

THE KINGSTON NEWS

February 2016

www.kingstonnews.org

email: editor@kingstonnews.org

Issue 344

WHAT IS THE CREAM INSERT IN THIS MONTH'S KINGSTON NEWS?

There is a group of people who are considering setting up a Good Neighbour Scheme in Kingston, but we need to know how much interest there is in the village!

In short, these schemes aim to match people who are able to offer occasional help with those neighbours who may need some practical help from time to time.

Please fill in the form and we will arrange to collect in February or early March. We can then report what we find out in a later edition of The Kingston News. Many thanks. **Jenny Elliott and John Carey**

THE JUGGS' FEBRUARY QUIZ: Just to let you know that there will be no quiz at The Juggs in February as Simon has other commitments (unless of course there is anyone in the village that wishes to step into his shoes as quiz master for the month). Cheers, Glenn Tel: 01273 472523

COCKSHUT LANE - UPDATE: Villagers may be interested to know that Cockshut Lane has been designated as a bridle way by the ESCC Highways. Before being officially signed as such, the change of status has to be advertised and this will occur soon. ESCC are at present assessing which vehicles – e.g. agricultural vehicles from Rise Farm – will require access. The intention is that gates will be erected at either end to provide enforcement. It is expected that this process will be completed by the end of March. The ban on vehicles from the tenants of Rise Farm using this lane is still in force - and has been since 2005! I would like to acknowledge the tireless work that Wendy Brewer (from the Kingston Road and Cranedown Group) has done in getting this change of status. **Barrie Lambert**



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**The deadline for TKN's
March issue is
Thursday, 11th February**

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

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**RING TOM ON 01273 473 537
OR 07836 662 071**

Dear Residents,

Re: Spring Barn Farm Park: Appeal Ref: APP/Y9507/W/15/3024061

Decision by: David Cliff BA Hons, MSc (Urban Planning) MRTPI dated: 17 December 2015. Site visit made on 27 October 2015)

Sadly, I have to report that the appeal has been granted regarding the development at Spring Barn Farm. Most of the objections regarding the planning application related to the very large barn to be built out in the valley. These have been largely ignored by the inspector. You can see the full copy of the inspector's report and decision at the National Park web site (<http://planningpublicaccess.southdowns.gov.uk/online-applications/>) and entering the original application number: SDNP/12/02520/FUL

I had concerns about the original application and I have concerns about how the inspector came to his conclusions and allowed the appeal. This application was originally made in 2012 and most people thought that the application had been abandoned or withdrawn. It was quietly resurrected in 2014 and the application then proceeded. I went across to Midhurst and addressed the National Park Planning Committee meeting on 9 April 2015 and despite the officer report being in favour of allowing the application, the members duly noted the objections made by nearby residents in Kingston and also my objections and refused the application. However it was an uphill struggle because prior to the meeting I had asked the officers of the National Park to delay the application and properly consult the parish of Kingston. Unfortunately they refused to do this, saying that legally they only had to consult Lewes Town Council as Spring Barn Farm buildings were within the town boundary. I pleaded and said although this might be the case, based upon the Domesday Book parish boundaries drawn up 1000 years ago, the site of Spring Barn Farm clearly affected Kingston residents and the Cockshut valley leading up to Kingston. I got no joy.

An appeal was made against the decision and the Planning Inspectorate decided on a written appeal which was held in July of last year. After many months of delay by the Planning Inspector, during which time significant headway was made in local planning policy in the National Park and Lewes District plans, reaffirming the importance of sustainability, landscape, noise and visual aspects of new development, the inspector made his decision largely putting aside these factors. It's interesting to note that the inspector puts at the head of his document his qualification which includes an MSc in 'urban planning.' It is somewhat ironic to appoint a person specialising in urban planning to deal with a National Park landscape matter! Despite the fact that the inspector had all summer to go and see the site when it was at its busiest he didn't actually visit

until 27 October 2015. Obviously at that time of year it would be quiet.

The inspector, whilst recognising in one paragraph that the building is large and substantial then negates any concern by saying it will be screened by existing buildings! He also does not accept that this very large building would be in an isolated position. His main reason for this is that an existing agricultural barn can provide the necessary screening. What he doesn't say is that the planning authority had no control over the building of the agricultural barn as it is outside planning control. The logic which this inspector applies to things seems to be that one more unsightly building won't matter because it's next to an existing one.

Sadly the inspector has completely ignored the concerns of residents about the noise that a much larger retail building will generate, adding to the noise levels in this once quiet valley. He ignores the concerns that this new building could be used at night, adding to the existing noise in the summertime from the campers on the nearby site. He does not set down any controls over the use of the building at night time and makes no suggestion about the current confused planning status of the car parking in the various areas around the site. He makes no comment about the importance of sustainability which is a cornerstone of the Government's National Policy Planning Framework. Apart from a small concession where he mentions provision for cycles, it seems that he is quite happy that the much increased intensive use of this site will be fed by people visiting it by car.

There are some surprises in the planning inspector's report. He takes very little cognisance of the, almost completed, Lewes Local Plan (Joint Core Strategy). He also makes no reference to the published draft National Park Local Plan despite an appeal to ask him to take it into consideration.

I am in support of outdoor activities for children of all ages, and when Spring Barn Farm started I thought that the idea was great. However, over the last 10 or 12 years, the associated building development has encroached into the rural landscape and urbanised the area. This further development will significantly add to that urbanisation. The decision goes against the grain of the main purposes of the National Park.

Sadly, the Lewes Town Council supported this application. None of the three district councillors representing the (Priory) ward of Lewes covering the area objected, nor did any of the town councillors object to the development. Also the Case Officer who recommended approval of the original application had very little knowledge of the local area and chose to ignore the objections raised by the Friends of Lewes and South Downs Society and did not think it was important that the people of Kingston be consulted.

Lessons learnt?

Local people must be ever vigilant and must campaign for greater transparency and wider consultation on planning applications, irrespective of which parish they actually fall in. It is clear that local people must work very hard to put forward their views and provide detailed, well-researched information and evidence. If that is not done, the final decision lies with an inspector who has no knowledge of the local area and so the future landscape will be defined without proper consideration. It seems the inspector will only look at the evidence before him, so if you don't provide it he or she won't take it into consideration.

It's very important to catch things early and try to make sure the officers in the planning department are fully aware of both concerns and material evidence if you are opposing the development. Once reports are written, they are treated almost as evidence.

For my part I will do all I can to make sure we get the best possible planning decisions for our area.

Regards

District Councillor Vic Ient

T: 07788720929 E: vic.ient.libdem@gmail.com W: <http://sussexcampaign.com/>

PS These words echo my concerns about ill-thought-out planning & building design:

"Is then no nook of English ground secure from rash assault?" – William Wordsworth

Kingston Tennis Club AGM 2016

Members of the Kingston Tennis Club are warmly invited to attend the 2016 AGM to be held on Thursday, 3rd March at 8.00pm in the Kingston Community Pavilion. Members will have received, where possible, an email last month about this. The principal items are the election of the committee and Chairman for the coming season.

If you would like to be a committee member, please let me know before the meeting (01273 473580, email: colinfinn@btinternet.com). We are very keen to welcome new committee members.

Agenda

1. Minutes of the previous AGM held on 19th March 2015 (copies available at the meeting)
2. Matters arising from the minutes
3. Chairman's report
4. Treasurer's report
5. Election of Chairperson for the coming season
6. Election of the Committee Members for the coming season
7. AOB

Colin Finn, Hon. Sec.
11th January 2016



The future of your Parish Hall is in your hands!

Dear Resident

May I, on behalf of the Trustees of our Parish Hall, wish you all a very Happy New Year and thank you all for your tremendous support during 2015. The number of bookings is up and, again, we had another very successful Fête– thanks to your contribution.

Our continuity and future success also depends very much on your continued support. Importantly, our Parish Hall could not exist without the ongoing support from our Trustees. It is their contribution to the management of the Hall that ensures that the facilities remain available to you.

Many of you will be aware that we have sought a person to fulfil the role of Secretary for the past two years: not even one response! We are now desperate for a new Booking Secretary, as Dee Harris is no longer able to continue in this role and will be sadly missed. Again, despite drawing previous attention to this requirement, we have not had any response.

Our Annual General Meeting, due last October, was cancelled owing to my own hospitalisation at that time. This will now take place in the Parish Hall on Thursday 17th March commencing at 8:00pm. At this meeting all principal Officers are elected/re-elected, as appropriate, to serve for the forthcoming year. Clearly, from this point forth, we will be without a Secretary and, importantly, no Booking Secretary. I'll leave it to you to contemplate the future for our Parish Hall!

Should I be re-elected I will of course ensure that booking arrangements continue for the time being, but we need volunteers to urgently fulfil these imminently vacant positions. If you or your association is a regular user please take our concerns to your Committee and if you or members of your Committee are interested, please give me a call to discuss.

Yours very sincerely

Keith J Hicks
Chairman
Tel: 01273 471676 / 07527 530 007
Email: keith.hicks@kingstonparishhall.org.uk

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Wildlife in Kingston

Which familiar mammal eats its own droppings, has young that we call kittens and has probably given us some well-known surnames? The giveaway clue is that its fecundity is truly proverbial.

Rabbits have been in the UK a very long time, but didn't adapt to the climate all that quickly, having to be somewhat mollycoddled at first by people known as warreners, later contracted as a name to Warner, who also looked after other sorts of game. From the second part of the rabbit's scientific name – *Oryctolagus cuniculus* - we almost certainly get coney – and then Coney.

According to internet sources (not necessarily all that reliable!), the rabbit is only the sixth most common mammal found in Britain, its estimated population of between 37 and 40.5 million being exceeded only by that of the wood mouse (38-41 million), common shrew (41.7–43.2 million), field vole (c 75 million) and house mouse (also about the same) and one other. The news that the brown rat, of which there are perhaps between 76 and 82 million in the UK, is neither surprising nor, as far as most people are concerned, very welcome.

The five animals whose numbers top those of the rabbit are all rodents, but rabbits, like hares, are in the Order Lagomorpha rather than Rodentia. Lagomorphs were once regarded merely as a type of rodent but are now seen as having evolved independently, though they may have a distant common ancestor. One difference is the teeth, rabbits having two pairs of incisors rather than the single pair of rodents.

Readers who remember Richard Adams' wonderful *Watership Down* will recall that Fiver, brother of Hazel, the leader of the rabbit band who escape extermination to found a new colony on the Downs (though of the Berkshire rather than the Sussex variety) has extra-sensory powers which alert him to external threats before others are aware of them. Fiver aside, however, most rabbits have to cope just with what evolution has given them to elude their enemies. Such attributes are not insignificant and include, as well as the obvious quick burst of speed, a huge range of vision, which falls only just short of 360 degrees and enables rabbits to see danger from above as well as from both sides and behind. Given that a rabbit's predators include just about every terrestrial carnivore with which it shares living space – fox, weasel, stoat, polecat and badger – as well as birds like buzzards, these vulnerable animals need to be on their guard at all times. In areas of human settlement, including our village, rabbits also have to be wary of domestic animals, as dogs almost certainly account for more rabbits than all the wild predators put together, while many cats, too, are quite capable of killing an unwary rabbit.

Although pet rabbits may live for a decade or more, in the wild a rabbit which see its third birthday has done very well, with most succumbing before they've even reached their first. They really need, therefore, that famous ability to reproduce rapidly. An extended breeding season (at least January to August) and a high number of young in each litter (between three and seven) both help. In addition, females have the capacity to gestate a second litter even while suckling the first while rabbits also reach sexual maturity very early, with the young breeding even before they've reached the limits of their physical growth. Overall, it's easy to understand why the rabbit is apparently ubiquitous.

In some parts of Canada, a group of rabbits is apparently called a fluffle! In Kingston, fluffles can be found in most of the woodland patches and also on the Downs, with a large group to the east of Kingston Hill near the lower path towards Swanborough.

For a very long time it was believed that the Normans were responsible for introducing rabbits to this country, but this theory appears to have been overturned as recently as 2005, when the remains of a rabbit were found in an archaeological dig in Norfolk. These were dated to the first or second century AD by the pottery shards found in the same excavation, clearly putting the Romans in the frame. Rabbits were reared in walled enclosures as a source of food.

Soon after I came into the world, about 95% of rabbits in the UK left it, the reason being myxomatosis. This deadly viral disease was deliberately introduced into rabbits in Australia and other countries, but the origins of the outbreak here in 1953 are less clear. What is certain is its effect – millions of animals dying horrible deaths, with suppurating swellings on the ears, eyes and genitals leading to deafness and blindness within two days and a lingering death within two weeks for those not put out of their misery earlier by predators. I can vividly recall the shock of my first sight of an affected rabbit when I was about six. A friend of my older brother decided it would be an act of kindness to shorten the rabbit's obvious suffering by battering it to death with a large stick. Given this appalling dilemma, I'm not sure which end the rabbit might have opted for had it been capable of making a choice.

The disease is still with us, but some rabbits now have immunity. Of all the countless horrors we have inflicted upon the animal world, this must surely be one of the most vile.

Steve Berry, stefalik@aol.com

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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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INSPIRING WOMEN

The Kingston WI 7th January 2016 - The Resolutions meeting by Helen Dudley

After members chose their drinks, the business part of the evening started with the Treasurer

reporting that our funds were over £1000. A walk along Lancing seafront is planned for Thursday, 21st January, meeting at the Juggs at 9:30. The book club also meets on the 21st at Janice Barber's house. Pilates continues each Tuesday at the Parish Hall from 2-3pm, and Craft Club meets on Fridays at the Pavilion from 2-4pm. Valerie Simmons normally delivers flowers to sick members but, because she fractured her wrist, her flowers were delivered by the President, Beverley Wakeford-Brown. A collection of warm clothing for Syrian refugees will be taken to Barcombe Church on Saturday, 16th January.

Committee members presented the eight resolutions. They are:-

Ban the Microbeads. Plastic microbeads, found in cosmetics and personal care products, are too small to be filtered out of water waste, thereby polluting the oceans. Annually, over 80 tonnes pollute the ocean from the UK alone.

British Fruit: reviving our heritage. The UK is only 12% self-sufficient in fruit production and we are losing old varieties of fruit that are part of our heritage and in danger of extinction. Domestic fruit production needs promoting.

Free sanitary protection for homeless women. Homeless men receive free razors and condoms, but homeless women don't get free sanitary products, which are classified as 'luxury' or 'non-essential' and taxed at 5% VAT rate. Where is equality?

Prevention of sudden cardiac death in young adults in the UK. In the UK every week at least 12 young people die from undetected cardiac abnormalities. Heart screening for young people aged 14 to 35 should be a national strategy.

First aid to save lives. First aid training should be promoted in schools, colleges, universities and the workplace. In countries where this happens, twice as many people survive cardiac arrest.

Mind or body - equal funding for care. The 2015 budget committed an extra £1.25 billion for mental health, but needs an extra 10% in real terms by 2020 to achieve parity. Only 25% of people with depression get any help at all.

Avoid food waste, address food poverty. Supermarkets should pass edible, surplus food to charities to decrease food poverty in the UK. Currently only 2% goes to charities and food banks; merely doubling it would save £160m.

RESULT: Free sanitary protection for homeless women won by one vote and will go forward to the 2016 Annual Meeting in June.

POSTSCRIPT. In my Christmas party report I unfortunately failed to mention one of the ladies who entertained us. Valerie Simmons composed and read her own poem that was much enjoyed by the audience. Apologies, Valerie.



AT YOUR PARISH CHURCH THIS FEBRUARY YEAR OF MERCY

We are planning a Lent Course, based on the "Year of Mercy" theme, which churches across Sussex nationally and internationally are being asked to follow in line with the Roman Catholic Church. Details will appear on Church noticeboards and in Parish magazines.

Sunday, 7th February – Sunday next before Lent

8.00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)

9.45am Family Service

Ash Wednesday, 10th February

10.00am Holy Communion with ashing in RODMELL CHURCH

Sunday, 14th February – Lent 1

9.45am Parish Communion

Sunday, 21st February – Lent 2

9.45am Morning Worship

Sunday, 28th February – Lent 3

9.45am Parish Communion

You are very welcome to any of our services

PARISH MAGAZINE: More details are available in our monthly Parish magazine available from Church. For more information please contact The Rector, The Rev'd Geoff Daw 01273 473 665 or email geoffrey.daw@btinternet.com

GROUSER

I have every sympathy for the junior doctors' strike - my family owe much gratitude to young doctors. We undervalue young professionals we all rely on such as doctors, teachers, policemen and firefighters. What fat bonus does a doctor get for saving lives on Christmas Day while bankers sit at home counting their bonuses?

I laugh at the term affordable housing - affordable to whom? A newly qualified teacher at our village school would have a problem getting a mortgage on my garage let alone the house. The only way to secure land at a reasonable cost would be by compulsory purchase.

The proposal to tax sugary drinks is I think daft - why not have statutory sugar levels in such drinks which could be easily monitored. Which young child or busy mum reads the levels on the containers?

Floods again outside the school - can't the engineers at County Hall work out the cause?

When I was at school 65 years ago the first ten minutes of the day were spent chanting our times tables or being picked on by the teacher with a specific sum. Why has this phenomena hit the headlines via a political think-tank and don't parents test their kids these days?

I am now sure the world has gone mad when photos of drunks and people jumping puddles made the news and were supposed to have great artistic merit and meaning!

I had better calm down with a glass of Merlot.

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Dates will be arranged when numbers of applicants are known, but likely to be in May.

If you would like to take part, please contact Beverley Wakeford-Brown on 01273 475 456 or email beverley@wakeford-brown.com.

Report from Kingston Parish Council

By Fiona Harrison, Communications Lead on KPC
Prepared on Tuesday, 12th January.

Happy New Year! All of us on Kingston Parish Council wish you a very happy new year (albeit slightly late by the time you read this!)

Chair of the Parish Council: As mentioned in last month's edition of the Kingston News, sadly Martin Lee has had to step down from his council role due to relocation from the village. At the time of writing this, a new chairperson has not been appointed, but it is proposed that there is a temporary chairperson to cover the January and March meetings. At the meeting in May, a chairperson will be elected for the 2016/17 year.

Current Council members and responsibilities:

We thought it would be helpful if you were aware of the current KPC members and their responsibilities. These can also be found on the portal www.kingstonleweshub.info.

Footpaths, Rights of Way, Trees and Hedgerows
John Carey 01273 471 383

Council Property and Assets
Ajit Chambers

Communications
Fiona Harrison 01273 475 148

Transportation and Highways
Rosemarie Jeffery 01273 474 932

Public Health and the Environment, St Pancras Green, Village Green and Play Area
Tracy Szekely 01273 959 875

Town and Country Planning
Tony Wheeler 01273 979 086

Iford & Kingston School's planning proposals:

East Sussex County Council has submitted a revised application to extend Iford & Kingston School to a three form entry, and KPC was requested to provide comments on this to the Planning Authority. KPC's

primary concerns relate to the traffic and parking implication of the planned expansion and, in particular, the fact that the application makes the presumption that the majority of pupils living outside the village will be brought to and collected from the School by car. Consequently, as no proposals are presented and analysed in the application to meet the Government's and Local Council's policy objectives of limiting car usage for journeys to schools in favour of public transport, KPC is concerned that the proposed transport plan for the larger school does not address the fundamental issue of the parking problems on Ashcombe Lane, Wellgreen Lane, Snednore and The Street that would result from the additional number of children being dropped off and picked up by car at the school gates. The plans do envisage an additional ten parking spaces on Wellgreen Lane across from the school, and possibly additional parking in Snednore. KPC's view is that, even with additional spaces, the traffic situation will become untenable, with pedestrian safety being compromised. Therefore, KPC has requested that, before the application is considered any further, ESCC provides a plan that encourages use of sustainable forms of transport and which includes proposals for alleviating the volume of traffic on Wellgreen Lane.

CRICKET TRAINING AT LEWES PRIORY CRICKET CLUB

Junior Cricket School and Senior Cricket Nets

Lewes Priory CC's Junior Cricket School starts last weekend of February 2016.

Under 11s and younger children at Lewes Leisure centre (Sunday afternoons).

Older children at Sussex County Cricket Club indoor school (Friday evenings).

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IFORD AND KINGSTON SCHOOL REPORT

By Andrew Dobell, Head Teacher



Personification Poems

Our Y5/6 children have been writing personification poems with a winter theme. They considered how scenes might change with the rising of the sun and how features of the landscape would feel about the new morning. I was very impressed with their efforts and I hope you are too.

Winter

Proudly, the tree displays her jewel encrusted
crown,
As the sun rises psychedelic colours take over the
world,
Spoiling the frost-covered tree's natural beauty,
Taking off her icy cloak.

The drowsy sun wakes up from a cosy bed of
clouds,

Running across the dark sky,
Showing off his powerful rays,
Making himself the king of the land.

by Poppy

Winter

Wrapped in a cloak of shimmering jewels,
The tree waved its glistening arms in the early
morning mist,
Fearing the sun's dazzling rays,
Which would destroy the calmness and beauty of
the early morning.

Refreshed, the vibrant sun glided into the morning
sky,

Dreading the moment when he must melt the
peaceful beauty,
Shatter the mystical charm of the magical dawn,
And thaw the undisturbed elegance of the
landscape.

by Rebekah

Winter's Going

The trees are as still as a statue,
With their jewels glimmering,
Standing stiff and strong,
But fearing the moment the sun
Will rise and spoil its beauty.

The sun wakes,
Looking at the frozen land below,
Tried to turn back but had to still rise,
As he melted the beauty he felt guilty,
He did not want to ruin winter.

by Georgie

Kingston Church Programme of Social Events for 2016

The following fund raising/social events are planned by Kingston Church during the year:

Good Friday, 25th March: A simple lunch of soup, rolls and cheese to be held in the Parish Hall immediately after the Good Friday Service in Church. No charge, but donations please at the lunch to St Peter & St James Hospice.

Friday, 22nd April: A Bridge Drive in the Parish Hall from 2.00pm to 5.00pm.
A repeat of the very enjoyable event held in the spring of the past few years.

A Date in early summer: A Concert in Church – details being arranged.

Sunday, 4th September: A buffet lunch in the glorious surroundings of the garden at the home of Jennie Yates.

A Saturday in September: The annual bicycle ride (or walk if you prefer) to raise money for the Sussex Historic Churches Trust and Kingston Church through sponsorship. Half the money goes to the Trust and the other half to the Church.

Saturday, 8th October: Our ever popular Quiz Night in the Parish Hall, with the Rector firmly in charge as Quiz Master.

Saturday, 26th November: A Talk by Ian Everest in the Parish Hall on (a) the Women's Land Army in Sussex and (b) Sussex during WW1, with a break for drinks and refreshments in between each talk.

Everybody is very welcome to attend all the above events.

Further details of each event will be advertised nearer the date in The Kingston News, the Parish Magazine and on Notice Boards.

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