

KINGSWOOD PARKS VOICE

www.kingswoodparks.co.uk

Dream house move

Meet the paramedics
who moved into their
Kingswood Parks home
during lockdown!



Back to school

Behind the scenes with Kingswood Parks Primary School's headteacher

Win a family cinema trip!

It's time to sit back and enjoy the movies again at your local Cineworld

Cooking up a storm

The Village Green Bar and Kitchen opens its doors successfully post lockdown

Selling your home?

Why Kingswood Parks is still first choice for buyers according to Beercocks

“We moved into our dream home during lockdown!”



Sarah Hara and Nathan Otley

Whilst 2020 hasn't been the year any of us anticipated, new homeowners in Kingswood Parks are living the dream.

Beal Homes has been busy helping buyers move into their new homes, despite the challenges associated with Covid-19.

The family-owned business helped three couples move into their new homes at its Kings Vale development within just eight days of each other, several weeks into lockdown.

The successful moves challenged false perceptions that people couldn't complete a property purchase during lockdown and that the housing market had been put on hold.

“What Beal have done for us is outstanding and we wouldn't have moved in without their help.”

Beal supported paramedics Sarah Hara and Nathan Otley to move into their four bedroom home back in April, more than three weeks after the UK was placed under lockdown. The couple, who previously lived with their

parents, hired a self-drive van to transport their furniture, enabling them to adhere to social distancing rules.

They benefited from the government's Help to Buy equity loan scheme for newly-built homes and Beal's own discount scheme for NHS workers.

Sarah said: “We were worried we wouldn't be able to move because of the lockdown and concerned about the arrangements for moving our furniture in, but we got everything sorted with our solicitor and it all went ahead, with Beal's support.

“The Beal team has been lovely and kept us informed throughout. Everyone is facing challenges in the current climate and fair play to Beal for doing their best to help people through the moving process.

“The whole experience of buying our first home has not been as stressful as it could have been, even with the lockdown. We're so pleased we've been able to move in.”

As part of the “Helping you make your move” support package, Beal has been flexible on contract exchange dates as well as offering part exchange and providing assistance through its Smooth Move scheme, which makes it as easy as possible for buyers to sell their existing home and move into their new Beal property.

Guidance is available on how customers can benefit from Help to Buy and Beal's exclusive Launch Pad scheme, which helps first-time buyers take their first step on the property ladder.

First-time buyers Rebecca Barber and Chris Jaques also moved into their three bedroom home in April, transporting their belongings in their cars.



Chris Jaques and Rebecca Barber

The couple, who are both secondary school teachers and also moved from living with their parents, used the Launch Pad initiative, which meant they were given £5,000 to spend on extras to make their home their own.

Rebecca said: “We'd accepted our move might not happen because of the lockdown period and we were surprised when Beal said it could go ahead.

“They've done so well under the current circumstances. They continued to give us weekly updates, which was so reassuring for us.

“They stuck to social distancing rules, made everything really clear and gave us space to do our inspection four days before we moved in. They didn't rush us and waited outside. Beal had our best interests at heart all the way through and it was so easy.”

Maria Stephenson moved into her new three bedroom home at Kings Vale with her partner in April as well, again moving their own furniture and belongings. The couple benefited from the Help to Buy scheme and Beal recommended an independent mortgage advisor.

The couple also moved their own belongings and Maria said: “We were worried we may have to start the house buying process all over again, but I expressed my anxieties to Beal and they have been really good, in constant contact and handled everything for us.

“What Beal have done for us is outstanding and we wouldn't have moved in without their help. Even during lockdown, Beal staff rang us while they were working from home to see how we were and supported us all the way.

Beal have gone the extra mile and have been so helpful.”

Beal is committed to doing all it can to help to overcome challenges due to the Covid-19 crisis and launched a package of support and reassurance for people completing on their properties during lockdown, as well as for house hunters searching for a new home.

Sue Waudby, Sales and Marketing Director for Beal, which has developments in Hull, East Yorkshire and Lincolnshire, said: “Congratulations to these couples and all the other buyers who we helped to complete their moves despite the unprecedented conditions faced at the time.

“We always do all we can to support customers during the buying process, through to their moving day and beyond. That commitment really came to the fore when buyers faced unprecedented challenges and uncertainties during the coronavirus crisis.

“Because of Covid-19 we've changed how we operate in various ways to ensure the safety of our customers and staff – for example, all visits to our developments and show homes are now by appointment only. But the exceptional quality of service we offer and our commitment to provide every buyer with a uniquely personal design service are unchanged.

“The lockdown has led us all to re-evaluate what we need and want from our home, whether it's an extra bedroom to create a home office, a bigger garden to enjoy outdoor space, or a larger kitchen to entertain family and friends.

“We have always prided ourselves on providing a great range of properties, to fit all budgets, all of them with the highest standards of design and build quality, and the opportunity for every buyer to make their home perfect for their tastes and lifestyle.

“In fact, there's never been a better time than now to buy a new home, with no Stamp Duty to be paid on homes up to £500,000 bought before 31st March 2021. If you're looking to move, we'll have the home you're looking for – get in touch!”

House hunters can call Beal's dedicated sales hotline on **07376 884128**, e-mail **info@beal-homes.co.uk** or visit **www.beal-homes.co.uk** For full details of Beal's unique support package, visit **www.beal-homes.co.uk/blog/were-here-to-help-you-make-your-move**



Back to school - with a difference

When Helen Miller of Kingswood Parks Primary School waved goodbye to the builders, after the school's expansion project, and then received a glowing Ofsted report, she was looking forward to a settled year ahead in 2020.

Little did she, or any other headteacher in the country, know it would be the year when every school in the country would be left with no choice but to close their doors to all but the children of keyworkers as a result of the global pandemic.

But Mrs Miller and her passionate staff team rose to the challenge and delivered a first class remote learning programme for their 600-strong roll of pupils.

"Throughout lockdown, we saw 80% of the children engaged in remote learning at any one time" said Mrs Miller.

"We delivered the lessons through our J2E online learning tool. This was a programme children had already used and logged onto in school on a regular basis themselves, which made the transition to them using it at home more straightforward. Additionally, we provided printed work packs for those who needed them and we also organised live online English lessons for some year groups."

Mrs Miller joined Kingswood Parks Primary School in September 2016 with 300 children attending at

that time, since then she's doubled the size of the school and worked hard to raise the school's Ofsted rating, only narrowly missing out on becoming "Outstanding" at the most recent inspection in December.

"It's been a real team effort," she said. "I am really proud of the staff and how hard they have worked, and also how supportive the parents have been throughout this period."

Navigating her way through some of the choppiest waters schools have ever seen certainly wasn't on her to do list when Covid-19 struck, but by this time the school's system and processes were sophisticated enough to deal with most things.

"It's been a real team effort," she said. "I am really proud of the staff and how hard they have worked, and also how supportive the parents have been throughout this period. We have remained open for the 50+ children of keyworkers throughout and then invited Foundation Stage 1 and 2, Year 1 and Year 6 back from June, allowing the safe return of as many children as we had the capacity and resources for prior to the summer break.



What does the future hold at Kingswood Parks Primary School?

"We are really looking forward to welcoming all the children back to school and getting back to offering the full curriculum again from September. We just want school to be an exciting place to be again!" said Mrs Miller.

"The children will return to school in 'pods', which could comprise of a class of 30 who they stay with all the time including when they have lunch in their classrooms. We don't expect to be able to do assemblies or group singing sessions by that time, but the children will have lots of opportunities to do nice things in their own groups. We will endeavour to introduce lessons like music and sport and the

extra curricular activities that the children love too as soon as possible.

"For the first few weeks we are planning to ask children to bring packed lunches, although for those who would normally receive a free school meal we will provide the packed lunch. I hope that by week 3 we will have surveyed the children about their favourite meals and be able to choose those meals that are most easily transferred from the kitchen to the classrooms.

"I would just like to take this opportunity to thank the staff, the parents and the children for working so positively with us through such a challenging time. I am so proud of how we have worked together."

What do parents say?

Vicky Robinson:

"The standard of education is excellent, my kids love going to school. The school was really good and so well organised during lockdown and then when the children could return to school as well. Both of my girls went back to school and had new teachers for the remainder of the term, but it just wasn't an issue, the school managed everything so well."

Kathryn Santof:

"It's an absolutely brilliant school. The teachers are so supportive, you can approach them

with anything. It's a really nice community too, everyone is very friendly. During lockdown my son found it difficult to concentrate, he was desperate to go back to school. We picked up work packs from school, which gave us lots of practical activities to do. School rang us a lot to check we were all okay, they couldn't have been better really."

Lesley Gradwell:

"I can't speak highly enough of the school and the teachers. During lockdown both the boys had work set every day and the teachers would comment on what they had done and send little comments back. The whole process was so slick and easy to manage, it's a brilliant school."



It's time to sit back and enjoy the movies again...!

We talk to John Jackson, General Manager of Cineworld, about how a visit to the cinema has changed in light of Covid-19 and how he intends to keep the magic of movies alive.

What was your first job in the cinema world and why are you passionate about your job?

I started with Cineworld in 2013 joining from a management role in Morrisons. I have a huge passion for film and watch over 150 films per year at the cinema.

There must have been very few challenges in your career as unique as reopening a socially distanced cinema?

2020 has been a strange year for everybody and cinema is no exception. When we reopened at the end of July, we were ready and we are ensuring the cinema is a safe place for everyone to be.

What can cinema-goers expect to see when they return to the cinema for the first time? How will it look different?

We will have perspex on the counter tops, staff in PPE and a full thorough sanitising and cleaning role added to the daily routines.

What do you hope the cinema experience will be like for people?

The experience will always be a great visit and

the best place to watch a movie. Seeing the latest blockbusters on the big screen is an experience that can't be recreated anywhere.

Can people still enjoy all the usual selections of sweets, popcorn, drinks, ice creams etc or will you be operating a reduced menu?

All the usual cinema snacks will be available to enjoy, although Pick 'n' Mix isn't currently available.

What big releases can people look forward to in the forthcoming few months? Is there anything else exciting on the horizon?

A Quiet Place 2 is due out in September, which is gaining lots of interest. October will see Wonder Woman 1984 which has a huge audience following. November will see James Bond back on the big screen in No Time To Die. We have such an action packed end to the year.

Have you been busy from day one, given people haven't had their cinema fix for several months?

With our free parking and great location we are often the cinema of choice for the people of Hull and surrounding villages, so yes we have been busy.

"The future of cinema is exciting. Lots of innovative technology is coming through to the UK."

Exciting times are ahead!"

How do you think lockdown might have affected the cinema business? Subscriptions to the likes of Netflix and Disney+ are said to have soared in recent months, what are your thoughts on the impact of the new "stay home" culture?

Streaming services played a big part of lockdown. However, the magic of the cinema experience will bring audiences back to the cinema. Nothing can beat the sound and picture quality of the big screen.

What does the future of cinema look like through your eyes?

The future of cinema is exciting. Lots of innovative technology is coming through to the UK. Exciting times are ahead!

WIN – 2 X FAMILY CINEMA PASSES UP FOR GRABS!



We have teamed up with Cineworld to give 2 lucky families the chance to see a movie of their choice in 2020, completely free of charge.

For your chance to win, simply visit www.kingswoodparks.co.uk/cineworld and submit the entry form online.

Information before you visit:



Masks/face coverings

The government announced the requirement for face coverings in cinemas and a range of other indoor settings, which came into effect on August 8th, although children under 11 and those with certain disabilities are exempt.



E-ticketing

Cinema tickets are available to book in advance on the Cineworld website www.cineworld.co.uk and via the Cineworld app. Confirmation emails can be used as tickets, and e-tickets are available on the app.



Updated seating maps

Cineworld's booking system has been updated to allow you to sit next to your friends and family in our cinema screens while ensuring a safe distance between customers from separate groups. This will vary on the capacity and layout of each screen.



Staggered film times

Film start and end times will be staggered to reduce customers crossing paths with other customers going in or out of other screens and build up of crowds in the foyer. Additional cleaning time will be added between films.



Contactless payments

Cineworld is accepting contactless card payments up to a value of £45 and Apple Pay/Google Pay mobile payments with no limit in its cinemas. The ticket machines in most of its cinemas also accept contactless payments too.



Café bar is more popular than ever before

Kingswood Parks residents were delighted when The Village Green Bar and Kitchen opened its doors again earlier this month.

The popular independent eatery has been pleased with the level of support local people have shown in recent weeks, as customers have returned to enjoy dining out post lockdown.

Nestled in the corner of Kingswood Parks' popular village centre, The Village Green has become a central part of community life over the years, as a popular venue for lunch out, evening meals, catch ups over coffee or a few drinks.

Whilst the business already had the highest score (5) available for Food Hygiene, a score maintained since it opened its doors in 2015, and most recently reviewed in February 2020, the owners have stepped things up another notch in response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

"We have had a busy start since we opened the

doors again," said owner Andrew Carter. "Very little has changed, other than a few small tweaks to the menu. Of course we are following all of the government guidance to ensure we are operating in the safest way possible.

"I think people have adjusted and know what to expect when they eat out now. All of our staff are wearing masks or visors and we've installed a screen at the till, we are using disposable menus for hygiene purposes and it's a maximum of six people per table at the moment.

"I think people have adjusted and know what to expect when they eat out now. All of our staff are wearing masks or visors and we've installed a screen at the till, we are using disposable menus for hygiene purposes and it's a maximum of six people per table at the moment.

"We are really grateful to local people for supporting us by returning to The Village Green now we are open again. Lots of people have been enjoying our steak nights on Mondays and Tuesdays, as well as the Burger night on Wednesdays. We are still doing the Specials between Friday and Sunday, which are always popular".

"We have lost three tables in order to maintain the required distance between tables. The toilets can only be used by one person at a time and are sanitised regularly. Other than that, we are trying to maintain the normal Village Green experience, so that customers can come and enjoy dining out.

"We are really grateful to local people for supporting us by returning to The Village Green now we are open again. Lots of people have been enjoying our steak nights on Mondays and Tuesdays, as well as the Burger night on Wednesdays. We are still doing the Specials between Friday and Sunday, which are always popular".

With fewer people jetting off over the summer holidays, lots of families have been treating themselves to eating out more regularly than before, and where better than a stroll through the development to The Village Green Bar and Kitchen?



Steak night – Monday and Tuesday – £23.95 per couple

Tell us exactly how you like yours cooking and enjoy it with all the trimmings and a bottle of wine!

Burger night – Wednesday – £12 per person

Choose either an 8oz Artisan beef burger, grilled chicken burger, flat field mushroom burger or vegan burger with 2 toppings, chips and a pint, bottle of beer or house wine

The Village Green is open every day from 10am to 11pm. For more information call (01482) 877547.

Keeping Kingswood Parks Healthy!



Haxby Group's Kingswood Health Centre has risen to the challenges of the last few months, by remaining open and available to patients.

We caught up with General Manager Karen Phillips who explained how the healthcare team has managed to stay open, even on bank holidays, to make sure everyone got the care they needed.

Karen said: "Here at Kingswood, the healthcare team has worked every day – we never closed or locked the surgery doors or made people ring a bell to get in! We kept open on Easter Day, VE Day and end of May bank holidays so patients could contact us.

"We've had to adapt a little bit to stick to the guidelines, so we've been doing more phone consultations and video calls, where possible, to reduce contact for both patients and staff.

"But we've still seen patients who need to be seen and done home visits and vaccinations."

Kingswood is one of five surgeries in Hull run by Haxby Group. Between May and July they received 42,500 incoming phone calls, carried out 10,935 telephone appointments and saw 2384 patients.

12,000 prescriptions were issued to patients, including 129,000 items of medication. The team also did 2385 blood tests, 222 asthma reviews and 166 home visits.

Haxby GROUP

WE'RE WORKING HARD TO LOOK AFTER YOU

In the three months between May to July, we've taken:

- **42,500** Incoming phone calls

We've done:

- **10,935** Telephone appointments
- **2,384** Face-to-face appointments
- **2,385** Blood tests
- **222** Asthma reviews
- **166** Home visits

We've issued:

- **12,000** Prescriptions

"Here at Kingswood, the healthcare team has worked every day – we never closed or locked the surgery doors or made people ring a bell to get in! We kept open on Easter Day, VE Day and end of May bank holidays so patients could contact us.

Local volunteers delivered medication to people in the community and staff worked round the clock to phone thousands of vulnerable and shielded patients to check they were ok.

Flu vaccinations

This year's flu vaccinations will be done in pre-booked appointments over the Autumn period.

Eligible patients will be contacted by letter and vaccinations will be carried out in a safe environment, ensuring social distancing and correct PPE.

Karen added: "We plan to complete our flu clinics for those at highest risk by the end of November."



How to contact us



The team at Kingswood Health Centre are always working to improve communications with patients.

Keep an eye on social media updates and use the online consultation request tool, rather than using the phone as it's much quicker and easier.

To find out how this works go to:
<https://youtu.be/E0qsgVMCmqo>

@Haxbygroup

www.haxbygroup.co.uk

House sales soar in Kingswood

As house prices have surged, with the property market reporting an unexpected mini-boom as lockdown restrictions eased, Kingswood Parks estate agent Beercocks is busier than ever.

According to Rightmove's national index, average national price of properties increased by 2.4% in July 2020, compared to March prior to the housing market being put on hold due to restrictions associated with Covid-19.

The price of property coming to market is an accurate early indicator of demand, backed up by buyer enquiries which, according to company director Steven Beercock, are significantly up based on the same period last year.

The number of sales being agreed is also exceeding last year's figures, a trend being enjoyed nationally since restrictions were eased on the sector and property tax holidays were announced.

"Kingswood has always been a highly desirable place to live," said Steven. "People aspire to live here, be it as a first time buyer making their very first move, through to families upgrading to luxury, detached executive homes – one of which we recently agreed a sale on for in excess of £400,000. Kingswood is perfectly situated when it comes to retail, dining and leisure, which is a huge appeal to buyers.



"Since opening our branch in the heart of the Kingswood Parks village centre, house hunters and sellers are looking to our team more and more for specialist advice on moving home. We work closely with the local housebuilders too and benefit from comprehensive local knowledge of the development.

"Without a doubt, there has never been such an opportune time to make the decision to put your property on the market, the buyer demand is there and this is contributing to the increase in property prices. Additionally, people are tempted by the stamp duty savings made available."

Beercocks' Kingswood Parks branch is one of 11 offices within the region. Call (01482) 426666 for more information or to arrange a valuation.

www.beercocks.com

Useful contact numbers for Village Green stores

Village Green Café Bar
01482 877547

Jhoots Pharmacy
01482 830411

Kingswood Butcher's and Deli
01482 877553

The Hair Room
01482 877377

Kingswood Parks Primary School
01482 427870

The Village Retreat
01482 877767

Beercocks
01482 426666

The Co-operative
01482 822802

Haxby Group – Kingswood Surgery
01482 303963

