

KERSEY VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

December 2018/January 2019



PHOTO: VIV MARSH

Merry Christmas to you and your families
with peace and joy for the year to come.

50p*

* **WHERE SOLD.** Delivered FREE to properties within the parish.
(50p is the approximate production cost per copy. All contributions gratefully received. See p18.)

CONTACT NUMBERS

Parochial Church Council –

Chairman: Jackson Crompton-Battersby	01473 657349
Vice Chairman: Lucy Oldham.	07753 626899
Church Warden: Rachel Wells	01473 822230

Bellringers – Bell Captain: Neville Whittell 01473 822616

Forgetmenots – Organiser: Veronica Partridge 01473 823188

Tuesday Club – Rachel Wells 01473 822230

Table Tennis Club – Adrian Blyth 01473 827805

Parish Council –

Chairman: John Hume	01473 810098
Clerk to the Council: Sarah Partridge	01787 210859

Footpaths – Giles Hollingworth 01473 824663

Kersey Community Playground Committee –

Jonathan Marsh	01473 822927
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Millennium Book Fund – Sarah Partridge 01787 210859

Neighbourhood Watch – vacant

Village Hall –

Chairman: Veronica Partridge	01473 823188
Bookings: Norah Orriss	01473 827513

VPA (Village Produce Association) –

Chairman: Peter Partridge	01473 827231
Secretary: Rachel Wells	01473 822230

The Lewis Mowles Trust Fund –

Secretary: Rachel Wells	01473 822230
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Grays Trust –

Chairman: John Robinson	01473 823247
Secretary: Joan Hatrick	01473 828215

Nightingale Trust/Allotments – Info: Norah Orriss 01473 827513

School – Head Teacher: Mrs Liz Donaldson 01473 823397

Kersey Playingfield Assoc. (Glebe) – Ian Hatrick 01473 828215

Kersey Community Website www.kersey.suffolk.gov.uk

Hadleigh Health Practice 01473 822961

West Suffolk Hospital (Bury St Edmunds) 01284 713000

Ipswich Hospital NHS Trust 01473 712233

Police The non-emergency number to call if you want to contact the local police is 101 (when it's less urgent than 999)

Please let us know of any changes.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Church Clergy:

Rev. Jackson Crompton-Battersby.
01473 657349 rev@kind.church

Church Wardens:

Mrs Rachel Wells 01473 822230.
and vacant position.

Elder: Mrs Julie Boast 01787 249511.

Weddings: For all enquiries regarding weddings at St. Mary's Church please contact the Benefice Wedding Clerk – Jenny Cox 01473 652466.

SWEEP AND DUST

Weeks beginning:

3rd December - Bridget Allen.

15th December - ALL if possible, 10am.

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

Please join us at St. Mary's church on the 16th December at 4pm for Carols by Candlelight, followed by mulled wine and mince pies. During the service the children will be able to prepare the crib. Services continue on the 24th with a Christmas Eve communion at 10pm.

Both services taken by Rev. Jackson.

POPPIES

Over the past few months twenty two people aged from twelve to ninety two years have been knitting or crocheting poppies. Thank you to those people and to the helpers who stitched them onto the camouflage nets and displayed them in church. The result was stunning. I hope you were all able to have a look at the finished display.



FLOWERS

It would be appreciated if the flowers for Christmas could be arranged by the 16th December ready for the Carol service. I have some Oasis if you need some. Thank you.

BUFFET SUPPER

We look forward to seeing you all at the annual Christmas Buffet Supper on the 8th December in the Village Hall from 8-10pm.

Come along and enjoy the food, drink, festive raffle and a sing song at the end. All proceeds for St. Mary's church. Tickets £12.50 from PCC members.

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PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (cont.)

DONATIONS

Thank you to the 50 households who have donated so far to the newsletter costs.

Best wishes to all those in hospital or ill at home.

Rachel.

TOWER AND THE CLOCK

Finally the scaffolding is down and the site is being cleaned up. The new mortar shows the extent of the repair work and hides the steel rods embedded into the buttresses. Over time the repair work will become invisible and for now at least our work is complete in maintaining the Tower for future generations. The newly painted/gilded clock is once again on show holding time over the village and surrounding countryside. The finances are in hand but will take several more months to finalise as grants and VAT are collected. Therefore the complete Tower Report will be prepared and delivered to the PCC AGM next Spring when everyone is welcome to attend.

Colin Grannell.

The editorial team wish all our readers a Happy Christmas.

DIARY DATES

1st Dec	Village Christmas party	Village Hall	7.00-11.30pm
4th Dec	Tuesday club	Village Hall	7.30pm
8th Dec	Buffet supper	Village Hall	8-10pm
10th Dec	School nativity rehearsal for villagers	St. Mary's	2pm
16th Dec	Candlelit Carol service	St. Mary's	4pm
18th Dec	School Carol concert	St. Mary's	2.30pm
<i>21st Dec</i>	<i>End of term</i>		
<i>7th Jan</i>	<i>Beginning of term</i>		
8th Jan	Friends of St. Mary's Church AGM	St. Mary's	7.30pm
21st Jan	VPA meeting	Village Hall	7.30pm
28th Jan	Parish council	Village Hall	7.30pm

REMEMBRANCE

Congratulations to Rev. Jackson and all involved with successfully lighting up St. Mary's church in "Poppy red" on the evening of November 10th prior to the Remembrance service on Sunday morning. Pic: <https://flic.kr/p/2bufp8D>

PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

TAKE PRIDE IN KERSEY PARISH

– A message from Kersey Parish Council:

Many of you that enjoy walking the footpaths of Kersey may have noticed that the steps at the allotments have been upgraded and improved for the benefit of all walkers. The gate and the post and rails have also been repaired, and all of this has been achieved due to a number of kind donations of equipment and importantly village residents giving up time to undertake the work. The footpath working group is working on a number of other areas to enhance the walking experience.



There has also been a noticeable improvement in the reduction of dog fouling on a number of the footpaths throughout the parish. Additional signs are being put into place and the PC is currently considering placing additional bins in position where dog walking is known to be at higher levels. The PC would like to thank all those individuals that have taken action to reduce the amount of dog waste on footpath walkways.

We still have improvements to be made, but if we can all continue to be vigilant when walking our beloved pets then all walkers will be able to enjoy the Kersey Parish at its best.

An extraordinary meeting of the Parish Council was held on the 5th November. Present were Chairman John Hume, five councillors, clerk and three members of the public.

Apologies received from one councillor.

Planning:

Sampsons Hall. Plans were shown for demolition of North East single storey wing and erection of extension and alterations. Three councillors had made a site visit which had proved helpful to understand the proposals. After discussion it was agreed to fully support this application.

PARISH COUNCIL NOTES (cont.)

AOB:

Repairs to footpath 12 by the allotments had been completed. The footpath working group now plan to repair steps on path 16. Some damage had been caused to the bank and ditch near Ayres End.

An ordinary parish council meeting was held on the 19th November. Present was Chairman John Hume, all councillors, clerk, two members of the public and county and district councillors to give their reports. Before the agenda items the chairman thanked all those who had been involved with the services over the Remembrance and commented on the stunning display in church and also to those who had organised an entertaining quiz night.

Reports:

Babergh district councillor Alan Ferguson: Boundary Commission recommendations have been agreed. There will be a decrease in the number of councillors to thirty two. From May 2019, Lindsey and Chelsworth will join the current ward which includes Kersey and it will be known as South East Cosford. He reported that Babergh has a five year land supply. There would be no talks about the proposed merger between Babergh and Mid Suffolk before May 2019.

After newspaper reports about introducing car parking charges he said there was no reason why there should be a charge. Planning application for change of use and alterations at the Corks Lane site will go before the planning committee next month. Mr Ferguson said he was now back on the planning committee.

Following the council's move to Ipswich a facility is now available in Hadleigh Library every Thursday 1-5 when an officer will be in attendance to discuss planning issues or any other problems.

Finances were in a steady state. A member of the public asked about council tax payments on empty properties or holiday homes. Although this was a local problem it was government policy to charge a reduced rate or none at all.

County councillor Robert Lindsay spoke about the proposed cuts to a number of services, he was not in favour but at the moment he said they were only proposals and things could change.

Pot holes: All he could advise was to keep reporting them. A parish councillor brought up about "Road Closed" signs which are very misleading and are left in place long after work has been completed. He hoped this would improve in the future in the meantime he said report to the council.

Minutes of previous meeting held on the 5th November were signed.

PARISH COUNCIL NOTES (cont.)

Clerks report:

No reply had been received about topping up the grit bins. As one of the proposed cuts by SCC was to road gritting this was a bit worrying.
The clerk had attended a session on GDPR.

Correspondence was noted.

Finance: All financial aspects were discussed.
Interim internal audit had been done and all was in order.

KCPC working group:

A maintenance morning had been held. The recent quiz had raised £751.

Footpath working group:

There were no issues with the paths at present. Entrance to the path by the allotments had been improved. Repair to the steps on Path 16 was the next project.

Dog bins were discussed and if more were purchased where they would be sited. Where signs have been erected about dog fouling these seem to be proving effective.

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PARISH COUNCIL NOTES (cont.)

Homelessness:

Response to two consultations on Homelessness Reduction Strategy and Housing were discussed and a reply agreed. It was noted that in the housing document no mention was made on infrastructure.

Village Emergency Telephone System:

The clerk had been in touch with the Heartbeat Trust and progress was now being made.

Emergency plan: This was almost complete.

Kersey Volunteer Group:

Plans are all coming together, volunteers have been given their own specific area which they will be responsible for keeping clear of rubbish and to note potholes.

Parish Council Dates 2019:

8th January	– Parish Council meeting.
4th March	– Parish Council meeting.
8th April	– Annual Parish Assembly plus short PC meeting.
13th May	– Parish Council Annual meeting.
8th July	– Parish Council meeting.
9th September	– Parish Council meeting.
18th November	– Parish Council meeting.

Clerks job appraisal:

The chairman said the clerk was well organised, valued and gave an excellent service to the community.

Budget and Precept 2019-20:

This was discussed in detail and provisional Precept set at £7,990.

Training:

One councillor had attended. The new councillor has been given future training dates.

SALC:

The next SALC meeting would be attended by Mary Evans SCC cabinet member for Highways. Two parish councillors would attend.

AOB:

An extra meeting would be arranged to discuss the possibility of setting up a Neighbourhood plan. Speeding in parts of the village and wheelie bins being left by the roadside were also discussed.

ST. MARY'S CHURCH

Vicar's Christmas letter.

There's going to be a moment on Christmas Eve. I'm not sure when it will be, maybe mid afternoon, perhaps 6.00pm or maybe a few minutes after the Bell closes that night. A moment when you look up from the bowl of plum duff your stirring; or wipe down the bar counter; or lock the door after visiting dear mother in Basingstoke.

A moment when all the lists and the to do's and the seventeen steps for the perfectly roasted turkey – and by the way I'm with Nigella on this, soak in salty cold water and lemon for 18 hours and then, and this is crucial, cook upside down for the first two hours, I cook the best turkey anyone has ever tasted and I owe it mostly to Nigella – anyway all those thoughts still for a moment.

And in that moment we stick our heads out of the door and look up – hopefully it'll be a clear night – sniff the air and stop. Just pause. Just let the world spin on its axis for a moment and let it manage without us. The turkey, the trimmings and the blumin' family can wait just a minute or two.

Just imagine doing that on the first Christmas and seeing that star that had been growing and brightening and wondering why it had ever stopped over a rough stable in an insignificant little backwater.

What did it mean? Was it something to follow or forget!

Like when Van Morrison nagged and badgered the blues singer Paul Jones for an answer. Van the man wanted to be a Christian, to believe, but couldn't make up his mind. Paul got a bit fed up with the endless questions and just said, "the thing is, it's either true or it isn't. If it's true then it's the most important truth in the world or you should just decide to believe. If it isn't true then frankly you should forget about it". Van decided it was true and began to follow that star in his own unique way. I try to follow it in my stumbling and sometimes confused way; but that star has guided me through some of the worst times I thought I would ever know; and some of the most sublime.

That star keeps leading me to Christ, my light, my hope; I pray that star will lead you this Christmas, may God shine his light on us in Kersey this Christmas, may we know the presence of the one who came to earth to bring us his peace and to be our hope.

All the best,

Rev Jackson.

Vicar of Kersey, Elmsett, Aldham, Hintlesham & Chattisham

Telephone: 01473 657349

Email: rev@kind.church

ST. MARY'S CHURCH SERVICES

Sunday 2 December	1st Sunday of Advent 9.00am	Said Holy Communion (BCP) Rev Jackson
Tuesday 4 December	9.30am	Holy Communion
Sunday 9 December	2nd Sunday of Advent 11.00am	Holy Communion (CW) Rev Jackson
Tuesday 11 December	9.30am	Morning Prayer
Sunday 16 December	3rd Sunday of Advent 4.00pm	CANDLELIGHT CAROL SERVICE Rev Jackson
Tuesday 18 December	9.30am	Morning Prayer
Sunday 23 December	4th Sunday of Advent NO SERVICE IN KERSEY	
Monday 24 December	CHRISTMAS EVE 10.00pm	Holy Communion Rev Jackson
Sunday 30 December	1st of Christmas 10.30am	Deanery Service Hadleigh Church
Sunday 6 January	Epiphany 9.00am	Said Holy Communion (BCP) Rev Jackson
Tuesday 8 January	9.30am	Morning Prayer
Sunday 13 January	2nd of Epiphany 1.00am	Holy Communion (CW) Rev Jackson
Tuesday 15 January	9.30am	Morning Prayer
Sunday 20 January	3rd of Epiphany 11.00am	Cafe Church
Tuesday 22 January	9.30am	Holy Communion
Sunday 27 January	4th of Epiphany 4.00pm	Evening Prayer Mrs Julie Boast
Tuesday 29 January	9.30am	Morning Prayer

VILLAGE NEWS

VILLAGE PRODUCE ASSOCIATION

A VPA meeting is being held on the 21st January when the show schedule will be arranged and the outing venue agreed. Any ideas for either would be welcomed or alternatively come along to the Village Hall at 7.30pm on the 21st.

FRIENDS OF ST. MARY'S CHURCH

The Friends of St. Mary's Church Kersey is a new association that is currently under registration as an independent charitable trust formed to protect our heritage and preserve our ancient church and churchyard for future generations. Working alongside the PCC but independent from it, this new association will seek to appoint trustees at its inaugural AGM on Tuesday 8th January 2019 at 7.30pm in the Church.

If you would like to be considered as an inaugural trustee and sit for one year to help set up the trust, its governance, aims and deliverables, please email for more information: suzie.rudkin@gmail.com.

All funds raised by the trust will be directed towards protecting, preserving and advancing our historic building not just for Christian worshippers, but for the community of Kersey as a whole.

KERSEY PLAYGROUND CHARITY QUIZ NIGHT

A quiz with fish and chip supper was held on the 9th November. Twelve teams took part. There was a tie for 1st place with two teams on 240 points. Due to the number of points scored in the music round "Old and Bewildered" were announced the winners of the trophy ahead of "You're a Quizard, Harry".

"Not on the Street.com" were 3rd with 231points. Other teams taking part were "Twin Peaks", "Right at the Back", "Give us the Chocolate", "The Nightingales", "Spanish Inquisition", "Wot! No Answers?", "Suffolk 'n' Close", "Universally Challenged" and "The Famous Five" who were the winners of the wooden spoon. The prize for the best named team went to "Old and Bewildered". £751 raised will go towards the upkeep of the Community Playground.

CHRISTMAS CAROLS AT THE KERSEY BELL

The Bell's annual carol singing evening is always one of the highlights of the festive season and will take place this year on Monday 17th December starting at 8pm. Everybody welcome. Please come and join in.

VILLAGE NEWS (cont.)

TUESDAY CLUB

At the November meeting members and visitors were joined by Canon Roy Tricker from Ipswich with an illustrated talk on “A love affair with churches”. He said he was so privileged to be asked to the meeting, his father attended Kersey school so has always felt he had a connection with the village. He recollects that from the age of four he has been fascinated by churches. He started by showing a slide of St. Mary’s church in Kersey before going on to show many examples of churches mostly in and around Suffolk. Some thatched, some with round towers, large and ornate ones to small and humble ones all with their own unique architecture and comical features. All this was accompanied by a very passionate and amusing commentary. We thought he was going to be entertaining and he certainly didn’t disappoint.

Winner of the competition for “A war related item” was Ian Hattrick.

Our last meeting of 2018 will be the Christmas party on December 4th at the Village Hall from 7.30pm, when there will be plenty to eat and drink plus a game or two.

CUSTOMER SERVICES LIBRARY:

Babergh District Council invites residents to come along to their second **Customer Access Point** pop-up at Hadleigh library. Council staff will be on hand once a week to offer local residents the opportunity to meet face to face. In coming weeks, there will also be a permanent iPad for customers to use anytime during the library’s opening hours to access online council services. The pop-up opens on Thursday 18 October and will run for a period of three months. You can find the team at Hadleigh Library, 29 High St., Hadleigh, Ipswich, IP7 5AG on Thursday afternoons from 1.30pm to 5.00pm.

OCTOBER WEATHER

Rainfall for October: 40mm (1½” approx.)
Same period last year: 13mm (½” approx.)
Maximum temperature: 23°C (73°F approx.)
Minimum temperature: 0°C (32°F approx.)

KERSEY’S PHONE BOX:

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NEWS FROM KERSEY SCHOOL

Squirrels (Reception):

In Squirrels class we have been looking at celebrations and festivals around the world including: Bonfire Night and Diwali. Between now and Christmas we shall also be looking at Hanukkah and Christmas and why different religions celebrate these. We are also doing a nativity with Hedgehogs at the end of term called 'A Miracle in Town'.

Hedgehogs (Years 1 and 2):

Hedgehogs class have been learning about our topic 'Fire' and so far we have looked at 'The Gunpowder Plot' and we have been writing some brilliant poems about fireworks in literacy. In science the children have been investigating different types of materials and whether something is 'man-made' or 'natural'.

Squirrels and Hedgehogs would like to invite the village of Kersey to come and see our dress rehearsal for our Nativity production on Monday 10th December, 2pm at St. Mary's Church, Kersey.

Badgers (Years 3 and 4):

As part of our Crime and Punishment topic this half term we have been researching lots of different time periods. So far we've learnt about the Tudors, the Georgians and the Romans! We are very thankful that the punishments that existed then do not exist now! In ICT we have used the gruesome story of Guy Fawkes to make our own stop art animation videos. Some of us were lucky enough to get them loaded onto YouTube for all the world to see. As part of Anti-Bullying week we have been learning a rap to remind how to define bullying and also stop it happening.

Owls (Years 5 and 6):

Owls class have spent the last few weeks learning about WW1 and the Armistice treaty. They have researched the lives of the two soldiers buried in St. Mary's church yard and presented this information to the congregation at our Remembrance service on 8th November. They thoroughly enjoyed finding out about these men and how they sacrificed their lives for their country. Many of the class have tales of tell of their own families who may have fought in the World Wars, which has brought home to them how significant Remembrance Day actually is. Owls class are now moving on to write their own war poems using images from different stories of war written for children.







We would like to invite you to our Christmas Carol concert on Tuesday 18th December at 2.30pm at St. Mary's Church. Refreshments will be provided. We hope to see as many of you as possible that can make it.

If you would like to know more about Kersey school or would like to arrange a visit please ring the office on 01473 823397, email: admin@kersey.suffolk.sch.uk or visit our website: www.kersey.suffolk.sch.uk



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FARMING NOTES - December 2018

Farming news from a little further afield this month, some notes from New Zealand. I'm currently living and working in Taranaki which is located in the Western part of the North Island and is famous for the large volcanic mountain, Mt Egmont, standing in the centre of the region. The region is predominantly grassland and home to 14% of NZ's dairy herds as well as beef and sheep.

Artificial Insemination:

Being in the southern hemisphere, it is currently spring in NZ. Within the dairy sector calving has finished and most farms are in the middle of mating. New Zealand dairy farming typically follows a very seasonal pattern with cows calving over a 12 week period between July and September. This suits their predominantly grass based production and means that cows are calving as the grass growth increases.

Mating is an extremely important part of the year and something which needs to be done right to ensure cows get in calf so they will milk the following season. The majority of dairy farms will use artificial insemination (AI) for the first 4-6 weeks before using bulls for the remainder of the mating period usually totalling around 12 weeks. AI is used to allow farmers to access the best genetics from which to breed their replacement females. The conception rate is around 72%, this is very similar for both AI and natural service.

I have been working as an AI technician so it has been my job to visit 12 farms each day and serve the cows which are in heat. As it is my first season working as an AI technician I have been working alongside an experienced technician, at our busiest time we were inseminating around 160 cows each day.

Cows have a 21 day oestrous cycle. This means that a cow should be in heat which is also known as bulling every 21 days unless she is in calf. When in heat, cows will show a range of signs including standing for other cows to jump her like a bull would, increased activity and holding her milk. These signs allow farmers to identify which cows are in heat and should therefore be inseminated that day. There are a range of products which can be used to aid heat detection such as tail paint which is painted just above the tail along the ridge of the backbone; this paint will be removed when a cow is jumped by other cows.

Beef and Sheep:

In addition to AI, I have also been working on a beef and sheep farm with 1400 ewes and 600 cattle. All the stock is produced completely off grass and never housed. The cattle are grazed on a rotational system in small paddocks and shifted every 2 days to maximise grass growth, this enables more stock to be grazed on the same area. My jobs on farm include shifting stock, spraying thistles and helping with any other day to day jobs. Over the next couple of weeks we will be treating all the lambs, they are dosed with an oral wormer to kill any internal parasites, they will also be sprayed with a fly spray to prevent flies laying eggs in the wool.

Alice Partridge, Taranaki, New Zealand.

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Rachel Wells: 01473 822230 - rachel@kersey-village.co.uk or

Viv Marsh: 07747 175858 - kersey@moonridge.me.uk

The newsletter is delivered FREE to properties within the parish 10 time a year. The approximate production cost is 50p per copy (£5 per year). All contributions gratefully received – please pass via your distributor or to:

Rachel Wells, 1 Vale Corner, Vale Lane, Kersey.

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HAPPY CHRISTMAS 2018!



Please enjoy colouring in.