

KERSEY PARISH NEWSLETTER

February 2022



PHOTO: VIV MARSH

www.kerseychurch.org
www.kersey.suffolk.cloud

50p*

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

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 – Chairman: Kevin Pratt 07854 390658

Kersey Community Playground Committee – Jonathan Marsh 01473 822927

Neighbourhood Watch – Vacant

Village Hall –

Chairman: Veronica Partridge 01473 823188
Secretary and Bookings: Natalie Blyth nablyth1@gmail.com or 01473 827805
Treasurer: Norah Orriss

VPA (Village Produce Association) –

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

The Lewis Mowles Trust Fund – Secretary: Rachel Wells 01473 822230

Grays Trust –

Chairman: John Robinson 01473 823247
Secretary: Philippa Harris 01473 827079

Nightingale Trust/Allotments – Info: Natalie Blyth 01473 827805

School – Acting Head Teacher: Claire Donnelly Paley 01473 823397

Kersey Playingfield Assoc. (Glebe) – Mark Pertwee 01473 810227

Kersey Community Website www.kersey.suffolk.cloud

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.

Defibrillators – *There are two AEDs located within the parish at The Bell Inn, Kersey IP7 6DY and Kersey Mill IP7 6DP.*

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 administrator 07706 188842 weekday mornings.

CHURCH CLEANING

7th Feb – Ruth Anderson and Sue Attridge.

21st Feb – Suzie Rudkin and Philippa Harris.

SYMPATHY

We at St Mary's were so saddened to hear of the unexpected passing of Jane Drew on Christmas Day. Gerald first came to help with services in 2003 with Jane sometimes being tempted into helping to ring the bells. Jane was keen on crafting especially lace making and patchwork. They also loved walking and often came over to Kersey to walk the footpaths. Gerald and Jane were devoted to each other and she was a great support to him throughout his ministry. Our sympathy goes to Gerald and the family who will miss her so much.

We send our sympathy to Anthony Zurbrugg on the death of his brother Michael. As a family they moved to Church Steps, Kersey in the late 1960's. Michael lived in London with his wife Jenny where he worked as a solicitor. Michael and Jenny were married in St. Mary's in June 1985 As flower arrangers we will always remember the buckets of orchids we were given to arrange reminding Jenny of her homeland.

Our sympathy also goes to the family of Bob Wheeler who died in December.

WELCOME

Welcome to Kersey Simon and Stella Ryde and family who have moved to Wormwood Green from Wales. Simon has returned to the village where he was born and grew up.

RINGERS

Twenty two members of the Suffolk Guild (SW district) came to ring the bells on 22nd January from 3 - 4.30pm.



CALLING WINTER COUCH POTATOES!

The Arts Society – South Suffolk can give you a welcome boost.

We offer a series of 10 illustrated talks given by experts in all aspects of the Arts on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 2pm at Long Melford Village Hall (CO10 9JQ) for approx. 1 hour.

TRY US FOR FREE! Contact: Carole Ashton Membership Secretary by tel/email: **07766 107880** **creevesashton@gmail.com** quoting code **KPN1**. For full membership details: visit our website **www.tasssouthsuffolk.org.uk**

MUSIC IN ART:

Tuesday 15 February at 2pm.

Have you often wondered about the background & perhaps symbolism of the musical instruments depicted in great paintings? This is an opportunity for answers. The talk explores the instruments in selected works, explains their social context & development before giving *live demonstrations* on handmade replicas. A real window into the past and a treat for Music Lovers.

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PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (cont.)

CHRISTMAS FAYRE

Many villagers and visitors enjoyed the many stalls at the fayre held in St Mary's church. £800 was raised for the church.

CAROL SERVICE

It was lovely to hear the bells ringing as you approached the church for the candlelit Carol service. Local ringers were joined by one from the Isle of Wight. The church was beautifully decorated and a good number of people attended the service which was taken by Rev Jackson assisted by elder Julie Boast. Lessons were read by Bunny and Holly Crompton Battersby, Robert, Marvin, Linda Newbigging, Mark Pertwee, Nick Judd and Claire Donnelly Paley.

GERALD WHYMARK 1944-2021

Frances and family would like to thank everyone for their sympathy, kindness and help since Gerald's sudden death back in November.

Gerald died on 8th November 2021. His early years were spent in and around Hadleigh and he and Frances settled in Kersey after they married at St. Mary's in 1965. Much of his working life was spent as an agricultural worker of one kind and another.

By nature a modest solid citizen who, over many years, served our community generously as a Parish Councillor, Lewis Mowles Trustee and practical helper of the Church as well as quietly caring for many of those individuals less able than himself. He will be missed.

We send our sympathies to Frances and family.

Thoughts of Gerald

Our footsteps merged to where the tower stands;
We've come this way before.

Past old grey stones and names from long ago,
And now the circle has revolved once more.

Another sad farewell,
Fresh flowers laid on polished elm,
The candles flicker in the slanting sun;
Heads bowed down in rows of black and grey.
Hear solemn words, the promise of a higher
realm to come.

Familiar hymns, the organ rolls.
It's darker echo of the silent tears,
So few these moments in this final hour,
So many memories across so many years.
A requiem, our last goodbye for one now free,

To roam the halls of that enigma –
Time's infinity.

One more Amen, and then the bearers slowly
move away

Through that same door in which they came,
Out to the moving, living world,
Where everything, but nothing, is the same.

Each time a friend departs
And takes the road of no return,
A little of ourselves goes with them on their way.

For they were part of life; a life we shared,
From which the memories, those hands
That bind man transient to eternity.
Hold fast a thread, so neither clay
Nor spirit ever walk alone; or fade away.



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PARISH NEWS

TUESDAY CLUB

Members of the club met in December for a Christmas party. Sarah Panton and Natalie Blyth shared the hamper as joint winners of the quizzes. Christmas Carols were sung accompanied by Liz Hanson on the keyboard.

NIGHTINGALE TRUST

Vacant Allotments: We currently have 2 plots available. If you are interested or would like further information, please contact me on 01473 827805 or email nablyth1@gmail.com - Enjoy the fresh Kersey air, great exercise and tasty produce, what's not to like!!! Natalie Blyth.

FoSM RAISES THE ROOF OF ST. MARY'S WITH A SPECTACULAR AMERICAN SUPPER DANCE

So now we know what an American Supper Dance is!

It's a 'bring your own' dinner party, dress up and style your table as you like, as festive as you like and you party, dance, and celebrate life in what can only be described as a stunningly gorgeous candlelit church. And my word, doesn't our beautiful church rise to the occasion when asked!

Starting with Trevor's amazing cocktails, which probably made us all a bit tipsy and then some incredibly clever dinner menus, listening to the smooth, versatile crooning tones of Chris James, before dancing till midnight!

A huge thank you to everyone's generosity, as we raised nearly £1,400 for the church repairs and had fun doing so. Thank you to Luke Whitwell and Nevelli for sponsoring the event along with Bryan Goodwin at BGA Print and to all our wonderful FoSM Trustees for working so hard with the PCC team to make the evening such a huge success. A very special thank you to Sarah Stirling for the concept, vision and sheer determination to make it all happen! Well done everyone.

WEATHER (for November)

Rainfall	20mm (0.8")
Maximum temperature.....	13°C (55°F)
Minimum temperature	-1°C (30°F)



WEATHER (for December)

Rainfall	71mm (2.8")
Maximum temperature.....	15°C (59°F)
Minimum temperature	-2°C (28°F)

Thank you to Kate Banks who records the weather for us in Wickerstreet Green. The rainfall amount sometimes varies in different parts of the parish.



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FARMING NOTES

Sheep Special!

To mark the 95th anniversary of the Kersey flock this month's article will feature on Suffolk Sheep.

Suffolk Sheep as a breed were developed by crossing Southdown rams on the native Norfolk Horn ewe as far back as 18th Century. This cross combined the growth and mothering abilities of the Norfolk Horn with the fine wool and fleshing of the Southdown. This crossbred was then improved by selective breeding until the hornless black faced sheep that we now recognise as a Suffolk became a pure breed. The breed society of Suffolk Sheep was established in 1887 in Ipswich. Suffolk Sheep have continued to develop and improve over the past 150 years to become the leading native terminal sire in the UK.



Historically much of the wealth of Kersey and the area came from sheep's wool and the textile industry. Sadly however, modern synthetic materials have replaced this and the wool is currently of very little value. The shorn fleece of a Suffolk Sheep weighs about 2 to 3 kg and is worth less than £1 per fleece which does not cover the cost of shearing! Since wool is worth so little the Suffolk is now bred entirely to produce meat. Suffolk rams are used on commercial ewes to produce fast growing quality lean lambs for butchers.

The Kersey Flock was established in 1927 by Robert Partridge (known as Bobby) and is now one of the oldest flocks in the country. For many years there were two flocks in the Parish of Kersey after John Partridge, Bobby's nephew, set up the Harts flock in 1947. I took on the running of the Harts flock in 1982 following the death of my father, John. Bobby died in 1980 and in 1999 the opportunity arose for us to combine the two flocks by buying the remaining ewes of the Kersey flock from Roger Partridge, thereby retaining the Kersey prefix.

During the last century Suffolk Sheep have formed part of our mixed farming enterprise, making use of root crops and sugar beet tops as well as other arable by products, thus improving the soil fertility. The importance of this mixed system is once more at the forefront of agricultural practice.

Interestingly the 'Kersey Flock' was not the first flock of Suffolk Sheep in the Parish, the founder of our farming business (R Partridge and Son Ltd) Great Great Grandfather, Robert Partridge, had a flock of about 200 Suffolks between 1900 and 1909.

The 'Kersey Flock' is believed to be the fourth oldest in the country. At one time father had in excess of 250 breeding ewes, however with the decline of sheep in general in the Eastern counties our current flock of just over 60 ewes is the largest pedigree flock in the home county of the breed. Over the years we have used various progressive technologies in an attempt to improve the genetics of the breed in order to supply our customers with top quality stock.



In recent years we have been delighted to supply ewes to people starting several new flocks in the Eastern Counties. In 2017 we exported 19 ewes and 2 rams to Portugal. Our breeding rams are sold to commercial and pedigree flocks locally and have also been exported to Germany and France.

ST. MARY'S CHURCH

Party like it's 2020 again

The Bishop has been nagging me for two weeks to get my 2021 church statistics report in; I keep telling him I'm waiting for Sue Gray's report first – Ha,ha! The best jokes I've heard about partygate were all to do with what was on the DJ's playlist at the this-is-totally-a-work-event-not-a-party: "Fight for the right to party"; "No Limits"; "Don't Stand So Close To Me" and my favourite "Fade To Sue Gray".

We are so cynical now about politics, so cynical in fact that I feel seventeen all over again. But I don't think it's a bad thing to be cynical about politics when politicians behave like this. We pray each Sunday in St Mary's for our political leaders and for those who hold them to account. And we are also responsible for holding our government to account. If video did kill the radio star then 24 hour news killed political naivety and it's better that we are informed and aware of our leaders' foibles. So long as we judge them no more harshly than we wish to be judged. And that we remind ourselves of the words of the Lord's Prayer "Forgive me as I forgive others". Ouch. I do wish he'd said "forgive me faster than I forgive others".

If cynicism of politics is in plentiful supply there is, I think, less cynicism about the rest of our society. We pulled together during the pandemic, it may have been a slogan that we were "in it together", but here, in Kersey and its church, pub, school and community, we lived it. Our faith in God and each other had a chance to grow. For some it did and that is a really valuable thing. In a world where governments lie and dictators threaten invasion, we should value faith, faith in what is good. If you can join us at 11am on Sunday 20th February, the Bish is coming to confirm three more people who recognise that faith is a treasured commodity; two from Kersey and one from Aldham. It's a public statement that faith, like love and compassion, is worth finding.

As for our politicians; well I'm writing this on the 24th of January so I have no idea who will be Prime Minister by the time you read it. I do know however, that I must remember always to pray for them. God knows that like you and me, they need it.

Much love,

Jackson

Vicar of Kersey

Chaplain to Babergh Coastal Rescue

www.kerseychurch.org

Kersey Community Website

Remember to check www.kersey.suffolk.cloud regularly for latest news, information and updates.

ST. MARY'S CHURCH SERVICES

6 Feb	9.00am	BCP Holy Communion	Rev Jackson and Julie Boast
13 Feb	4.00pm	Evensong	Rev Adrian Waller
20 Feb	11.00am	Confirmation	Bishop Mike, Rev Jackson, Julie and Nicola
27 Feb	11.00am	BCP Holy Communion	at Aldham

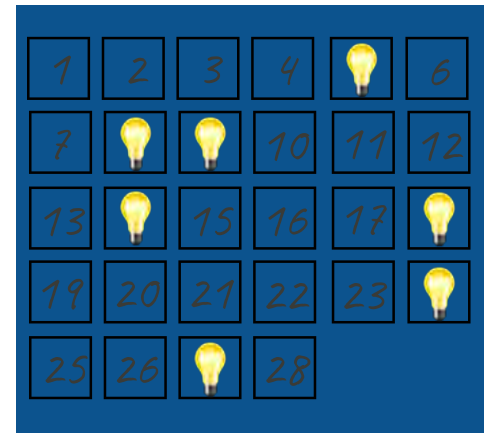
Note change in service pattern for this month.

St Mary's Floodlights

The lights on our church guided home lost aircraft in WW2 and continue to show our beautiful parish church at its best. Can you donate £8 a month to light up the church one night a month?

To have St Mary's church lit up, please email Philippa at community@kind.church

- 5th of each month: Sarah, in memory of my father, Robert Visick, to celebrate his wonderful life
- 8th of each month: Helen in memory of my brother Matthew
- 9th of each month: Meg, in memory of my father
- 14th of each month: Michele, in memory of Anne Maltby
- 18th of each month: Jackson, in memory of Mark Battersby, brothers always
- 24th of each month: Sponsored by Ipswich School Senior School
- 27th of each month: Michele, in memory of John Maltby



FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S 500 CLUB LOTTERY

December's **500 Club** draw took place in the Church on 18th December with independent witnesses and the winners were:

- 1st Prize – Mark Rigby
- 2nd Prize – Suzie Rudkin
- 3rd Prize – Matthew Grannell

January's winners were:

- 1st Prize – Mark Rigby
- 2nd Prize – Linda Newbigging
- 3rd Prize – Chris Partridge

Well done to all the winners and thanks to everyone who has already joined the club.

Details of the **500 Club** monthly lottery, plus all membership information can be accessed at: www.kerseychurch.org/fosm

Or for further details please contact either **Mark Rigby** on **07484 649235** or **Mark Pertwee** on **07919 166782** or email fosmkersey@gmail.com.

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PARISH COUNCIL

An extraordinary meeting of the Parish Council was held on 6th. December. Present were four councillors and clerk. Apologies were received from two councillors. No applications had been received to fill the vacancy on the council. Minutes of previous meeting were confirmed and signed as correct.

Planning: Progress. Babergh had granted permission for alterations at River House. To be considered. 1 Hollies cottage, Wickerstreet Green. Re-thatching of roof, construction of three dormer windows and extension to chimney stack to comply with building regulations. Councillors agreed to fully support.

An application for Manor Farm was received too late to be discussed at the meeting this will now be done at a later date.

AOB: The nomination of The Bell as an Asset of Community Value has been acknowledged by Babergh and a decision will be made in January.

The dog bin at Wickerstreet Green is well used, it was suggested that perhaps this could be included in the Babergh dog bin scheme.

Concern was raised about the traffic speeding through Wickerstreet Green.

The chair has been in contact with the new tenants at The Bell who have indicated they are willing to join with the Jubilee celebrations.

Councillors have been working with the parking expert on communication and education information.

Next meeting 31st January.

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KERSEY CALENDAR ON-LINE

We also have a Kersey Community *Google calendar* on the website:

<https://kersey.suffolk.cloud/events/>

If you are planning an event in Kersey please email the information to Sarah Partridge at kerseypc@gmail.com so it can be included.

(If you already use Google Calendar you can add this to yours.)

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HELLO FROM DOGS TRUST!

Your local Dogs Trust branch at Snetterton would like to briefly make you aware of a few services that we provide free of charge:

The first, our Canine Care Card scheme, is a free service for dog-owners whereby, in the event of their death or illness, we will look after their dog, providing them with all the care they need until we can find a responsible, loving new home for them. This is often a great concern to the elderly, as their dog may be their only friend and companion – Dogs Trust can give them peace of mind, knowing that their canine companions future is safe, should the worst happen to them. Every year, we care for more than 14,000 dogs at our nationwide network of rehoming centres and we never put down a healthy dog.

Secondly I wanted to make you aware that we provide free talks to local community groups. I cover the whole of the East Anglia region, to talk about the varied work of Dogs Trust, where we come from and where we hope to be in the future. There are no speaker fees or travelling expenses so please let me know if you believe that your local club would be interested.

If anyone has any further queries, or would be interested in booking in a talk, please contact me by emailing emily.matthews@dogstrust.org.uk or phone 01953 497912.

With best wishes

Emily Matthews

Supporter Relations Officer
(Maternity Cover)

Emily.Matthews@dogstrust.org.uk

01953 497912

www.dogstrust.org.uk

FREE



Talks

for Community & Social Groups

We can offer an online version or socially distanced talks - please get in touch to discuss options.



Contact Paige at
Dogs Trust Snetterton
E: paige.pope@dogstrust.org.uk
T: 01953 497912

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KERSEY HEALTH TRAVEL

**In conjunction with Hadleigh, Boxford
Community Car Scheme**

The Nightingale Trust was originally set up in 1875 with a remit to help the poor and needy of Kersey. Times have changed and with them, so have peoples needs. Today, we help those in need with their winter fuel bills, in a small way, and we also make donations to the local food bank in the hope this covers Kersey too. We are always looking for new ways to help each other and those with a genuine need. To this end, we have managed to include Kersey in the existing **Hadleigh and Boxford Community Car Scheme** which has been running for some years and is organised by Jen Eastwood, a resident in Boxford.

If you are a patient, registered at Hadleigh Health Centre, Boxford Surgery, or Bildeston surgery in need of a lift to medical appointments including Doctors, Consultants, Physiotherapists, Opticians, Dentists etc. we will be happy to help. We have a number of volunteer drivers who are available to take you to your appointment, wait for you and then bring you home. There is a charge of 45p per mile for this service to cover the petrol and depreciation costs which I hope you find acceptable.

For Kersey residents using this service and in genuine need, the Trustees of the Nightingale Trust would like to contribute £5 towards your taxi costs each month to a limit of £20 per year.

If you need help in getting to a medical appointment then please contact:

Jen Eastwood on 01787 211853, Matt Smith 07918 670024 or Mark Rigby on 07484 649235 who will arrange a driver for you.

DIARY DATES

31 Jan – Parish Council meeting Village Hall 19.30
 7 Mar – Parish Council meeting Village Hall 19.30

The next issue will cover **March 2022.**

Please send items for inclusion well before the deadline of 21st February to:

**Rachel Wells: 01473 822230 - rachel@kersey-village.co.uk or
 Viv Marsh: 07747 175858 - kersey@moonridge.me.uk**

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The Kersey Parish Newsletter

The Parish Newsletter is sponsored and distributed by St. Mary's Church on behalf of all parishioners.

The newsletter is delivered **FREE** to properties within the parish 10 times a year and is also available to download from:

www.kersey.suffolk.cloud/our-community/newsletter/

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.

Or make online transfers (or arrange an annual standing order) to:

Kersey St. Mary PCC, 30-13-52 00694777.

For further parish details and events, please see **www.kersey.suffolk.cloud**

STOWMARKET CHORALE SINGING DAY AND CONCERT

Members of Stowmarket Chorale hope that you can join them for two new upcoming events. Our Singing Day on 12th February 2022 at the John Peel Centre, Stowmarket will be open to all; we're extending a warm welcome to visitors, as well as members.

We will be marking the 150th birthday of Ralph Vaughan Williams with his 'Five Mystical Songs'. Other repertoire will include Bach 'O Jesu Christ, meus Lebens Licht' and Monteverdi 'Cantate Domino' from European Sacred Music and on the lighter side, some Gershwin arrangements by Benedict Collins Rice, our music director.

The day will begin at 10.30am with regular breaks in between the singing sessions and a lunch break. We will have an urn for hot drinks.

Participants should bring their own food or make use of the town centre hosteleries. The singing will conclude with an informal sing through at 4pm to which family and friends will be most welcome (space permitting).

The cost will be £15 and music will be provided.



Our second event is our performance of Ethel Smyth's Mass in D which will take place at 7.30 p.m. on 19th March at the United Reformed Church, Stowmarket. The work was premiered at the Royal Albert Hall in 1893. A review by the Guardian describes the opening Kyrie as a scene full of tension "but there's a hint of consolation towards the end of the movement, and the Credo bursts on in an eruption of joy – the most striking of several dramatic plays of light and shade". Again the cost will be £15.

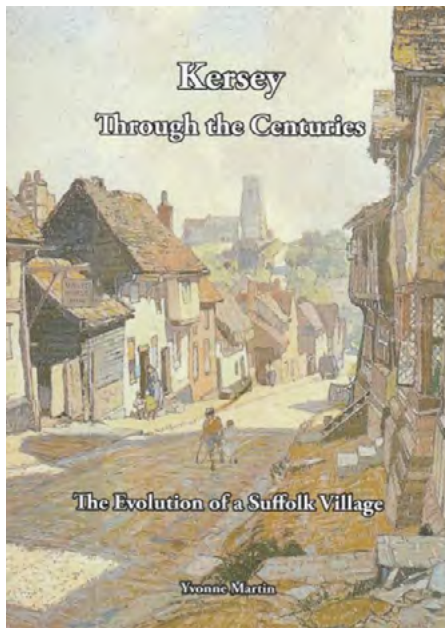
To book for the Singing Day or the Concert please contact Aileen on 07972 668180 or email info@stowmarketchorale.org.uk for details of how to pay.

If you are interested in joining the choir please contact Adrienne Marriott, Membership Secretary at membership@stowmarketchorale.org.uk

ALL CURRENT COVID GUIDELINES WILL BE OBSERVED.

KERSEY THROUGH THE CENTURIES

A new and exciting history of Kersey



Your Local History Recorder has been working hard during lockdown. ***Kersey Through the Centuries*** gives an exciting picture of Kersey life through the ages. Making sense of old documents and records, it follows the peaks and troughs of Kersey life and contains true accounts of fascinating and sometimes gruesome events. Kersey's prosperity peaked in the 15th century at which time a new breed of successful clothiers emerged who became landowners and challenged the aristocratic status quo. Many of the village's beautiful buildings originate from this period, preserved mainly due to the poverty in later centuries which precluded redevelopment.

There are stories of medieval misconduct, religious conflict and changing lords of the manor according to royal whims. The book tracks the fate of Kersey Priory, which was dissolved before the Reformation and reveals the lifestyle of the Augustinian canons who lived there.

In the 1600s, Kersey was the home of a prototype feminist lay preacher and found itself at the centre of puritan migration to America. The son of one of the earliest Kersey emigrants to Massachusetts did not find the promised land though: he was in Salem just at the wrong time and ended up being burnt as a witch.

Then there are sad tales of Kersey folk ending up in the Cosford Workhouse in Semer, from where in the 18th century one young girl escaped, was recaptured and deported to Australia. She was not alone, other Kersey perpetrators of minor crimes also found themselves on prison ships taking them to the other side of the world. A century later, men from Kersey were involved in riots against the cruel regime imposed by Cosford Workhouse.

The book explores the harsh fate of many agricultural labourers who signed up to fight in World War I and examines the impact of World War II on the village. The ups and downs of agriculture are also charted. Taxes and tithes were a constant burden on farmers and business owners through the centuries, with anger against the tithe system reaching boiling point as late as the 1930s when fascist blackshirts tried to take advantage of struggling farmers.

The author is ***Yvonne Martin***, a Kersey resident and the Local History Recorder for Kersey. She worked in publishing as an editor and writer for 40 years and has always had a keen interest in history.

To purchase a copy (£12.95), contact ***yvonne.martin@uwclub.net*** or phone **01473 828361**. Profits will be donated to St Mary's Church restoration fund.