

THE KINGSTON NEWS

September 2016 www.kingstonnews.org email: editor@kingstonnews.org Issue 351

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GREAT NEWS FROM MONICA JAYAWANT REGARDING MISSING COPIES OF TKN.

Since it was started, Monica has always kept a copy of TKN's issues. She thought that she had every single one, but find she's missing 29-71, and 50-54 inclusive, as well as 66 and 67.

Because of her full-time commitments, she hasn't been able to look in the loft yet, so if anybody can lay their hands on any of the missing issues, please let Katie, your Editor, know.

For those of you who don't know, Monica was Clerk to the Parish Council for 16 years! I would like to applaud her fantastic commitment to Kingston and hope that many newcomers to the Village will follow in her footsteps in some way or another, if only for a year or two. Perhaps even long-term residents who haven't yet stepped up to the plate – you know who you are, even if I don't! – will take her lead as, at the time of writing this, there are at least four voluntary vacancies (at the Village Hall, Kingston Pre-School, Parish Council) still waiting to be filled.

Katie, Editor



KINGSTON WI
Nothing to report this month

The deadline for TKN's October issue is Wednesday, 13th September

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.

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NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

If you want to know what's going on in your area – whether it's incidents, potential crime, scams, or anti-social behaviour - visit the following website:

www.neighbourhoodalert.co.uk and JOIN – IT'S COMPLETELY FREE so that you get the email 'alerts' to give you information and warnings.

Katie, Editor

IFORD AND KINGSTON SCHOOL REPORT



As you are no doubt all aware, building work is now in progress at the school and is scheduled for completion by January 2017.

From September 2016, there will be 7 classes of children, though not all will be full. The expected number of children is around 195 at that point, which could later rise to 210 with the optimum 30 per class.

Inevitably, this increase brings in more children from outside the village and, as we are only too aware, more cars at either end of the school day.

While there is unlikely to be a single 'silver bullet' solution, The Parish Council and governors at the school are working closely together to try and find ways to alleviate the traffic and parking problems.

We remain indebted to Shepherd Neame and The Juggs for allowing us to use the pub's car park. As yet, we have been unable to find an additional parking area, so parents have no option but to park on the roads. The Head Teacher reminds parents in weekly school newsletters to park considerately and courteously, and parents are encouraged to bring their children to school early – the playground gate is staffed from 8:30am every day – and to drop off and pick up their children promptly.

The Parish Council is continuing its work on road safety and traffic flow through the village, addressing the issues of speeding and traffic volume as well as parking.

Both the school governors and parish councillors aim to improve road and pavement safety in the village and to minimise the frustrations and difficulties experienced by both residents and parents in this regard. We would like to thank you for your tolerance and understanding and we hope that we can all help to arrive at a safe and satisfactory situation.

Suggestions and comments are welcome and can be posted in the suggestion box in the school foyer.

Linda Douglas, Co-Chair of Governors

Fiona Harrison, Chair, Kingston Parish Council

EDITOR REQUEST: It would be really helpful if the Editor knew how successful or otherwise residents' individual adverts were – whether it be for purchasing a house or land, or renting a property, or providing any kind of service, or promoting a course of any kind. This will enable the Editor to give accurate information to new advertisers when they make enquiries. Many thanks, Katie, Editor.

TWO BIKES FOR SALE

Gent's Raleigh road bike
21inch frame 10 gears
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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>



Hello to all in Kingston:

We hope you have all enjoyed the summer. At the time of writing, the weather has been fairly kind to us!

The new sand and waterplay has proven very popular, especially with the little ones who love to dibble dabble! We will be keeping this area open so, if we have some nice weather in September (fingers crossed), all our visitors can still enjoy playing.

The Maize Maze will just be starting to turn brown... by Halloween, it will be looking suitably spooky, ready for our new event. We will become Scream Barn Farm, and have lots of freaky fun planned this year.

Our Halloween tickets include all the fun of the farm, as well as our cauldron quests:

- Little Spooks's 'Witchy Walkway' (suitable for all ages)
- Bigger Boo's 'Circus Squeeze' Walkthrough (suitable for 10 years+)
- Terrible tattoo parlour: Get some new (temporary!) ink!
- Pick a pumpkin from the patch: all included in the ticket price
- Get creative and carve your pumpkin! Our staff are on hand to help with this, and no mess at home!
- Meet our real witches! Live actors (friendly, funny, and just a little bit freaky!)
- Maize maze walk and quiz: the maize cobs have all dried up, providing a suitably decrepit backdrop for our hidden clues... will you find them all?

You can book online now, which is a bit cheaper than 'on the gate' prices. Scream Barn Farm will be open on Saturday, 15th and Sunday, 16th October, then throughout half-term from Saturday, 22nd until Sunday, 30th October.

In other news, in the farm shop, the local sweetcorn should start to appear not long after you receive this issue. We usually keep it in ready supply once it starts until the end of the season. Local apples are also at their best and we tend to choose varieties from as nearby as possible - and also depending on what looks and tastes the best!

Hope to see you soon,

From all at Spring Barn Farm



UPDATE on last two articles in TKN:

Jack had a fantastic weekend at Snetterton, Norfolk, over the weekend of 6/7 August.

The last round of the British GT4 championship is at Donington Park on 10/11 September where the championship will be decided.

Anne & Chris Bartholomew

"Driving an Aston Martin V8 Vantage GT4 car for Beechdean AMR, Jack was partnered by Aston Martin factory driver, Ross Gunn. At the start of the weekend, Jack was 17 ½ points behind the championship leaders and therefore needed a strong weekend to keep his championship hopes alive and the duo did not disappoint. Taking 2nd place in the first one-hour race, only just behind the leader, and winning the second race by over 12 seconds, Jack is now only 2 ½ points behind the leaders going into the last round."



WHAT'S NEWS WITH MEMBERS OF YOUR FAMILY?

I'm sure there are many interesting submissions that could be sent in by Kingston's residents to the Editor that could make interesting reading in future issues of TKN, so please don't be shy.

Katie, Editor

WILDLIFE IN KINGSTON

I was counting butterflies on Castle Hill National Nature Reserve on 9 August, listening to a rather good play on Radio 4 and at the same time – very conscious of the rapidly approaching deadline – wondering what to write about in The Kingston News.



Fate then intervened as I almost trod on the remains of a mole. I had my subject. A better naturalist than I would have picked up the corpse to give it at least a cursory look; a good one would probably have taken it home for a more thorough examination. I did neither, merely remarking inwardly that it was a long time since I'd last found a dead mole and that – at the age of nearly 68 – the act of finding a live one was very much overdue. In my defence, the mole – though clearly several days dead and with very little flesh left on it – was almost certainly somewhat pongy and I had no convenient plastic bag in which to carry it off. I did have a small backpack but as this contained, among other things, my lunch, I reasoned that my sandwiches and fresh fruit would be rather less appetising after having been brought into close proximity with a decaying mammal. The mole could therefore rest in peace where it lay, providing further food for beetles and flies and whatever else had been consuming it so effectively.

These days, much thought and time seems to be devoted to the composition of bucket lists. Curiously, despite being an avid maker of lists (I'm almost embarrassed to disclose the ludicrous number and bizarre range of mine) a bucket list is not among them. If it were, however, I think seeing a live mole would very likely be included, among more conventional stuff like watching Jeremy Corbyn walking into Downing Street as PM, waking up to realise that the Brexit vote had merely been a nightmare and living long enough to hear about the arrest, trial and conviction for multiple crimes of the evil Rob Titchener (Devotees of The Archers will know what I mean).

Everyone knows that moles live most of their lives underground and that they have astonishingly powerful "hands". Even so, seeing the bones on these hands stripped bare brought home as no descriptive words could do just how much force this little creature could once have exerted. In soft ground, moles do not exactly dig but force their passage by getting a purchase on the sides of the burrow with

their hands and levering themselves forward. Simultaneously, the mole's snout pushes into the earth and as the head is raised, the back legs push the loose soil behind. Imagine doing the breaststroke underground and you get a fairly close approximation of the mole's method of progress.

It doesn't take too much thought to work out what moles eat. What else lives beneath the surface of the ground? Earthworms clearly account for most of a mole's intake, but any other small invertebrate that falls or wanders into its tunnels will also be scooped rapidly down, including a variety of insect larvae. Given that many of these – leatherjackets and wireworms included – may be harmful to crops and that the mole is completely carnivorous, you might imagine that the mole would have been historically regarded as a friend of the farmer, if not of the gardener. Not a bit of it. Traditionally, moles have been persecuted for no good reason at all, ironically at the same time as farmers sought to destroy the very insects on which the mole feeds so voraciously. You couldn't make it up.

You don't have to look very far to see that there is no shortage of moles in Kingston. Maybe I will draw up that bucket list after all. I probably have a better chance of seeing a live mole than Prime Minister Corbyn, but I live in hope of both.

Steve Berry, 01273 487743, stefalik@aol.com

TRAVEL CLUB

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, 20th September and the topic will be Croatia & Montenegro, followed in October by Edwina Griffith's talk on 'backpacking at a certain age', relating her experiences over the last five years.

We meet every third Tuesday of the month at the Kingston Community Pavilion at 7.30pm and have two or three different speakers most evenings, usually on a theme of a particular country or type of holiday. You can come just as a listener, but it is lovely to have lots of people participating.

Do come along. It's a very informal meeting, with wine & nibbles and a lot of chatter!

For more information contact:

Beverley Wakeford-Brown on 01273 475456 or beverley@wakeford-brown.com.

GOOD NEIGHBOUR SCHEME



A 'last call' meeting on a possible Good Neighbour Scheme in Kingston was held at the Pavilion on the 29th July and was attended by 13 people. The meeting was to discuss ways in which an 'informal' scheme could be operated in the village. This was in response to the clear 'no' to a scheme

along the lines supported by Action in Rural Sussex (AirS) that came from the Annual Parish Meeting in April, where volunteers would require DBS screening and insurance, for example.

Those at the meeting were reminded that the survey carried out regarding interest in a possible scheme had shown that 83 different people were offering help in 238 ways. Time was spent discussing ways of bringing the names of those offering help to those people (a relatively small number currently but possibly more in future) who felt they could use some extra help on occasions. Whilst there was a view that this could be a relatively simple matter of publicising contact details, many in the meeting (and potentially many of those who had offered to help in the survey) were uneasy about this. It was acknowledged that it would require careful management of people's expectations about what kind of help could be provided and, at minimum, some effort in maintaining and publicising contact details. Unfortunately, as within the survey, it was not possible to identify at the meeting anyone who was willing to lead such a project.

As such, the meeting concluded that perhaps the most important thing was that everyone continued to do what they could to look out for those who might need help, to keep talking about ways in which the existing networks that we have in the village can be strengthened further to include others and so help ensure that Kingston remains a friendly, supportive village.

As the people who led on the survey, we are aware that we made a commitment to destroy all contact information if a scheme does not go ahead. We would like to do this in a further six months – to allow for the possibility that someone we have not heard from may have new inspiration on how to deliver this kind of project. In the meantime, please do also contact John Carey (john.carey@kingston-pc.org.uk or 'phone 01273 471383) if you wish to have your contact details removed more promptly.

Thank you for all your ideas and time,

Jenny Elliott and John Carey



KINGSTON PARISH COUNCIL

Report by Fiona Harrison, Communications lead
Prepared on 8th August 2016

Ashcombe Hollow

We have been told by ESCC that they have added the "centre line" work to the list for refreshing and that they have raised a job for the vegetation to be cut back. Once this has been done the site will be revisited in order that the bollards can be looked at. We do keep continually reminding them about this very necessary work.

The Avenue and The Street

I wrote to the Highways Department as a resident and have had the following reply:

"Due to changing priorities we have had to remove The Street from the resurfacing programme this year. A member of our Asset Management Team has subsequently re-inspected the road and has put it forward to receive repairs under the local authority pothole fund provided by the Department of Transport. This is currently being costed by our Commercial Team and once a date is agreed it will appear on our website www.eastsussexhighways.com. These will be localised pothole repairs. Looking forward, the entire road will be resurfaced under our planned works programme 2017-18". You may well want to comment on this. If you do, the email address is customer@eastsussexhighways.com. You can also go on to the East Sussex website and make a formal complaint.

The email went on to say "The work carried out in The Avenue was a surface treatment, specifically "surface dressing". This type of treatment is applied to roads that are starting to show signs of decline but that do not at present require full resurfacing. If left untreated these roads would incur greater costs in the future so we therefore look to actively extend their life by applying a surface treatment. This seals the road from water ingress and improves skid resistance. This is not the type of treatment that is required in The Street but it was required in The Avenue".

KPC intends to formally complain about the difference of approach, particularly since we understand that The Street has been on the "planned works programme" in the past but has been removed.

Resignation from KPC

I am sorry to report that Tracy Szekely has resigned from her role as a councillor on KPC. This means that we are now down to five people ...

SEPTEMBER IS DINOSAUR MONTH IN LEWES AND A CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE OF GIDEON MANTELL WHO FOUND AND NAMED THE IGUANODON

There will be a **"Hunt the Bones" prize competition** running for kids all through September to find the Iguanodon Bones located around the shops in Lewes. Copies of the entry form can be picked up at Lewes Tourist Information Centre. Deadline for entries is 30 September. The entry forms will also be circulated to Kingston School and be available to be picked up around the town from the beginning of September.

During **Heritage Open Days** on Saturday, 10th September, there will be a chance to view original Gideon Mantell publications in the Barbican House Museum by Lewes Castle and, on the Sunday, to visit Gideon Mantell's 18th century birthplace in 23 Station Street. Both are free entry and part of the National Heritage Open Days scheme.

The Barbican House Museum is planning a **dinosaur themed drop-in afternoon** on Saturday, 17th September for people to handle fossils and dinosaur bones - aimed at families and children to tie in with the fossil festival. Entrance charge to the castle will need to be paid for this one, but no need to book.

The highlight is the **Lewes Fossil Festival 24/25th September at the Linklater Pavilion** by the river in Lewes. Free entry. More information <http://gideonmantell.wordpress.com> or email debby.matthews@yahoo.co.uk.

Saturday, 24th September will be a day of family fun dinosaur-related activities on the Railway Land. There will also be a series of talks in the Linklater on various themes relating to the finding of the Iguanodon. We will have pieces of iguanodon fossil on view in the Linklater from the Booth Museum and lots of things to do, with food and drinks.

On **Sunday, 25th September** at 12 noon and 2.30pm the Iguanodon Restaurant is a street theatre show with a 35ft model Iguanodon, plus other activities, with food, drink and fossils throughout the day.

Look out for the posters and flyers.



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AT YOUR PARISH CHURCH IN SEPTEMBER

Flower Festival and Harvest Festival Weekend

FLOWER FESTIVAL

Saturday, 17th and Sunday, 18th September

We are grateful to various organisations in the village who are providing displays.

On Saturday, 17th viewing is between 10.30am and 12.00pm and 1.30pm to 5.00pm (a wedding is taking place at 12.30pm)

On Sunday, 18th the flowers can be seen from 11.00am. This follows the Harvest Festival service at 10.45am, which you are welcome to attend.

Again, viewing is until 5.00pm. Tea and cakes will be served both afternoons between 2.00 and 4.00pm. ENTRANCE is FREE - there will be a plate at the door for your voluntary contributions for the Church.

Please do come and join us - and bring your friends!

HARVEST FESTIVAL SERVICE – All welcome!

Sunday, 18th September at 9.45am

Monetary donations to the Landport Lewes Foodbank

THIS MONTH

Sunday, 4th September - Trinity 15

8.00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)

9.45am FAMILY SERVICE

Sunday, 11th September - Trinity 16

9.45am Parish Communion

Sunday, 18th September - Trinity 17 – See above

Sunday, 25th September - Trinity 18

9.45am Parish Communion

PARISH MAGAZINE - More details are available in our monthly Parish magazine available from church.

It's a busy month...

...and **LUNCH IN THE SUSSEX Countryside** on Sunday, 4th September (See all the details in August issue of TKN)

...and **RIDE AND STRIDE** on Saturday, 10th September: The annual bicycle (or horse) 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. Please contact Brian Simmons (474303) for more information.

...and a **CHURCH QUIZ NIGHT on Saturday, 8th October, Parish Hall, starting at 7:30pm:** Geoff Daw, our Rector, will be the Quiz Master, with an interesting array of thought-provoking questions. Teams of six or eight – either make up a team beforehand or come individually and link up with others on the night. The evening will include the usual one round of Irish Bingo and at half-time, we will enjoy fish & chips and desserts (all included in the price of the ticket). Please bring your own drink, glasses, plates, bowls and cutlery. Tickets at £10 each (children £5) will be available soon from Brenda Neller (472720) or Brian Simmons (474303). These evenings are always great fun. Everybody is very welcome. Net proceeds from the evening will be for Kingston Church funds.

More information please contact The Rector,

The Rev'd Geoff Daw 01273 473665 or geoffrey.daw@btinternet.com

CARTE BLANCHE:

EX-DIRECTORY: REFLECTIONS OF PETER USTINOV

By Walter Harris

I met Peter Ustinov in 1960 on the set of the BBC's first daytime TV show, *Wednesday Magazine*, at Lime Grove. The show was broadcast live every Wednesday afternoon, and the director, Richard Francis, was at the time a colleague and friend of mine.

Ustinov had just recently won an Oscar for his role as the slave dealer in *Spartacus*, and was already a successful playwright as well as actor. A man of protean talent and a multiple linguist, he credited his facility with languages to having been born in London after being conceived in St. Petersburg.

One of his talents was to develop those of other people, such as Terence Stamp, whom he cast in *Billy Budd*, and Simon Ward, in *The Good Soldier and His Wife*, in an early production at Chichester. On his forthcoming play, *Who's Who In Hell*, he said: "When you turn over the pages of *Who's Who In Hell*, it's like raising the sails of a windjammer, whereas *Who's Who In Heaven* is the size of a pamphlet."

I met Ustinov a number of times, as we were working on a spoken word record project together. On one occasion, we bumped into each other in the crowded lobby of the Hilton, and I asked him after a few minutes how he coped with being recognised and greeted by complete strangers wherever he went.

Already a sinister-looking man was staring at Ustinov with alarming intensity. There was a good deal of terrorist activity in Spain at the time, with the ETA doing its best to blow up as many members of the governing class as it could, and the sinister man looked as though he might have a bomb in his pocket. He caught Ustinov's eye and at once hurried over.

"Mr. Ustinov? Peter Ustinov?"

"Correct."

"My name is—" he uttered a dozen syllables. "I am requesting you should do something for me."

"Oh?"

"Please come to address some of my friends."

"Where?"

"In Addis Ababa. I, Mr. Ustinov, am the Emperor's nephew."

"I am very sorry, I fear Addis Ababa couldn't fit into my schedule as I'm committed for the next eight months to making a new film."

"Indeed a pity." As soon as the hoopoe mating dance of apologies and regrets came to an end, and the emperor's nephew disappeared, he was replaced by a man whose skin was several shades lighter, and whose hospitality was offered with similar ardour.

"Mr. Ustinov, Sir, I am so glad you are here so conveniently. It is my great pleasure to invite you to Iran. My name is..." he uttered a name that was half way between a sneeze and Schweppes's famous sibilant. This time the invitation was to Teheran.

"Ah, I've met your Minister of Education. In Switzerland. Mr. Taza Omani."

"That, Sir, is our Minister of Higher Education."

"Ah, do give him my regards. I regret that I shall not be able to offer them myself - I can't come to Teheran for some years."

The man bowed and moved away.

"How do you stand it, Peter?" I asked. "It would drive me mad."

"It did for a long time, until I found myself having to spend a week in Tirana, where my desire for anonymity was granted. Not a soul recognised me, and after a few hours I felt utterly depressed."

Perhaps the most extreme example of being recognised when he least expected it, Ustinov told me, was in Hamburg.

"There was a French stage designer, a very sweet man, rather hen-pecked, and on our last evening of liberty, before rehearsals for the opera I was directing started, I offered to take him out to dinner and go out on the town.

"He said he'd love to see the street with all the prostitutes - he'd heard so much about it."

"The Reeperbahn?" I asked.

"The walled-off part, the Herbertstrasse. There's a hole in the wall through which you climb to look at all the Toulouse-Lautrec ladies as they sit in their windows.

"There was one brutal-looking woman dressed in leather, with staves and a whip, who was in casual conversation with an even larger woman dressed, believe it or not, as a baby, wearing a bonnet and occasionally sucking a comforter.

"The two women were getting along like a house on fire, and all the dirty old men, including ourselves, were looking at them. Suddenly the woman in leather looked at me, drew a biro from between her copious breasts and, laying down the whip, asked me for my autograph."

On one occasion, I asked Ustinov if he ever got involved with his female leads, some of whom, such as Sophia Loren, seemed impossibly beautiful.

"Well, I speak as one who falls in love for reasons other than beauty, otherwise I'd come out of every museum knocked sideways by what I'd just seen. I don't think beauty is the quality that most draws you to someone. I like Sophia very much as a person."

Ustinov thought, in some respects, that Alec Guinness was the best actor in the world. "I never like to say that anyone is the best of anything, but I have a tremendous admiration for him."

"When you played Nero," I said, "you infused him with a Ustinovian sense of humour, in fact you made him seem almost lovable. I can't see you playing Hitler, though."

Ustinov looked thoughtful. "I'm not sure that even Alec could. "He can look like Hitler if he wants to, but he's too reasonable. To play Hitler was a dream of Alec's, which I understand, because everybody would like to have a crack at playing someone as crazy as that, if only to broaden his range."

He went on: "However, it's very difficult to communicate Hitler's particular lunacy to people who aren't crazy - and if they are crazy, it's not much pleasure to act someone rather like themselves. I don't believe in playing someone who's entirely evil or entirely good - I just think Hitler's bad dramatic material." END

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