the dreadful weather before Christmas we managed to get round all our Reindeer routes and Santa was warmly welcomed by eager children and families. As usual the people of Kidsgrove and surrounding areas have been extremely generous.



Santa thanks all who helped collect over £9,500 for local causes

We would like to thank all our volunteer collectors and Santa's with their help we have amassed over £9,500, (before expenses). THANKYOU. We would also especially like to thank our local supermarkets; The Co-op's in Whitehill & Butt Lane, Home Bargains and Tesco for allowing us to collect at their stores and for the Managers and Staff for their hospitality. We'd also like to thank the Probus Club of Kidsgrove for their continued help and support and our many volunteers who've given up their valuable time to support Rotary. We will be holding a presentation evening asap in the next few weeks to give donations and certificates to the community groups and volunteers who came along in the rain, snow and ice, helping to raise money for their own organisation as well as for Rotary.

The following groups will be benefitting from the collection: Kidsgrove Scouts, Newchapel Scouts, Kidsgrove Athletic Development Centre, Kidsgrove Ladsnads, GoKidsgrove, Royal British Legion, Friends of Kidsgrove Railway Station, Mow Cop Runners, Corner Pin Charity Group, Kidsgrove Mayors Charity, Castle Primary School PTFA, Butt Lane White Star and Kidsgrove Saints.

Thank you one and all once again.

Kidsgrove Rotary's 50th charter anniversary

This year celebrate fifty years since we began Rotary in Kidsgrove. In that time we have raised many thousands of pounds to help out local groups, charities and people in need. We run many projects in the year such as the Clough Hall Bonfire and Fireworks Display in November, Party in the Park, the pensioners Blackpool holidays and entertaining Community Day (this year on April 6th). We help in schools, support the Mow Cop Killer Mile, Annual Easter Egg Appeal and much more.

We will be organising our own events to celebrate the anniversary, but we will also be celebrating in grand style in November with a huge bonfire spectacular.

We are aiming to set up a charity shop in the town where items sold will raise money that we can plough back into the town and all its surrounding areas.

In April we are launching a book bus project. Our red mini bus will be stacked with hundreds of books, and a team will take it out on one day a fortnight. We will park up in areas where people who may feel lonely or isolated, can come and look at books, chat and share a cup of tea with us. Any money raised from donating a small amount of money for any books, will go towards the Rotary charity End Polio Now. We are supported by Kidsgrove Town Council and the Alzheimer's Society have given us many leaflets on dementia to hand out. The response we have had to this has been incredible and hundreds of books have been donated so far from as far afield as Madeley, Leek and Newcastle.

If people would like to donate some books of any genre, then phone Cressida on 07541731149 and we can collect them. Thank you to all those people who have so far contacted us through Facebook posts.



We will be celebrating in grand style in November with a huge bonfire spectacular

Senior Citizen's Annual Blackpool Holiday



The holiday for senior citizens is to Blackpool is on again with 15 folks already signed up to go in the early summer. People can still book for the remaining places.

Bed, breakfast and evening meal is included in the holiday cost, and there are no single room supplements.

The coach leaves from the Kidsgrove Town Hall for Hotels in the centre of Blackpool. Contact Sylvia Dymond 01782787352 or Ted Butler 01782785272 to book or for more details.

Fundraising

Other fundraising we do includes sponsoring Shelter Boxes for regions in distress worldwide, Help for homeless people locally, Lend with

Care, Water Aid, Self Help Africa, work in local schools such as Above and Beyond Awards, RotaKids, Interact, free Books 4 Home, and we are working closely with schools helping them to get involved with their nearby communities and furthering their own citizenship.

School News

Rotary are helping out in a few local schools but are eager to become involved in more in the new year. We can support in many ways and if you would like to call us, contact our schools coordinator Cressida Dickens on 07541731149

As an organisation in Kidsgrove we offer Rotakids for Primary age children, Interact Clubs for groups 12 to 18 years of age. We are currently exploring the idea of getting local schools to compete in national competitions such as Young Chef, Young Innovator, Young Photographer, Youth Speaks, Young Musician, etc.

Calling all local voluntary groups

We would like to reach more local organisations with the aim of helping as many as we can. We accept requests for equipment, and items that would help progress a project. We are also here to help groups help themselves to fund their events.

So this is a call to any local organisers who would like to come along on a Wednesday evening to give us a short talk on the work being done in the area. We now meet in the upstairs room at The Red Bull pub on Congleton road on the first and third evening of every month at 7 pm, and if anyone would like to tell us about their projects, then call Rotarian Cressida Dickens a ring or write to her on email crezzy1955@live.co.uk.

Social Media:

Rotary Kidsgrove spreads its message to as many people in Kidsgrove and the surrounding villages as possible. We want everyone in the community to know what we do, who we are and where we spend the money that is so generously donated to us every year. If you would like to keep up to date with our news you will find frequent postings on Facebook at: <http://www.facebook.com/KidsgroveRotary>

Twitter: @RotaryKidsgrove Pinterest: <http://pinterest.com/Kidsgroverotary/>

We also have a YouTube channel and a LinkedIn Group.

You can find links to all of these, as well as general information on the Club, on our website at: <http://www.kidsgroverotary.org.uk/>

Please "like" our pages and follow us on Twitter so that you and your friends & followers can help to spread the news.

Membership

If you are interested in helping your Local Community as well as National and International Projects and Emergencies why not come and join us too? You can contact us by emailing our website membership@kidsgroverotary.org.uk or secretary@kidsgroverotary.org.uk



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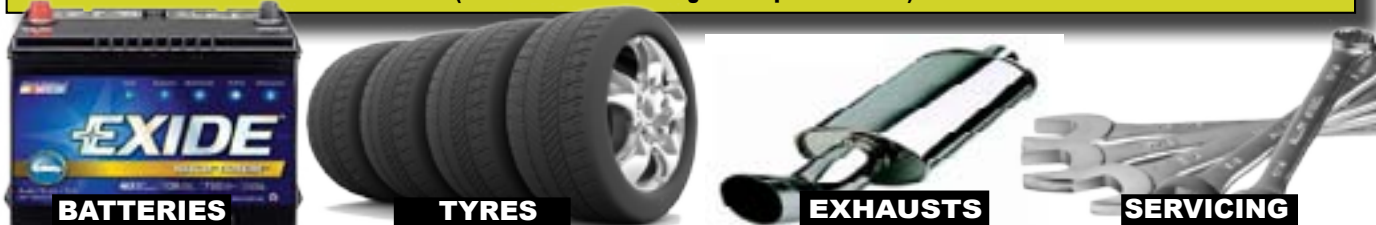
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Prize Crossword Competition

Across

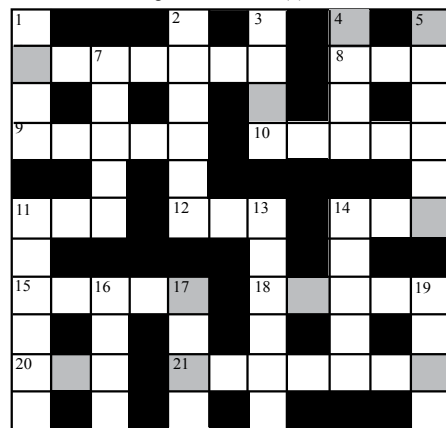
6. FLU RULE leads to regret (7)
8. Consume TEA (3)
9. I'D BET it's sanitary ware (5)
10. RAT WE irrigate with (5)
11. The RAF is quite a distance (3)
12. Endlessly massage BURN (3)
14. Dally with plaything? (3)
15. I'D RAP very fast (5)
18. There's plenty of MAPLE (5)
20. ARE good for hearing (3)
21. LET RACE for sticky sweet (7)

Down

1. Dreary BARD returns (4)
2. BET RUT was churned (6)
3. WOLF runs smoothly (4)
4. HATE high temperature (4)
5. MY SORT are tempestuous (6)
7. DEER I duck (5)
11. Counterfeit was made by blacksmith (6)
13. Can BEAR TO wear straw hat (6)
14. Subject is the PIT CO. (5)
16. Scrutinise ROPE (4)
17. Eat palm fruit on specific day (4)
19. Being level isn't odd (4)

Many thanks to all who entered our last Crossword Competition. The correct answer was 'FATHER CHRISTMAS'. First correct reply to be picked from the bag was from L Clarke of Kidsgrove who wins a £10 gift voucher which they have chosen to spend at Penny's News-congratulations! This issue we are again offering a £10 voucher to be spent in a shop or business advertising in Kidsgrove News (please state on your reply). The first correct answer drawn on March 4th 2019 is the winner. Just complete the crossword and re-arrange the letters found in the shaded squares to make a new word or words, send your answer on a postcard with your name, address and telephone number to:- **Good News, 128 High Street, Harsiehead, Stoke-on-Trent, ST7 4JX.**

Answers to last crossword: Across: 6. Natural 8. Oil 9. White 10. Mince 11. Top 12. Elf 14. Pie 15. North 18. Ruins 20. Eve 21. Present Down: 1. Snow 2. Freeze 3. Plum 4. Coin 5. Sleeve 7. Triop 11. Tinsel 13. Forged 14. Prime 16. Reel 17. Hope 19. Sate



Taekwondo
Kidsgrove & Newcastle

Throughout 2018, one student at the Kidsgrove Taekwondo club was successful in each competition he entered: Jamie Pointon, he entered some large competitions around England and always came back with a medal.

From a smaller competition with only 600 people competing up to the British Competition with around 1500 competing, Jamie was successful. In summary, he has won 3 gold medals for sparring and strike (hands and feet power strikes), 3 silver for hand strikes and 3 bronze for sparring - 9 medals from four competitions.



Trophies/medals Jamie won in 2018



Sam with his two medals

The Strike event in a competition is where the competitor must strike the pad with as much speed, energy and power as possible. The event scoring will be based on the compound units achieved. Jamie did enjoy punching and kicking the strike board which digitally recorded and displayed everyone's power impact. His son, Sam also achieved two silver medals for strike techniques in the Midlands competition. Well done to all competitors from Kidsgrove as there was a lot of success at the competitions in 2018.

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Monday	Band of Writers Third Mon of the month 1-3 Poetry Time Second Mon of the month 1-2.30	FREE Drop in
Tuesday	Local History Class Every Tues 11-12.30 Reading Groups First Tues of month 2-3pm First Tues of month 7.15pm U3A Poetry Appreciation Third Tues of month 2pm	FREE Drop in
Wednesday	Kidsgrove Care Solutions Café Every Wed 10-12 Woolly Divas - Knitting and Crochet Third Wed of month 2-4	Drop in FREE Drop in
Thursday	Tots Time Stay & Play activities for babies and toddlers aged 0-5 followed by songs, parachute & bubbles Every Thurs 11.00am Changes Health & Wellbeing Every Thurs 1-3	FREE Drop in
Friday	Kidsgrove and District U3A Reading Group Last Friday of the month 10-11	FREE Drop in
Saturday	Build It Club Lego, Duplo, Megabloks & Brio fun for children of all ages 10.30am-12.00pm. Every other Saturday Frocky Horror Saturday "Sew-cials" Please contact library for dates	FREE Drop in

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Blue Peter Success!



In year 7 English lessons students participated in a competition ran by BBC Blue Peter.

Students had to submit a piece of review writing – in line with curriculum plans – based on an episode of BBC Blue Peter. Submissions were so exceptional that a high number of students achieved their Purple Blue Peter badge which is testimony to their hard work and fabulous English skills. The Blue Peter badge allows children entry into hundreds of attractions free across the country, from Beeston Castle to the Tower of London. Well done to all year 7 for taking part – here's just some of our winners proudly wearing their new badges!

Students benefit from latest technology

The King's is pioneering the use of some very clever and intuitive software called Read&Write. This software, which greatly assists those students with learning difficulties, enables students to participate fully and equally in lessons. It removes barriers to learning by increasing both comprehension, and handwriting speed and legibility. Moreover, it can be customised to meet the specific needs of individual students, which aids classroom inclusivity.

Students are given their own special laptop, for which they must take responsibility. This means that – aided by the school's excellent wifi

network – these students can use the software wherever they are in the school. According to one student: "It's great that I can complete my work and keep up with the rest of the students".

The King's is at present one of the few schools in the Midlands which are using this state-of-the-art system. Deputy SENDCo Amanda Nevard, who is heading up this initiative, says "We recognise the importance of students working independently in the classroom, especially those who are at a slight disadvantage with their reading or writing. Our students value this investment and it is fantastic to see them flourish". Details of this software and its benefits will soon be available on our website (thekings.staffs.sch.uk).



The Fifth on Fourth

Our excellent inhouse training restaurant has an exciting programme of themed evening events for the new term (see below). If you are interested in coming along, please call 01782 794064 or email fifthonfourth@thekings.staffs.sch.uk.

31 January	Charity Night	14 March	St. Patrick's Night
07 February	Chinese New Year	21 March	Greek Night
14 February	Valentines Night	28 March	Mediaeval Night
28 February	80's Night	04 April	60's Night
07 March	American Night	11 April	Easter Feast

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Town Mayor's Report



One of the joys of my year as the Mayor of Kidsgrove is meeting as many residents and visitors to Kidsgrove as I can.

This was especially important during the Christmas and New Year period where I visited over thirty events over a two week period, meeting hundreds of people along the way. One thing that stood out from all these visits was just how much we as a community

depend on Volunteers and Community Groups and how lost we'd be without them.

Three examples of these groups, Kidsgrove First Responders, Kidsgrove Lads and Dads and Kidsgrove and Goldenhill Royal British Legion, make up the community groups that my Mayoral Charity Fund will support during early 2019.



I'm sure many of you will recognise the names but the level of work the volunteers involved with these charities deliver beggars belief. For example,

Volunteers from Kidsgrove First Responders provide paramedic coverage, alongside that of the Ambulance Service, free of charge specifically for the Kidsgrove area. Those of you unfortunate enough to have required interaction with the emergency services here in Kidsgrove, may well have been attended to by local volunteers, and even this early in the year have helped save the lives of a couple of Kidsgrove residents

Anyone passing the Memorial Gardens in Kidsgrove over the last few months will have noticed the transformation it has undergone, mainly due to the drive of Kidsgrove & Goldenhill Royal British Legion but this is the tip of the iceberg of the amazing work Les Goldspink and his members have put into Veterans and their families here in Kidsgrove. Each year the Remembrance Parade from Kidsgrove grows and grows and more now than ever the role of the local RBL branch has been essential in that.

Mark Porter, the Chairman of Kidsgrove Lads and Dads, lives and breathes junior football, and through his Leadership, hundreds of our children, both boys and girls, are given the chance to play football at Birchenwood Playing Fields every Sunday. Whilst Mark is essential, I'm also mindful of the level of volunteering that each and every parent puts into their Junior Teams, as well as the Managers and Coaches etc.

We should all be very proud of just what these people put into our Community and I look forward to meeting even more of Kidsgrove numerous Community Groups over the next five months.

Cllr M Stubbs

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Kidsgrove Town Council

New Clerk Introduction

I would like to introduce myself as the new clerk of Kidsgrove Town Council. I have lived locally since a child at various locations around or just outside the Kidsgrove Town Council area: Mount Pleasant, Scholar Green and Talke, so I am no stranger to Kidsgrove and its surrounds. I currently live on the Kidsgrove side of Alsager not far from the Talke and Butt Lane Ward boundary.

My previous role was as clerk to Holmes Chapel Parish Council which has been awarded the Quality Gold status due to its high level of operational standards and communication with its electorate combined with hard work serving its residents.

My aim, working with your elected councillors and the community, is to bring Kidsgrove Town Council a similar accolade such that you will have a highly achieving Town Council to be proud of.

I look forward to working with all of you and serving the Town Council and all the residents of Kidsgrove to the best of my ability.

Sue Davies

Other Town Council News

The Kidsgrove Town Council Ranger, Mark, has had a very busy couple of months. As well as working hard to keep our area tidy and free from litter over the Christmas period, he has engaged in various community initiatives

working with our schools and community groups. If you would like to report any areas that you feel require his attention please contact the clerk (contact information given below).

The Town Council are working hard to get a website up and running which, we hope will be a valuable resource to keep you all informed. As well as Town Council meeting dates minutes, agendas, finances and other documents, we will have a news section where we can keep you up to date with various issues and initiatives in the area.

To contact the Town Council, please contact the Clerk on: Tel 01782 782254 (office hours Mon-Fri 9:00am to 1:00pm) email – townclerk@kidsgrovetowncouncil.gov.uk

Meeting Schedule

All meetings held at the Town Hall starting at 7:00pm

(Please note all dates are subject to alteration or cancellation if required)

12th February 2019 – Finance and General Purposes Committee

21st February 2019 – Full Council Meeting



The Kidsgrove Ranger has had a very busy couple of months working hard to keep our area tidy and free from litter

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A 'LOST' LADY FROM LINLEY

I hope you all survived the tinsel season. I just gave up on local history in late November and devoted myself to herding flocks of mince pies past my gnashers. I did buy two books for myself as Christmas presents, but didn't get round to them. Instead local history came creeping back in via an unexpected book I found in my stocking one morning, entitled "Staffordshire Women: Nine Forgotten Histories" by Pam Inder and Marion Aldis.

You may remember that I was lamenting the lack of historical evidence about the female contribution to history back in 2017, and that word 'forgotten' in the subtitle tells me that other historians have noticed this too. The authors have attempted to give some public recognition to a selection of 18th and 19th Century ladies who, in one way or another, led their own lives. They admit that none were exceptionally talented – we're not talking about unknown Charlotte Brontës or Florence Nightingales here – but they did establish businesses or supported themselves either in the absence of men or when linked to incompetent ones. Some are from North Staffordshire – a pottery paintress, not surprisingly, came from Longton, another subject was born in Newcastle, though she then moved to Colwich near Stafford, Jane Sneyd, nee Debank was a native of Leek, as was Hannah Astles, who worked there in the silk trade. But my interest was largely caught by a lady novelist born in Linley Hall near to Butt Lane and Talke. She owned the site on which St. Saviours Church and School were built, both of which I attended in my youth.

I wonder how many of you will know the name of this lady, who wrote

about 20 books including two for children and two on history, some of which were published in America, France and Germany? Mind you, I suspect they are all out of print now, being first published between 1834 and 1866.

Some of you may know the name Marsh-Caldwell – or at least the Caldwell part of it from the Caldwell Arms (currently the Toby Carvery), but it's not surprising that the name of Anne Marsh-Caldwell isn't as familiar as Jane Austen or those Brontës, because (except in America) she did not publish them under her own name. Nearly all were headed as "By the Author of.... the previous one." And guess why? Because a man didn't want her to become famous. Her story speaks clearly about the relative position of men and their wives in 19th Century England.

Anne Caldwell was born in 1791 and grew up at Linley Hall, daughter of Attorney John Caldwell, who bought the Linley Estate in 1789 and built himself a large house called variously Linley Wood or Hall. She was educated at home by various tutors and even a visiting Dancing Master, acquiring Philosophy, French, Italian and Religious Knowledge.



Portrait of Anne Marsh-Caldwell, 1836

She began writing a mix between a diary and a homework book and, when 16, had written some stories, which she was encouraged to publish by her aunt. However none were published for at least 25 years, during which time she married, in 1817, Arthur Cuthbert Marsh, perhaps meeting him because he was a friend of her brother's. The big drama occurred in 1824, when the Bank her husband was a partner in, and which was owned by his family, went bankrupt in spectacular fashion, leaving huge debts incurred by a dishonest, tricky employee. Arthur C. Marsh was partly responsible for these debts. This happened, just as the couple lost their first son in infancy, and yet it seems as if it was Anne who took charge and rescued the situation. A short while afterwards, they moved to Boulogne, possibly to avoid creditors.

But somewhere along the line Anne took up writing again, and eventually showed the result to Harriet Martineau, a prominent member off London literary circles, who urged her to publish it. So, thinking this might help ease their financial troubles, Anne discussed it with her husband. He agreed, but only on condition that she remained anonymous, and that he negotiated with publishers in order to conceal her identity. At the time, of course, the husband was seen as the mainstay of a family, and legally, a wife's money and property (apart from sentimental items and some family heirlooms) were his. The authors of the book suggest that Arthur, seen as a failure in the banking world, would be made to feel even more insignificant, if his wife were to be known to be supporting the family with her earnings.

So, when "Two Old Men's Tales" was published in 1834, the author's name was not on the cover or title page, and when, two years later "Tales of Woods and Fields" came out, it was "By the Author of 'Two Old Men's Tales'" Thereafter that was the pattern. In 1845 "Mount Sorel" was announced as 'By the author of Emilia Wyndham, etc., etc.' I am

somewhat astonished that her first book was so successful that it went into a second edition and was published in America too, because who would particularly wish to read stories about two old men? The reviews must have made clear that the book actually contained two melodramatic stories, supposedly narrated by old men. Should you wish to set your pulses racing (but respectfully, of course!) there is a copy of a reprint of 'Two Old Men's Tales' at Kidsgrove Library. You can enjoy yourself agonizing over the fate of the noble but disabled Earl of Saint Germain whose love affair is poisoned by his wicked stepmother. Her plot to kill him is finally scotched when her own son is hit by lightning on his 21st birthday and falls dead at her feet. Not exactly an everyday story of country folk then, and one that presumably bears little relation to Anne Marsh-Caldwell's early life at Linley Hall. Still it will give you an idea of what Georgian and early Victorian ladies looked for in their light reading.

And in the manner of a melodrama, I shall leave you in suspense about the rest of her career as an author, till the next edition of 'Kidsgrove News' as I think I am about out of space. Expect the end of this 'old man's tale' in the next issue!

Books by Anne Marsh Caldwell, early editions didn't have the authors name on the cover

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Achieve your goals by volunteering for Dougie Mac

As we welcome in 2019, this time of year presents the ideal opportunity to start thinking about trying something new, improving your wellbeing, learning a new skill or meeting new people.

For those considering taking on any of these challenges, volunteering with local hospice Dougie Mac could be the solution.

With a total of 989 volunteers offering their skills, experience and expertise to numerous departments across the hospice – including clinical areas, shops, fund-raising, lottery, admin and events – our army of volunteers are absolutely vital to the work of Dougie Mac; without them, the hospice simply couldn't continue to provide such a high level of patient care and support to over 3,000 local people living with life limiting illnesses per year, as well as their families and loved ones.

With over 130,000 hours given to the hospice each year by volunteers, this yields an annual saving of £1.1 million for the hospice, allowing generous donations from the general public to be used primarily for care. However, with ever-increasing services offered by Dougie Mac, we are looking for more people to join our team.

Dougie Mac volunteers make a huge difference to the quality of life for patients at the hospice and in the community. By sparing a little time and effort, whether that's 2 hours or 20 hours a week, anyone can get involved and find a rewarding way to make a change to people's lives.

The hospice offers short or long-term volunteering opportunities for individuals,

corporates and those taking part in Duke of Edinburgh schemes or seeking work experience.

Volunteering roles are available in any of the below areas:

* **Retail:** Volunteers are required in our Biddulph (High Street), Alsager (Lawton Road) and Kidsgrove shops (either end of Market Street) to support in sorting donations, greeting and serving customers and increasing hospice income by signing supporters up to Gift Aid. Various hours are available.

* **Patient and Carer Support:** Volunteer buddies are required in patient's own homes in the Biddulph, Alsager and Congleton areas to offer general day-to-day assistance whether that's through enabling a carer to enjoy some much-needed 'me time', giving emotional support, providing transport as needed or help with household chores.

* **Community Drivers:** Individuals with their own car and a few hours to spare each week are encouraged to volunteer as a Community Driver to help patients that would otherwise have trouble in getting about, to attend appointments & weekly sessions in our Day Therapy Unit.

* **Charity Collection Boxes:** Our collecting boxes can be found in hundreds of businesses across the Biddulph, Alsager and Congleton areas. Volunteers help replace these boxes 3-4 times a year in rounds to suit their locality.

* **Lottery Scratch Card Champion:** Volunteers are required to service scratch card outlets in the Biddulph, Alsager and Congleton areas by conducting stock takes and counting money, ideally one day per month.

With many roles both at the hospice and in the local community, Dougie Mac could offer the perfect role to help you achieve some of those goals that many set themselves at the beginning of a New Year. All roles are flexible and fit in around your availability.

To find out more, visit <https://www.dmhospice.org.uk/work-with-us/volunteering-opportunities/> or call 01782 344332.



Volunteers are required in Kidsgrove Dougie Mac



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Experience the best of Led Zeppelin in Alsager

The Zeppelin Experience are hitting Alsager Civic this April and it is an event not to be missed. North West based, the band have played together for many years, performing to thousands of delighted Led Zeppelin fans across the UK.

"It's about entertaining the audience," said vocalist John Angus, "we put on a show, dressing to reflect the 70's era and our sound speaks for itself. Each member of The Zeppelin Experience are passionate about performance and we just love playing and sharing the songs to many people who never got the chance to see Led Zep."

John added "The Zeppelin Experience chose the Civic because it gives the chance for fans of all ages to see the band more local to us, as we play at major venues and festivals across the UK."

Alsager is easily accessible to Crewe and Nantwich plus of course Stoke-On-Trent and Congleton are a short drive. We are looking forward to the gig which we have staged for all to enjoy."

The event which takes place on Saturday 13th April features a brilliant local support band too. Rushed, based in the potteries area are wowing fans across the UK and are a very authentic sounding tribute.



Tickets for the show are available from Alsager Civic priced at £12.50 and you can also buy online, securely at www.ticketsource.co.uk where a booking fee applies.

For more information you can visit The Zeppelin Experience on facebook or contact the Civic on 01270 879711

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GO CHRISTMAS

Happy New Year from Go Kidsgrove and thank you to everyone who supported the Christmas celebrations in any way! Special mention must go to Kidsgrove Library for their help with the pre-Christmas lantern making workshops and the Little Lost Reindeer Trail.

We would love some help in planning 2019 celebrations so here are some questions for you. Please e-mail suggestions to enquiries@gokidsgrove.co.uk or call 07946 339110.

1. When would you like to see the switch on next year? On a Saturday, on a Sunday or on a weekday evening?

2. Should we do another calendar next year and if so, should we have a theme?



GO CALENDARS

There are still a few Kidsgrove calendars available for purchase if you don't have yours already.

Available from the Go Kidsgrove pop-up shop in King Street or Kidsgrove Library. Just £5!

GO POP-UP

We were delighted to be given the use of an empty shop in King Street for the switch-on and during December.

This meant we were able to offer family activities and even host a visit from Santa.

It gave us a base in town to explain to people what Go Kidsgrove is about, sell calendars and Heritage Trail poetry booklets - and kept a vacant shop occupied.

We hope to be there until the end of February but obviously that is dependent on whether a business wants to take it on in the meantime.

We try to be open most days of the week (except Sunday) from about 10.30am to about 3pm so please come and say hello if you are passing. However, we are reliant on volunteers so apologies if you come to see us and we are closed.

If you are able to offer a couple of hours to help in the pop-up, please e-mail enquiries@gokidsgrove.com or call 07734 539210.



We were delighted to be given the use of an empty shop in King Street until the end of February, please come and say hello if you are passing

GO HERITAGE TRAIL



Hopefully we have a good spring so that work can commence on the heritage trail panels. The 'Kidsgrove Past in Poetry' booklets are still available priced at £3.50 and packed with poems about our local heritage written by local people and students from our two secondary schools. If you have a touch of winter blues, here are a few lines from one of the poems by Jack Scally from The King's School to remind you why we love Kidsgrove! "Kidsgrove is the best town there is. It's full of wonderful people who are supportive, no matter what. I love Kidsgrove. The sights, sounds and the smells. From Harecastle tunnel to Mow Cop, you will see amazing things in Kidsgrove."



GO VALENTINE

To get you in a romantic mood, we'll be running another shop window competition for Valentine's Day from 8th to 14th February. Pictures will be posted on the Go Kidsgrove Facebook page. If you're planning a surprise for a loved one, please support our local shops - a card, a bouquet, a gift

voucher for a bit of pampering, you can find them all in Kidsgrove and Butt Lane!

GO EASTER

We will be running the Little Lost Lamb Trail again during the Easter holidays. More information in the next issue!



GO KIDSGROVE MEETINGS

These are usually held on the second Tuesday of the month, starting at 6.30pm - see our Facebook page or check out the website for details. Anyone with an interest in the economic well-being of Kidsgrove and Butt Lane is welcome to attend, especially local businesses.

GO NEWSLETTER

If you would like to receive our monthly electronic newsletter, containing information about upcoming events, business news and more, e-mail enquiries@gokidsgrove.co.uk and we will add you to the mailing list. Don't worry, your e-mail address will not be used for any other purpose and you can unsubscribe at any time - but we obviously hope you will enjoy another opportunity to keep up-to-date with what's going on in Kidsgrove. And of course, there's still the website www.gokidsgrove.co.uk for details of all the events mentioned here. If you are a local organisation, why not add your events to our list? Do you have any photos to add to our Gallery section, or suggestions for walks to add to the Activities page - just complete the 'Contact us' page and we will get in touch.

If you want more information about anything mentioned in this article, please e-mail enquiries@gokidsgrove.co.uk or call 07946 339110.

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Shoebbox Appeal

"I'm was so humbled by the amount of shoeboxes that were made up by customers and staff at Tesco Kidsgrove.

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I counted just over 300, which meant that not only were we able to support four local charities we were also able to extend this to even more which is amazing.

I went out with the first delivery of boxes to a Women's Refuge with a member of staff and continued with more trips all week to several more.

I really wish you could have seen how grateful the recipients were which makes the whole project worthwhile

I can't thank you all enough for supporting this great appeal.

Thank you so much everyone it means so much to the people receiving them and thanks for the cards and poems inside some parcels they do mean so much to the people."

Toy Appeal

"Thanks to Tesco generous customers and staff we managed to hand over just over 14,500 toys that were donated in local Tesco stores to 32 local children's charities which helped local struggling families to be able to enjoy the festive period.



Community Champions worked tirelessly for 3 weeks before Christmas for the appeal - raising money and sorting donated toys out and working with charities locally to source much needed toys for the needy kids.

It was amazing for the 7th year running this appeal in partnership with Aspire Housing has just grown and grown, seeing more charities benefitting which really shows there is a need locally. There are so many local children who have been highlighted for support and knowing we can now help them is amazing but we could not of done this without the generosity of the Tesco customers who have donated thousands of toys in the period and I can't thank them enough, it's great that we can support local people."



Lads n Dads

"Following the customer in-store vote with the blue tokens we were happy to handover a cheque for the full £4000 to Mark Porter from Kidsgrove Lads and Dad's who will now put this to help keep the club running.

Thanks for the thousands of customers who voted for them in the Tesco bags

of help scheme that funds local projects from the money off the bags sales."

School holiday meal scheme

"The school holiday meal scheme was again succesful in providing free meals to local kids over the school holidays.



Community champions from Kidsgrove and Hanley fed over 120 kids through the holiday period

It wouldn't be possible to offer this service free without the brilliant support from Synetics Solutions and Port Vale foundation with other partners the Salvation Army

and Scouts, local schools and most of all the Community champions pulling together."

Period Power support

"We have a stand in the store showing our support for the Period Power campaign asking for donations.

Following a previous months drive we found lots of feedback about local females struggling to purchase essential feminine items, so working with period power we now have a collection point inside the female toilets to give a little hand to people that



need it.

Ladies can take an item out of the basket free if needed."

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Mark Chadwick BSc MCSP HCPC
Julia Chadwick BSc MCSP HCPC
Member of the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy
Members of the Health and Care Professions Council

Congleton Road Community Centre news

Butt Lane Petanque Club held their Annual Dinner and Presentation Party at the Kings School Fifth on Fourth restaurant on Friday 21st December.

Thirty members attended, enjoying a meal provided by club funds. Following an excellent 4 course meal really well cooked, presented and served by the student staff, the clubs seasons trophies were presented by Chairperson Margaret Martin.



Ladies Singles
Champion,
Maureen Jones



Men's Singles
Champion,
Roy Nelson



Bob Beard
Memorial Winners,
Maureen Jones
and Roy Nelson,



Mixed Doubles
Champions, Sheila
Nelson and Cliff
Poole

We still have the availability to accept a few more members, our playing sessions are Tuesday and Friday afternoons from 1-30 to 4-30 pm, the cost is just £2-00 per session which includes tea/coffee and biscuits.

Perhaps better known as "boules" the game is quite easy to pick up, you will be made very welcome, you do not need any special clothing or footwear, we will provide you with boules and you will have fun and a little gentle exercise in a friendly atmosphere.

For further information, ring Cliff Poole on 07554 271 593.

Vicky's Respite Xmas Show

Vicky's respite group held their Annual Xmas Show in December.

It took a full hour and a quarter for 15 students with various degrees of physical or learning difficulties along with 6 carers to get through a large selection of carols with singing and actions.

A tremendous amount of work and rehearsals must have been put in by all involved to produce such an enjoyable show.

Refreshments were served after the show, and a very big thank you must go to, Vicky, Lesley, Denise and all the other helpers for all their hard work.

Vicky's Respite offers respite care for people with physical or learning difficulties, if you want to know more about the classes available please contact, Vicky Shaw on 07898 177 685 or Lesley on 07523 229 958.



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*NB. Not in conjunction with any other offer. Selected ranges only. Images used may not be included in the sale promotions.

Kidsgrove News February/March 2019 Tel: 01782 513663 Email: goodnewspublishing@hotmail.co.uk



2019 Events at Alsager Civic

February 24th

**Wedding and
Party Open Day**
2pm – 4pm



March 8th

**Civic Comedy
Club**



March 29th

**UK Bjorn – a
tribute to ABBA**
Chairman's Charity Live
Music Event



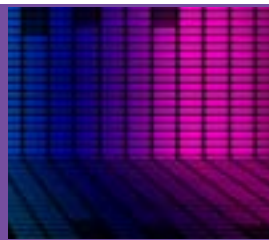
April 20th
**Easter Bunny
Hunt**

Organised by
Alsager Partnership



May 11th

**80's Mania
Party Night**



Sept 8th
**Alsager Italian
Festival**

Organised by
Alsager Partnership



Sept 22nd

**Wedding and
Party Open Day**
2pm – 4pm



October 18th
**Civic Comedy
Club**



November 24th
**Alsager Christmas
Light Switch On**

Organised by
Christmas Events Committee



December 6th
**Guilty Pleasure
Christmas
Party Night**



December 7th
**Club Classics
Christmas
Party Night**



December 31st
NYE Family Party



Tel: 01270 879711 • enquiries@alsagercivic.org.uk
www.alsagercivic.org.uk



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