

KENDAL

Autumn 2020

More than a market town – Your newsletter from Kendal Town Council



New Clerk Welcome

Chris Bagshaw joins Kendal Town Council as the new Town Clerk. Chris has previously worked in Workington as Town Clerk for the last seven years where he led a number of positive initiatives to benefit residents. “Joining Kendal Town Council is a very exciting prospect. Kendal is a lovely town, but has some real challenges. It’s a rare privilege to be able to help address some of them”. Chris will be supporting Councillors and leading the Town Council officer team during new covid arrangements to ensure continuity and delivery on all Town Council objectives and projects.

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Torchlight



Kendal Torchlight Carnival brought festival celebrations to the town despite the current Covid restrictions. The carnival was forced to reassess its regular plans midway through organisation for its 50th anniversary celebration. The organisers, together with a team of community artists, created an alternative carnival to ensure Torchlight took place.

Torchlight team leader Craig Russell said "We wanted there to be an element of live events within this

year's celebration, but our overall focus has been the safety of the community and complying with the current guidelines. It's been a difficult year to plan because we have had to radically change from our original event. We felt it was important not to cancel it in its entirety, but to bring some Torchlight magic to the town and help lift spirits."

Throughout the summer, a host of creative activities and workshops were streamed online building up to

the torchlight weekend. On Saturday 26th September 2020, a convoy of large creatures travelled around the main estates of Kendal, to allow people a taste of the procession in a safe and socially distant way. The sculptures included a Gruffalo, fire dragon, crayfish and a giant stag created by local artists Stewart Williams and Arick Saxon.

The convoy was led by local MP Tim Farron, who jogged at the lead of the 12 mile route, followed in a car by Kendal Mayor Alvin Finch.

The premier of the "Tiny Torchlight Procession" film followed in the evening. The film showcased tiny floats and puppets created by the community around the theme of "Think global, Act Local".

Creative lead Josh Simpson from Ragtag Arts said "we were really overwhelmed with the entries we received. It's obviously pretty different than the traditional event and we are so happy that people got behind it and really entered into the spirit of Torchlight."

You can read all about this years activities, view the videos and see pictures on the website www.torchlight.co.uk

Christmas lights switch on plans

We are looking forward to seeing Kendal decked out in all its Christmas lights with our Christmas tree in the Market Place. Although we shall not be able to have a physical 'switch on' event this year we are planning a virtual event. Our idea is to create a short film full of Christmas messages, which people can watch safely in their own homes. It will feature our Mayor and our

special guest, Father Christmas, switching on the lights. Also we intend to involve local businesses and local children. We have a fantastic community here in Kendal, so we hope that our Christmas lights will bring some joy to everyone in these difficult times. Follow the Kendal Town Council news page and Facebook page for updates and streaming links.



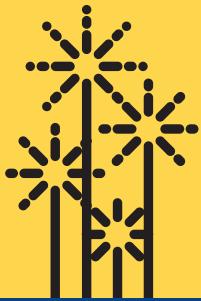
Kendal Remembers

The Coronavirus has affected every aspect of our lives and remembering the service and sacrifice of the many who served in the Armed Forces in the First, Second and subsequent wars is no exception. Following government regulations, the parade has had to be cancelled this year. There'll be a service at Kendal Parish

Church, but this will be under current restrictions so places will be limited. Wreaths will still be laid at the war memorials in the Market Square, Netherfield Works and Romney Road. But if you want to take part in our Remembrance this year, please follow the recommendations of the Royal British Legion and do it from

home. You can read more about how to do this at www.britishlegion.org.uk/get-involved/remembrance/remembrance-events/remembrance-sunday. You can see the wreaths being laid at the Cenotaph on the Council's Facebook page.

The show must go on! Despite the current Covid difficulties, Kendal's fantastic festivals have risen to the challenge. Kendal Town Council are proud to have continued funding support to ensure the creative culture within Kendal continues.



Kendal Mountain Film Festival



Different year, different times! This November, our 40th anniversary, Kendal Mountain Festival is going fully online. We're seizing this huge opportunity to Share The Adventure with the world, pouring all our effort and energy into creating a new, amazing experience.

Kendal has always been the hub of our Festival. Whilst it's a shame we can't

celebrate at our local venues this year, we believe it's more important to protect our local community. We are adapting and working really hard as a team, alongside our partners to bring Kendal directly to you! Soon we will be looking to offer local opportunities and giveaways with some of your favourite local businesses who have been involved in our Festival in the past ...stay tuned on our socials for more updates.

The famous buzz and atmosphere of our legendary Sessions will be fizzing, live-streamed to your screen. On stage will be our unique combination of cool guests, new films and a few trademark surprises to keep you on your toes. Plus, we're planning a packed programme of individual stories coming to you from amazing international athletes, adventurers, authors and filmmakers.

We've received a record number of entries into our Film Competition, and we're blown away by the quality and

breadth of the line-up that we're able to bring you from across the world. It's a new way of enjoying films that will allow you to explore our carefully curated programmes and catch movies that are important to you.

Our Literature Festival is truly going from strength to strength, firmly established and bringing together speakers across the themes of mountains, landscape, nature and sense of place. This year you can catch writers, authors, poets and artists in a programme that includes highly anticipated book launches, lively debates and lectures, including the prestigious Boardman Tasker Award for Mountain Literature.

The result is an extended 10-day Festival that you can watch at your leisure, wherever you like. And the bonus is that everything will be available on catch-up for a period after the Festival; brilliant news for those who find they normally can't fit everything in!

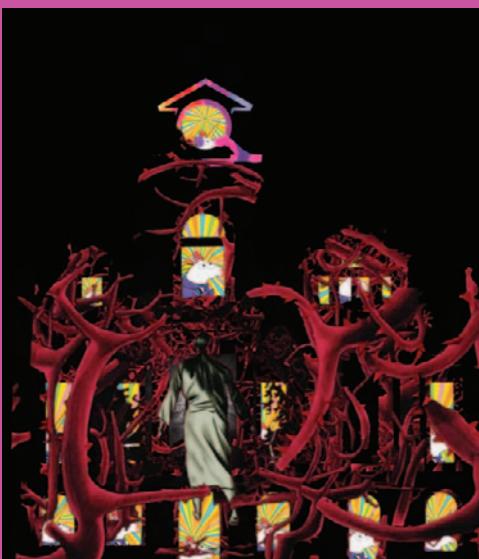
We are so excited to #sharetheadventure of our local Kendal spirit, online, with the world. See you online!

Find out more at: www.kendalmountainfestival.com or @Kendalmountainfestival on our socials

Lakes International Comic Art Festival

LICAF Live provided an alternative comic art celebration this year due to Covid restrictions. It aimed to maintain the same spirit and variety as in previous years and to connect with the local community whilst reaching out globally to creators, audiences and partners. More than 75 individual videos were produced alongside the live feed over the weekend aiming to appeal to all ages and interests and LICAF was able to experiment with new ideas and formats. Some videos were produced in and around Kendal to keep the town at the centre of the festivities and to maintain its

international profile as a centre for comic art. With this in mind LICAF Live included a live launch in Kendal one week before with a specially commissioned light and sound projection onto the Town Hall which wowed those who saw it to the extent that the organisers hope to bring it back in 2021. One of the biggest successes was Little LICAF Live for the under 12s which reached into schools across Kendal and South Lakeland and provided welcome respite and creative energy to thousands of local young people.



Kendal Citizens' Climate Change Jury update

The UK's first ever Citizens' Jury at a town level has been a huge success!

20 Kendal residents have attended 10 Jury sessions to learn more about Climate Change in order to answer the question

'What should Kendal do about Climate Change?'

Jury members heard from national experts including Chris Stark, (Chief Executive of the UK Committee on Climate Change), Professor Becky Willis and Professor Mike Berners Lee as an introduction. Armed with new information and climate change understanding, Jury members independently decided to focus on three key areas (energy production, transport and food and farming) to help answer the overarching question. A further nine well respected commentators shared their expertise in these key areas. All the commentator presentations are available on the Kendal Climate Change Citizens' Jury website (www.kendalclimatejury.org) and dedicated Facebook page.

We are committed to making sure the time and dedication of the Jury



is honoured and results in positive changes in Kendal. The Citizens' Jury is first and foremost a passion project – we want to ensure that our jurors' voices are heard.

We are raising funds to create a short film to promote the Jury's recommendations and engage the key organisations they call upon for change.

Kendal Town Council will take the film on a private screening tour to engage

the organisations that have committed to responding to the recommendations.

You can support this ambition by contributing to the current crowdfunder effort here www.crowdfunder.co.uk/kendal-climate-change-citizens-jury-film and by sharing the film. Sign up to our mailing list for updates via www.kendalclimatejury.org

Biodiversity Grant

Kendal Town Council declared a Climate Emergency in 2019 and are currently adopting greener practices to reduce its impact. A new Biodiversity Grant is now open until Monday 30th November to help Kendal based projects implement and achieve biodiversity goals.

The KTC biodiversity grants welcomes applications from:

- Community schemes and projects that enhance local biodiversity

- Projects that support local people to increase the biodiversity of their gardens and in turn the local area
- Projects that conserve and enhance the biodiversity of Kendal to offset or capture carbon emissions
- Projects that promote behaviour change initiatives towards cleaner, greener ways of living that support biodiversity

We will consider applications from local charities, community interest companies, voluntary groups and other not for profit organisations in Kendal.

To ensure focus and impact, grants will be awarded between a minimum of £500 and a maximum of £1,000.

To download an application form visit www.kendaltowncouncil.gov.uk/grants or email helen@kendaltowncouncil.gov.uk for more information.

High Sheriff Visits Kendal during County Tour



Cumbria's High Sheriff Julie Barton visited Kendal and enjoyed a walking tour led by Mayor, Councillor Alvin Finch, and accompanied by Town Crier John Bateson and the Mayor's Attendant, Simon Unsworth.

Starting at the Brewery, our leading arts provider shared how it has adapted to the challenges brought about by the Covid. The Mayor's chosen charity Space to Create, together with Age UK, highlighted their valuable work during lunch at Kendal's oldest pub The Fleece Inn. Two of Kendal's most innovative businesses, The Herdy Company and Joeys Cafe also shared how they've adopted to Covid challenges.

Visits to Waterstones, Penningtons, Farrers, and Kendal's award-winning People's Café to learn about their valuable Waste Into Wellness project followed in the afternoon.

Updates from Kendal's groundbreaking Citizens' Jury were also shared about how it aims to improve the town.

In between visits and talks the High Sheriff learnt about Kendal's history from the Town Crier and had a chance to look at some of Kendal's historical buildings and famous yards.

Councillor Alvin Finch said, "It was great to be able to show off Kendal and the vibrant businesses, initiatives and charities that give the town its identity".

Reflecting on her day in Kendal, the High Sheriff said "I had a wonderful, informative day and really enjoyed my time in Kendal! It's great to see so many organisations and businesses working towards tackling social isolation, which is my chosen theme for my year in Office as High Sheriff."

Julia has been keeping a record of her visits around the county which can be seen on her website www.highsheriffcumbria.co.uk and Facebook page: www.facebook.com/hscumbria2020

20mph update

Kendal Town Council have commissioned consultants Markides Associates to better understand the costs involved in creating 20mph speed limit zones across the town. An integrated 20mph scheme will create many benefits for Kendal including a reduction in traffic accidents and safer walking and cycling opportunities for all. The Town Council intend to take the final report to Cumbria County council for consideration.



TV appearance Kendal's Mayor Alvin Finch



Kendal's Mayor Alvin Finch made a guest appearance on comedian Rosie Jones latest series 'The Great British, Female, Gay, Disabled, Covid Compliant Adventure'. The comedian is currently travelling the UK creating a spoof on the traditional travelogue format.

Together with Gogglebox star, Scarlett Moffatt, the film crew visited Food Historian Professor Ivan Day (www.historicfood.com) to cook and learn about some historic Cumbrian delicacies.

Alvin was invited to judge the results and take part in the show. "The food was great and the company was excellent," said Alvin afterwards, "and I think they liked the town."

Alvin took the opportunity to give the celebrities some local Kendal treats (Kendal Mint Cake and Pennington's Kendal Mint Cake Liqueur) to remind them of their time in the town.

The programme will be shown in a high-profile Friday night slot at 8.30pm on Channel 4 in the run-up to Christmas.

Oxenholme Defibrillator

Together with local residents and the First Responders group, Kendal Town council have installed a Defibrillator in a former telephone box in Oxenholme. The telephone box has been adopted by Kendal Town Council who stepped in to ensure the Defib had a home following the closure of the nearby Post Office.

Council Meeting Dates

The Full Council meet on the first Monday of every month. Committee meetings are quarterly. All meeting dates and the corresponding zoom link can be found at

www.kendaltowncouncil.gov.uk/events

Public participation is welcomed, please email office@kendaltowncouncil.gov.uk for zoom passwords



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