

THE KINGSTON NEWS

January 2016

www.kingstonnews.org

email: editor@kingstonnews.org

Issue 343

Wishing readers and new residents of Kingston a very happy and healthy New Year 2016!

DON'T FORGET CHRISTMAS TREE RE-CYCLING SUNDAY, 10TH JANUARY

For details, please see page 5 of the December issue by viewing the Archive tab on www.kingstonnews.org!

CEO SLEEPOVER EVENT

Dear Kingston: I had to drop out of the CEO sleepover event as only two of the 831 Kingston residents decided to donate to the homeless.

I would like to put on record a warm thank you to Mrs Burrell and Rachael - my role models from when I was a child growing up in Kingston – who continue to impress as they put in significantly more than requested.

Yours sincerely, **Ajit Chambers**

COCKSHUT LANE CYCLE/FOOTPATH

Editor: Could I just put on record my thanks, and doubtless those of many other people, for the amount of time and trouble that Lewes District Councillor, Vic lent, has put in to get a successful victory. Thank you, **Graham Hill**

KINGSTON'S NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY IN THE VILLAGE HALL!

Just another reminder before it's too late! For all the details, visit TKN's website www.kingstonnews.org and refer to page 3 of the December issue - or dig out December's paper copy from your environmental rubbish.



The deadline for TKN's February issue is Wednesday, 14th January.

The Kingston News accepts no responsibility for errors in customers' own supplied artwork.

However, the Editor does accept responsibility for spelling & grammatical errors in submissions and articles in this and previous issues of TKN.

ENGLISH TUITION

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- Or writing academic essays?

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01273 483 200



Do you have any old and unwanted pre-1970 Dinky Toys? If they're in good condition (ideally with a box -but it's not crucial) I will pay whatever is the going price on EBay (subject to the state of my finances!).

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01273 487743,
stefalik@aol.com

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The Kingston WI Christmas Party, held on Friday, 11th December.

During the afternoon of Friday, 11th December the

Committee members and some helpful husbands set out the tables and chairs for the evening's party. Members dressed the tables with festive tablecloths, cutlery, napkins, Christmas crackers, a centrepiece of Christmas baubles surrounding a red candle, and quiz sheets. The tables for the food were covered in a festive tablecloth ready to receive the food, which included salmon, salads, quiches, baguettes and butter, cheese, turkey, ham and condiments. Desserts included several flans, tarts, and pies, meringues, a roulade and trifles - a real feast for the eyes and later the taste buds.

Members of the choir had a short rehearsal before the entertainment later in the evening, and by 6:30pm members began to arrive, collected a glass of wine or a soft drink and chatted with friends. The evening had begun.

There was a short business meeting and very soon the first tables had begun to select their food from the wonderful buffet. Eventually, as all the ladies began to eat, the conversation level dropped and you could hear the sounds of voices praising the food. Second helpings were on offer before each table began to answer the questions on the quiz sheet. Desserts were now being chosen and again everyone was commenting on the super offerings. The organisation for clearing the tables was set in motion, teas and coffees were collected for each table and the quizzes were completed.

Now for the entertainment! There were two carols from the choir, The Grasmere Carol and the Donkey's Carol. Also, the whole audience and choir sang familiar carols, with piano accompaniment from Peggy Nicholson. In between the singing, several Committee members entertained us with readings, some funny, others poignant or just plain interesting. The performers were Anna Phillips, Jan Sumner, Peggy Nicholson, Brenda Neller, and Beryl Burrell.

The evening ended with the answers to the quiz and the winning table received a small prize. A draw was made for a bursary to attend Denman College in 2016, which was won by Brenda Neller. The evening ended with the tables and chairs

stashed away, the floor swept and with happy voices wishing each other season's greetings as they left. The next meeting is on 7th January 2016.

Helen Dudley



AT YOUR PARISH CHURCH THIS NEW YEAR

THANK YOU

On behalf of the Parochial Church Council (PCC), can I thank all of you who support the Church in so many ways, playing the organ, reading the lessons, doing the prayers, flower arranging, cleaning, ringing the bells, churchyard clear-ups, giving, and joining us for our fund raising efforts. We really do appreciate it. Also thanks to those of you who serve on the PCC!

The Revd Geoff Daw, Rector

Sunday, 3rd January - Epiphany

8.00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)

9.45am Family Service

Sunday, 10th January – The Baptism of Christ

9.45am Parish Communion

Sunday, 17th January – Epiphany 2

9.45am Morning Worship

Sunday, 24th January – The Conversion of St. Paul

9.45am Parish Communion

Sunday, 31st January – The Presentation of Christ in the Temple

IN RODMELL CHURCH

9.45am United Parish Communion

You are very welcome to any of our services

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

The Rev'd Geoff Daw (01273) 473665

We are looking for someone to look after our three-and-a half-year-old girl twins two afternoons a week from 3-6pm.

Flexible on days, pay negotiable.

If interested, please contact Charlotte on 07970 186805.

Email to Katie, Editor:

Carolyn and I have recently returned from a holiday in the US, and were interested to read Steve Berry's article about the Osprey.

We spent about two weeks travelling around by car and visited several National and State Parks in Florida. The wildlife was amazing, great variety, frequent sightings, and close up too. In fact, seeing osprey almost became boring, there were so many. Perched on poles, bridges and trees, catching and eating fish, these stunning birds were sensational.



I sense the Ospreys are not daft, why would they struggle at Rutland or Arlington in difficult conditions when the temperatures in Florida were regularly in the 80s, and the fish population in the local waters is phenomenal?



The bird life was prolific. The other picture is of a roseate spoonbill, stunning with its pink plumage. If you think it may be of interest to readers then please put them in the Newsletter for Jan 2016. Five weeks in National Parks like Yellowstone and Grand Tetons also resulted in amazing sightings of bison, elk, black bear, grizzly, wolves, pronghorn, moose, bald eagle, coyote, several of which were

close experiences as we were tent camping, sometimes in the wild!

Kindest regards, Gerry



QUIZ NIGHT at the Parish Hall on Saturday, 30th January at 7.30pm to raise funds for Kingston Pre-School.

For tickets please contact: Charlotte Beeson on 07970 186 805

SAD TO BE LEAVING

Dev, Jacob, Naomi and Martin came from London in July 1997. Jacob and Naomi enjoyed both the Pre-School and then I & K. We have really liked being a family in Kingston and have made many friends and acquaintances from our time on the PTFA, doing the recycling round, the coffee morning, the Council, and great chats with people we met whilst walking the horseshoe.

It is with great sadness that we are moving. Not far though, just outside Ringmer. We'd like to say thanks and best wishes to the entire village for making us welcome.

Sadly, the move means that Martin has to stand down from the Parish Council, but it is in the knowledge that the remaining councillors are doing a great job and are more than ably supported by Jeanne in her role as clerk.

Thanks and good luck to all.

Dev and Martin

PLAY-READING GROUP IN KINGSTON

We are not sure how many of you are aware, but for many years a play-reading group has met in Kingston. It is a very informal group – no preparation is required! We have read a variety of plays from different playwrights including comedy, farce, drama and, of course, thrillers.

We meet in each other's homes on Monday evenings approximately every five or six weeks.

If you would like to come along and join us, you would be very welcome. I can be contacted on 01273 480 094 or beryl.burrell@sky.com.

Beryl Burrell

FLOWER FESTIVAL – KINGSTON CHURCH

As you may have seen, I recently included an article about the above in the Kingston News. Unfortunately, I gave a wrong e-mail address, so am now correcting this!

During the week-end of September 17th – 18th 2016, the church is planning to hold a flower festival based on a theme of Harvest which will incorporate displays including flowers and artefacts. Any individuals, organisations, groups or businesses are welcome to take part and can include their title in the display.

Thank you to those who have already replied positively. If you would also like to be included, please email beryl.burrell@sky.com or telephone 01273 480094. Beryl Burrell

Kingston History & Heritage Workshop

The Kingston History & Heritage Workshop was set up in April 2015 to explore village life in Kingston in the 20th century, particularly the post-war period.

Initially we are looking at the 1950s, a decade which saw significant change in the aftermath of the Second World War. Focussing on how these changes were reflected in Kingston, members are actively researching the following topics:

- Houses and buildings
- Iford and Kingston school
- The church and religious life
- Politics/the Parish Council
- Events and activities
- Footpaths and rights of way

It is fascinating talking to residents who can share their memories and we have received some very interesting photos and documents to copy or keep, including original papers relating to the Village Club from its inception in 1948 until 1972.

Lost and Found

Wristwatch found just off the Church Lane pathway between The Avenue and Kingston Ridge. Contact Tim Lear with a description by emailing learkingston@gmail.com or telephone 01273 478 658.

Lost and Found

A picnic knife with a black handle was found outside the Village Hall after the Quiz Evening. Contact Judith Finn 01273 473 580

In April we gave an introductory presentation at the Annual Parish Meeting and in July we held a stall at the Village Fête, both of which resulted in a number of useful research leads.

Tim and Linda will be talking to the WI in February about Barbara Willard, a novelist who lived and worked in Kingston in the 1940s and 1950s, and we also hope to organise another event later in 2016 which will enable us to display some of the material we have gathered.

We hold monthly meetings in the Pavilion to exchange information and discuss our findings.

If you are interested in joining the Workshop or if you have any information, memories, photos or documents that you think we might be interested in, please contact Linda Douglas at imdouglas@ymail.com, 01273 477372 or Tim Ambrose at timothyambrose@btinternet.com, 01273 478 42

Thank you to those who supported the Winter Wonderland event on Saturday, 28th November. It was a well-attended party with a great atmosphere, music, plenty of dancing, and raffle. We raised a fantastic £2,200 for Save the Children. Thank you. Rachel Chandler

Apple trees in The Avenue

In early December, five new apple trees were planted in The Avenue. This planting was part of a long-term project by Kingston Parish Council, which paid for the trees, to maintain the special character of this road by replacing the ancient apple trees there as they succumb to age or disease.

These trees - and the others planted in recent years - are all named Sussex varieties and were supplied by the Brighton Permaculture Trust which has a national collection of heritage apple trees at Stanmer Park. For more information about the Trust or the trees or both, see <https://brightonpermaculture.org.uk/>

Steve Berry, Kingston Parish Tree Warden

Wildlife in Kingston (eventually)

I didn't like my English teacher at secondary school. He was a bully and a bit of a sadist. In the days when it was possible for teachers to do this sort of thing without being arrested for assault, he would get hold of a boy's earlobe (it was always boys that he hurt) and twist it round until it was red and inflamed. However, no-one complained or even thought of doing so. You just accepted it as a part of school.

Meltzer – for that was Mr Nasty's name – did, however, do me a favour by teaching me the power of collective action. When he wasn't abusing boys physically, he delighted in humiliating them verbally. The problem for us was that he was very good indeed at this and – to our collective shame – we went along with his twisted humour, laughing at our fellow pupils' discomfort. In truth, we were each so relieved not to be – for that one lesson at least – the focus of his attack that we would have laughed at almost anything.

Then, I had what proved to be a bright idea. What if we could all agree before the lesson not to laugh, however funny he might be? Individually, we were powerless, but together?

The plan worked brilliantly. The usual "jokes" were made at the selected victim's expense, but we all sat silent and stony-faced. Meltzer quickly twigged that something was up and from that lesson onwards his approach changed fundamentally. He never picked on people again.

Meltzer's behaviour didn't scar me for life, but what it did do was put me off doing English at A level. I was okay at English and wanted to carry on with it, but couldn't stand the thought of more nastiness. Instead, I did Latin, which suited me far less well.

Despite his unpleasant side, Meltzer was probably a good teacher in some ways. I certainly remember much of what he said. I also recall vividly what he told us Robert Browning had said when asked what one of his poems was all about.

"When I wrote that, only two people knew what it meant – God and Browning. Now – only God knows".

This a very roundabout introduction to the subject of the goal I set myself last November, which was to count all the species of bird that I encountered (heard or saw) in Kingston within a calendar year. Why would anyone do such a thing? I refer you to Mr Browning for my answer although, in my case, I doubt very much that God knows.

I began counting on 17 November, when I saw 27 species. The only one of these that was in the least out of the ordinary was a tawny owl. Within the next two weeks, the number had risen to 46 including treecreeper (in the wood at the top of The Street) and bullfinch (in the hedge below the "horseshoe" path around the foot of Kingston Hill). A little owl on

19th was one of many I would hear calling during the year, almost all of them from the direction of Saxondown Farm. Redwings and fieldfares I saw most days that month – and the winter months that followed - and the stonechat on 28th was the first of what would be regular if infrequent sightings. Blackcap and sparrowhawk helped to boost the total.

A cold spell in December was marked by encounters with woodcock (courtesy of Bella and Patch who disturbed one on Kingston Hill when they were looking for rabbits), raven and the first heron of the year. A flight of Canada geese wasn't unusual but the flock of lapwing on 28th certainly was. I've seen none in Kingston since.

January was uneventful but February added mallard to the list as a pair took up residence in the Kingston Hill Fields pond for a while and also peregrine, flying over Kingston Hill. Stock doves started to call and were heard almost every day thereafter for several months. These are unobtrusive birds and easily overlooked when silent.

In March I saw greylag geese, while the first linnets returned to the Downs, there to stay in increasing numbers until nearly the end of the year. March also marked the first encounter with what may have been a summer migrant - a chiffchaff – although these days you can't be sure as some chiffchaffs overwinter with us: yet another indication of climate change.

April brought the expected boost of summer visitors whose status was not in doubt, including swallow, house martin and whitethroat. Corn buntings began to sing (we're lucky still to have any of these locally: not many places do these days) and a red kite flew over the house. There was also a first view of the year of a hobby. Later migrants in May were swift, cuckoo and lesser whitethroat but after this – and with the total standing at 66 – there were no new birds for two whole months and my vague target of 75 species looked to be in peril.

August came to my rescue, not just with the expected wheatear and yellow wagtail but an out of the ordinary whinchat and a very welcome spotted flycatcher near the "horseshoe" path. September was even better. A nuthatch was a most unusual bird to see along Juggs Way (probably the same bird which turned up in various village gardens that month) while a group of redpolls in trees above the diagonal path on Kingston Hill took me completely by surprise. Weirdly also, three new species for the year then appeared in Bramleys, the coal tit which turned up on our feeder on 20 September and then stayed in or around the garden for two months being the least unexpected of these. One of the other two was a grey wagtail which flew on to the roof of the house opposite ours on 24th – only the second I'd ever seen in Kingston. The other new species was – for me – not just a first for the year but a first ever for the village: a

siskin – a small finch with yellow and black markings. Like the coal tit this was attracted to our sunflower hearts but, unlike the tit, it only visited once, at least when we were watching. So, in the end, the total was indeed 75. It could have been higher still had I seen the hen harrier noted by Malcolm Shaw and the little egret which Rosemarie Jeffery was lucky enough to have at the bottom of her garden. Maybe next year.....

Any more to add, anyone? Do let me know.
Steve Berry, 3 Bramleys, 487743, stefalik@aol.com



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BULBS

The Steering Group (ie the body that works on your behalf to implement the Village Action Plan) would like to thank all those people in Wellgreen Lane and Ashcombe Lane (and

roads off) who contributed so generously to the appeal last autumn for money to buy bulbs. An especial thank you also goes to the Coffee Club at the Pavilion for their great support. In all, the appeal raised more than £300. The Steering Group itself put in an additional £100. More than 3000 crocuses were planted, mostly on Wellgreen, and 300 daffodils elsewhere.

It's now too late to plant crocuses or daffodils but if anyone else would like to chip in, please feel free to do so. Any money received now will go towards buying snowdrops for planting in March. (Why then? Because it's recommended and because that way we avoid the danger of digging up existing bulbs when planting new ones!).

Cheques should be made payable to the Kingston Parish Action Steering Group and left either with Vicki Scott, Orchard House, Wellgreen Lane; Diana Arlett, Settlands, Wellgreen Lane; John Carey, Copperfields, Ashcombe Lane; Will Dorman, Rowans, Ashcombe Lane, or Steve Berry, 3 Bramleys.

Report from Kingston Parish Council

By Fiona Harrison, Communications lead on KPC
Prepared on 9 December

Portal

The new Kingston portal is up and running! Please do take a look – the address is www.kingstonleweshub.info. It includes easy-to-follow links to The Kingston Parish Council, Kingston Community Pavilion, Kingston News, Kingston Pre-

School, Iford and Kingston Primary School, Kingston Parish Hall, Kingston Village, St Pancras Church and The Jugs public house.

Our PCSO

Our Police Community Support Officer, Jodie Barton, attended our council meeting on 11 November. She is happy to be contacted about non-urgent police issues in the village – for example inconsiderate parking. Her email address is Jodie.barton@sussex.pnn.police.uk.

More councillors needed!

The current council has been operational since May, and we've identified that it would be very useful to have more people involved. If you are interested, do please contact any of the current councillors – our contact numbers can be found on the Kingston Parish Council link on the portal.

Departure of the Council chairman

Very sadly, our current Chairman, Martin Lee, is leaving the village at the end of December. He is therefore ineligible to be a member of the Kingston Parish Council. He has done a great deal of work as Chair of the current and previous councils, and all of us have appreciated his very steady hand and willingness to engage with others, as well as his very practical approach. He will be very much missed, and the village owes him a great deal of thanks.

Date of next Parish Council meeting

The next Council meeting will be held at the Community Pavilion on Wednesday 13 January, starting at 7pm. All members of the public are welcome to attend. The first item on the agenda will be the election of a new Chairman.



We will be looking forward to Iford & Kingston School's submission in February's issue. Pre-Christmas preparations

and plays in early December have taken their toll, which is why there is no article in this January issue.

BEGINNERS' BRIDGE: No fewer than eight people answered the appeal in November's edition of the Kingston News and our small group met on five occasions up to the end of last year. We'd still like at least two more people to join us. However, as not everyone can come every week, it would be good to have two tables all the time. We are an extremely friendly bunch and most of us are still novices so don't be put off at the thought that you've missed the boat again! Give me a call on 01273 487743 or email me at stefalik@aol.com. **Steve Berry**

CARTE BLANCHE
Walter Harris
PRISM VISTAS

I have no idea whether Hassan was the Indian prince he claimed to be. We were having a pint at the much-loved but now departed Knightsbridge pub called the Ennismore Arms, and he was waving a Daily Telegraph and tapping an elegant forefinger against a photograph of a dead tiger.

"Look at this," he declaimed, "the world is going mad about the reduction of tigers since the days of Tippoo Sahib. Poor little tiger, cuddly little tiger—the beast is being treated as a harmless nursery toy! My Uncle the Maharaja of Oudh was eaten by a tiger! He was enjoying his luncheon on the bank of the Brahmaputra River, which in those days was heavily forested right up to the water's edge - and the damn thing crept up and overwhelmed him, even though it had many alternative choices among his gunbearers, though not so succulent as himself, perhaps. He believed in taking it easy when giving his retainers enough to eat." I knew that Indian employees tended to believe that a skinny servant was a hard-working servant.

"In spite of the misfortune to your uncle, the idea of such a magnificent beast as the tiger becoming extinct because of the false expectations aroused in the name of traditional Chinese aphrodisiacs does seem sad," I said. "The sort of people who suffer from passions they can't fulfil are probably not going to take on the characteristics of tigers no matter how many pounds of ground tiger bone they ingest. They probably haven't got the strength to climb on to their thrones."

"In India they have no thrones to climb on since Nehru bought out our royal families and made the country a Republic," Hassan retorted bitterly. "There would have been no Maharaja of Mysore to donate a squadron of Spitfires to the RAF early in the last war if Nehru had had his way a few years earlier than he did." He looked smug.

I stuck to the subject. "But it's principally the Chinese, not the Indians, who are responsible for the extinction of the tiger - not to mention the white rhino." I waited for him to tell me that a white rhino had gored his favourite aunt but, instead, he extolled the care taken by some Hindus to preserve life.

"Take the Jains for example, who started by becoming dissenters from Hinduism. They are so concerned with respect for life that they carry feather brushes to sweep the ground before them

so as to make sure that they do not cause injury to an ant by accidentally treading on it.

"Unfortunately it is a magnificent animal such as the rhino and not the ant that contributes to the improvement of sexual pleasure among the Chinese."

"I doubt if even a Jain would worry about accidentally treading on a rhino, Hassan."

He looked at me in the manner of someone who would rather be elsewhere.

"We started this conversation by talking about the perils facing the tiger population of India," he said, "not that of its ants. It is tigers who are getting in the way of population density, not ants. And it is the same with lions in Africa and Asia. And of course also with elephants." He hazarded a biological guess which was probably off the mark.

"That is perhaps why the Indian elephant is smaller than the African."

"So that it doesn't get in the way of an expanding population?"

"It is possible," he argued. "And also because it is the Indian way to get the maximum for the minimum when it comes to working. Indian elephants are the servants of their community, whereas African elephants serve nobody." He glanced at his watch. "And now, dear boy, I have an appointment for luncheon at the Cavalry Club."

"The Cavalry Club?" Hassan was shaped rather like the hump on a camel, and any horse attempting a charge under his weight would have been risking a heart attack.

"Oudh's royal house was famous for its pigsticking parties in the days of the Raj," Hassan's tone was chilly, daring me to bracket the Charge of the Light Brigade with chasing a squealing porker with a spear, which somehow lay outside the sphere of horseback heroics.

I picked up the Telegraph Hassan had left behind and looked again at the bullet-holed photo of the tiger. I rather hoped that his story about one eating his uncle was true.

The End

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WHAT'S THE PLAN?

If you want to know what's going on in the Kingston area, it's important to check the following website, as not all planning applications are listed in the local newspaper, as used to be the case:

<http://planningpublicaccess.southdowns.gov.uk/online-applications/simpleSearchResults.do?action=firstPage>

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What's happening in The Village Hall in Kingston?
<p>Monday 9-3 Pre-School 5:30-8:30 Zumba</p>
<p>Tuesday 9-1 Pre-School 2-3 Pilates 6-7 Keep Fit 7-9 Yoga</p>
<p>Wednesday 9-3 Pre-School 7-11 Bridge Club</p>
<p>Thursday 9-1 Pre-School 5:30-6:30 Brownies 7-10:30 WI Meeting (first Thursday each month) Tap (second and fourth each month)</p>
<p>Friday 9-1 Pre-School</p>
<p>Saturday 9:15-10:45 Yoga</p>
<p>Sunday There are no regular bookings on Sundays.</p>
<p>January 2016 – Other Events/Activities in Kingston</p>
<p>Ouse Valley Singers (Thursdays from 7:30-9:00pm) Held in St Pancras Church, Contact Andrew Thomas Email: ousevalleysingers@gmail.com</p>
<p>Coffee Morning - Kingston Pavilion (every Tuesday from 10am-12noon)</p>

<p>Kingston History and Heritage Workshop The purpose of this Workshop is to explore and document village life in Kingston from 1950 to 2000, with participants from the community researching and sharing information about change and continuity in the history and heritage of the village, looking at each decade. Individuals taking part in the Workshop are researching into one or more areas of interest, then reporting back at monthly meetings, where findings will be discussed and shared. Meetings take place on the second Tuesday of each month, from 7:30-9pm in Kingston Community Pavilion.</p>
<p>New Year's Eve Party – Kingston Village Hall Thursday, 31st December</p>
<p>Juggs Quiz Nights (8pm at The Juggs Pub) Wednesday, 27th January Wednesday, 24th February Wednesday, 30th March Wednesday, 27th April Wednesday, 25th May Wednesday, 29th June Wednesday, 27th July Wednesday, 24th August Wednesday, 28th September Wednesday, 26th October Wednesday, 30th November The Juggs Quiz Night is held on the last Wednesday of each month. The cost per person is £2 for the quiz only or £6 if you want Scampi and Chips to be included.</p>
<p>Other information about Kingston Village can be found on www.kingstonvillage.org</p>



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