



Kidmore End Parish Council

Cane End Chalkhouse Green Gallowstree Common Kidmore End Tokers Green

Newsletter Spring/Summer 2015

Issue No. 120

Events For Your Diary

- 31 May** Kidmore End Spring Clean *(See page 12)*
- 3 June** Meeting to write specification for new Rector
(See page 4)
- 27 June** Pre-school summer Fete 11am-3pm
(See page 11)
- 5 July** Chalkhouse Green Farm Open Day
(See page 6)
- 20 Sept** Last Service for Fr. Graham at St Johns

Chairman's Report

The election period is now over. There was no poll for the Parish Council: the number of people who were nominated as parish councillors was less than 12, which is the complement of councillors for the Parish. There is at least one vacancy going forward. If you are interested, please contact any parish councillor or the clerk to the council for further information or to discuss the role. Contact details are on the [parish council's website](#).

Currently, the Council comprises parishioners from 4 of the 5 villages in the Parish - there is no-one from Cane End - and people who have been on the Council for from 6 months to many years. There is a wide range of experience and knowledge, but it is always great to have new eyes to look at situations. Being on the Parish Council gives you the opportunity to work on community issues with a committed team and aim to implement the best possible outcome for the local community.

One current issue is the site of the Caversham Heights Free School, basically to serve northwest Caversham. One of the proposed sites is land at Dysons Wood Farm in Tokers Green, known locally as Farthingworth Green. The Parish Council has

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Do you have memories of the post office?

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written to the Education Funding Agency (EFA) and stated its opposition to this proposed site, and asked for the site to be removed from the public consultation. Unfortunately this did not happen and the site was included in the public consultation, which has now closed. We wait to see which site the EFA will decide on, although of course planning permission will be required whichever site is selected. Further information including the letter sent to the EFA is on the parish council website.

The council has responded to three public consultations in this period; the Heights Free School in which it opposed the proposed site at Dysons Wood Farm, the Oxfordshire Transportation Plan in which the council sent comments on the plan, and South Oxfordshire District Council's Local Plan. The responses from the Council are available to view on the Parish Council website.

Members of the Parish Council continue to attend the Sonning Common Neighbourhood Plan development group meetings, as appropriate. Within the public consultation period the Parish Council responded to Sonning Common stating that the Council supported the draft neighbourhood plan. Further information can be found at <http://www.scpc-ndp.co.uk>. The consultation period for the plan has been extended so that the Environmental Report can be viewed alongside the development plan.

Since earlier this year a member of the Parish Council has been attending the Townlands Steering Group meetings, 2 meetings to date. At one meeting the Oxford Clinical Commissioning Group had not been able to prepare the proposed plans for the hospital and at the second meeting they suggested changes to the original layout of the premises. The draft proposal can be viewed at <http://www.henleytowncouncil.gov.uk/Townlands-Steering-Group.aspx>. There will be a 5 week public consultation expected to begin in the week beginning 11th May to run for 5 weeks. The results will be published by 1st July. The consultation documents will be available at <https://consult.oxfordshireccg.nhs.uk/consult.ti/Townlands/consultationHome>. An event has also been organised at Phyllis Court Club on 21st May from 6pm until 9pm; if you would like to attend please call Julia Stackhouse on 01865 334638 or email cscsu.talkinghealth@nhs.net

The path between the church/school and the cemetery in Kidmore End has been resurfaced. The Parish Council made a £500 contribution towards the work which was undertaken by South Oxfordshire District Council following many years of pressure. Currently we still do not know who owns the path and SODC do not wish to take responsibility for it. It is nevertheless a great improvement from the pot holes and lack of tarmac that was the previous path.

The Parish Council has decided to request an extension to the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty up to the boundary with Reading at Tokers Green and along towards Chalkhouse Green. We will be writing to Natural England with this request. We understand that this is not a speedy process.

The Annual Parish Meeting of electors of the Parish was held in March and the report for the year is on the Council website.

Work is moving forward with a water supply for the new Cane End allotments, in Park Lane. There has been an agreement with Vines Farm, which should enable the laying of a supply pipe from the main road. The Parish Council would like to thank Mr and Mrs Adams for their support with this project.

The roll out of fibre optic broadband is happening across the country. At the moment it is not arriving at the cabinet at the pond in Kidmore End. Some parts of the Parish access broadband from other boxes but the majority do not. The Parish council has made provision in its budget for this year to support faster broadband and the Council is working to establish what is possible relating to the cabinet at the pond.

Sue Biggs Chairman of the Parish Council

Sonning Common Neighbourhood Development Plan

During the last two years we have held 18 public meetings, 9 of which were exhibitions and displays, or presentations open to residents in Sonning Common (SC) and neighbouring Parishes, and since last June, 9 meetings for residents living close to sites allocated for future development.

We have had 28 meetings with landowners/land agents/developers concerning individual sites and 14 meetings with councils e.g. SODC and Parishes and with local organisations and services.

During this period we have completed reports on:

- Character and Design of SC
- Landscape Assessment
- Ecology
- Site access
- Concept Design Statements for Sites

These were commissioned from consultants. We also had a visit and a talk from a Traffic Consultant about ways of improving traffic flows and parking around the village. A local group have also completed a Traffic Survey for us.

We also wrote our Scoping and Environmental Reports and Pre Submission Draft Plan. These were mainly done by ourselves but with advice and some written input from our consultants and guidance from our assigned Officer at SODC.

All this work culminated in the Pre Submission Draft Plan exhibition held in the Village Hall on February 6th and 7th and 5th March this year.

During the 3 sessions, 371 residents from Sonning Common, Kidmore End and Rotherfield Peppard were registered attendees; to date (May 6th) we have received 252 respondent feedback form returns and 12 replies from Consultees.

All these are being recorded and analysed for evidential purposes, i.e. for our website and the Examiner who at a later stage will be appointed to scrutinise our ND Plan. We are also required to show what our responses are and what, if any, action we have taken as a result.

Where comments are significant and relevant they will be incorporated into our Plan. This will then take us to the next stage which is the Submission Draft Plan. This has to be presented to SODC for their consideration and approval.

After this the Draft Plan and all our evidence and documentation is scrutinised by an independent examiner.

The final stage is a referendum for residents on the electoral roll, run by SODC's Electoral Officer. A minimum of 51% of votes cast is required to decide whether the Plan succeeds or fails.

Barrie Greenwood Chair of SC Neighbourhood Development Plan Working Party

gbgreenwood@hotmail.com

The Parish Church

This article is being written during Eastertide and it is good to recall the Easter Day service at St John's, when the church was full. What a wonderful sound a large congregation can produce, singing the well-known Easter hymns – encouraged of course by our very fine choir, under the leadership of Frances Brewitt-Taylor.



On Good Friday afternoon there was a truly inspirational and moving presentation of "The Way of the Cross" – the narrations and meditations were delivered splendidly, and the Benefice choir performed excellently; indeed the high standard produced by all the participants was deserving of a much larger attendance.

Hopefully, readers managed to see the churchyard this spring. Over the Easter period, the display of daffodils and primroses was magnificent. Our thanks go out to all who help to maintain it.

As was mentioned in the last issue of the newsletter Fr. Graham is retiring later this year. His last service as our Rector will be at St John's on 20th September. In the meantime, consideration is already being given to the need to write a "job specification" for a new Rector. We would like to consult the community about this, and the church wardens invite you to a meeting at Kidmore End School on Wednesday 3rd June, see below

Readers who are interested in knowing more about our church activities are reminded that –

- A copy of our monthly magazine, The Lamb and Flag, can be delivered for a subscription of £5 per annum. [Contact Neil Scott on 0118 9723890]
- Our website is www.lambandflag.org



Neil Scott (On behalf of the Parochial Church Council)

An Invitation To Help From Your Churchwardens

As most of you will already know, our Rector, Graham Foulis Brown, has decided to retire. After 25 years at Kidmore End and 13 years at Rotherfield Peppard, his last service as Rector of the Benefice of will be at St John the Baptist, Kidmore End on 20th September 2015. The Benefice will then be in what is commonly called an "Interregnum", during which the Parochial Church Councils and Churchwardens of both Parishes work with our Associate Priest, Rev Susan Cooper, and with advisers from Oxford Diocese to find a new Rector for the Benefice.

This is obviously both a demanding and an exciting challenge, and we would like enlist your help in one of the important stages of our work. As part of the recruitment process, we have to produce a Parish Profile – this gives an applicant a "pen picture" of the Benefice and Parishes, how they work, what the people want from a Rector, what the challenges are and what the future of the Benefice might be. To help with drafting this important document, we would like to consult widely, asking for opinions from those who see the church as having an important role in the wider community. Some of you come to church regularly, some to the occasional service and some come at Christmas or Easter. Others are glad to be able to use the church for those important milestones in their lives, baptisms, weddings and funerals.

Our adviser has suggested that we hold an open Benefice meeting, to look at the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats which our churches face.

From that, a 5/10 year plan will evolve and most importantly, we will have the basis to write a specification for the person we would like to recruit as our Rector.

Will you help? There will be a meeting for everyone interested, to be held in Kidmore End School by kind permission of Mrs. Linda Hull the head teacher. The meeting will be at **7.30 pm on Wednesday 3rd June 2015** – please put the date in your diary now and come and let us know what you think.

Karen Broadbent, Robert Lynch. Churchwardens

Kidmore End Pre-School

At the start of 2015, we continued with our term topic, 'Me and My Community', then after Easter we started our new topic, 'The Great Outdoors'. Thank goodness that the weather has co-operated and we are able to use our lovely outdoor space in the dry!

We now have 35 children on the register, but we are losing 21 children who will be going up to Big School in September. The majority of these children (19) will be going to Kidmore End Primary School. This means that we are planning our end of term party and Leaver's Presentation, which will be held on 10th July at Harpsden Hall. The Pre-school Committee, led by Kayleigh Rixon, are planning a super outdoor party.

We have some staff news to report. Sadly we will be losing Claire Ashley, who has worked for the Pre-school for 5 years, at the beginning of June. She will be missed by us all, but we wish her every success as she takes on more hours and responsibility at Chiltern Edge School. The Pre-school is also in the middle of hiring a new Business Manager, as I have handed in my notice

after over 9 years working at the Pre-school.

Now for our Pre-school news. We continue to support the Little Lambs church group at St John the Baptist every month. We managed to raise an amazing £421 at the Albert Road Park Community Day in April. Our last Open Morning was on Saturday 16th May from 10 am to 11 am, but I expect that this article will not have gone to press in time for you to come and visit us. Our next Open Afternoon will be in September, so please check our website for news about this.

We held our Sports Day at Kidmore End Primary School on 7th May because the Parish Room was being used as a Polling Station. Thank you, Mrs Hull, for inviting us to use the school playing fields again. Our summer outing this year will be to Legoland, where we will be enjoying The Great Outdoors on 10th June.

Finally, we are busy planning our Summer Fair on June 27th from 11 am to 3 pm. This will be held at Kidmore End Primary School by kind permission of Mrs Hull and entrance is free.



There will be Tractor Rides, Hog Roast, Vegetarian BBQ, Treasure Hunt, Cakes and Tea, Stalls, Raffle and much more. Please come along to support us. We would love to see as many people from the local community as possible.

Kidmore End Pre-school is a small pre-school set in a rural location, with session numbers limited to 14 children. I am now filling the register for September 15; so if you would like more information about our 'Outstanding' Pre-school, or you would like to add your child to our waiting list, please contact me on 0118 9723700 or e-mail enquiries@keps.co.uk. Please check out our website at www.kidmoreendpreschool.co.uk for further information.



Caroline Aldridge Preschool Business Manager and Registrar

Chalkhouse Green Farm Open Day

For many years now Sarah and Johnny Hall have been opening Chalkhouse Green Farm in association with the Yellow Book National Garden Scheme. This year the open day will be on Sunday July 5th, 2pm to 6pm.

Their immaculate gardens have been carefully nurtured by Sarah over 40 years and include herbaceous borders, a secret herb garden and a walled vegetable garden. This is also a farm though and the open day will offer much more besides the garden. There are rare breed animals to meet and the star of the show this year will be their new foal, Blossom. Blossom was born in April to one of the farm's rare Suffolk Punch horses and will be only 3 months old. Monty and Magic the friendly donkeys will be there to provide rides for children (a basket seat for babies is available). There will also be trailer rides, cream teas, a plant sale and demonstrations of horse-logging and of bees and honey. Visitors will even be able to have a dip in the covered swimming pool, a lifeguard will be in attendance. Something for everyone!

The money raised will go to Soundabout. This is a charity which pioneers the use of sound, meaning not just music but also rhythm and vibration, as a method of communication for severely disabled children and adults who are otherwise difficult to reach, allowing them a route for self expression and interaction with

the world around them.

www.soundabout.org.uk

Entrance is £3.00, free for children, wheelchair users and their carers. Sarah and Johnny would like to extend a particular welcome to the disabled. The farm can be found by taking the turning at the telephone kiosk in Chalkhouse Green.

About the Farm.

Chalkhouse Green Farm is a traditional farmstead which is focussed on rare breeds. It is situated close to the site of the original village of Chalkhouse Green. The farmhouse is Georgian brick and flint and some farm buildings are even older dating back to the 16th century. Vintage farm equipment is kept in one of the barns and is used for demonstrations.

The farm's business is based on the herd of British White cattle, an ancient native breed which is related to the old aurochs. They are pasture fed and raised naturally. Their meat is sold at the farm gate. The 2 Suffolk Punch horses on the farm now number 3 thanks to Blossom's arrival. These are an old working breed, now very rare with only 400 left worldwide.

Then there are the pigs; Alice and Bonker are Berkshire pigs, Marigold with her ginger curls is a Mangalitzka. The pigs live a natural life foraging in the woods. There are no litters just now but when piglets are around then

Nancy, the family's collie dog, keeps a protective vigil over them (piglets have previously been predated by foxes). There is also Jack the shire horse and an assortment of unusual turkeys, poultry, ducks and geese.

All the animals on the farm are named and much loved.

Sarah and Johnny are also keen to use the farm for educational purposes. They love having visitors and enjoy hosting visits from schools and care homes. Natural England sponsor regular excursions from inner city schools in London to the farm. The children have a day of fun meeting the farm animals and learning about where our food comes from. Local schools and preschools also visit the farm regularly.

Walkers who use the footpath through the fields on the farm are asked kindly to keep dogs on a lead in order not to disturb the animals.

More information is available on the website. www.chgfarm.com

Jackie Russell



Some of the vintage farm equipment including an old butter churn

Blossom, 2 days old



Club SC News

Alex Jolley, a former member of the youth club and now a volunteer, won the Young Volunteer of the Year Award and Sonning Common Parish Council was awarded the Community Partnership Award by Oxfordshire Youth at a meeting at Cutteslow Park, Oxford recently.

Kidmore End Parish Council kindly awarded Club SC an extra £150 on top of the original grant of £100 which we received with thanks. The youth club is now in its fourth year and is greatly enjoyed by all members. We have 102 signed up young people as members and about 50 attend regularly each week.

Club SC have had fun with the success of Ox Box, a boxing event run in partnership with Banbury Boxing Club and Oxfordshire Youth's programme with 'Community Link Up'. Several young people have taken part in an arts project recently.

Club SC are full Members of Oxfordshire Youth, who support the club in administration, activities, safeguarding policies updates, insurance advice and many other aspects of running a youth club. Our year six youngsters, who are about to leave primary school, especially enjoy Wednesday evening sessions. They are spreading their wings in a safe and secure environment prior to launching themselves into the exciting world of senior school.

We are looking for people who have an interest in becoming volunteers with a couple of hours to spare occasionally. The club is attached to the sports hall at Chiltern Edge School and opens two nights per week; 7pm to 9pm, 50 weeks a year. Wednesdays are for the 10 to 13 year age group and Thursdays for 14 to 16 year olds. It would be useful to have a database of people who can spare a little time but cannot commit on a regular basis. We are also looking to replace a Management Committee member who has had to leave to take on the treasurers role at another local committee. The Management Committee meets every other month for approx. one and a half hours.

Please contact me on 01491 680887 or email me at carolyviney@aol.com if you can help.

Carol Viney Club SC Management Committee Chairman

Hearns House, Gallowstree Common

As you probably know, this garden has also been opened to the public in recent years in association with the National Garden Scheme. After many years of hosting open days Joan and John Pumfrey have decided to take a break from this format and instead they plan to show their garden to interested groups by arrangement.

Visitors are welcome between May and September. A visit costs £4 - £6 and includes an introductory talk, a tour of the garden and home-made tea. As in previous years the garden is listed in the Yellow Book and details can be found at www.ngs.org.uk.

If you are interested Joan can be contacted on 0118 9722848.

Kidmore End Cricket Club



Kidmore End opened their season against last season's Thames Valley League Division 1 Champions, Datchet on 11th April. The major contribution in the Kidmore End innings was from Jeff Sheldon who was undefeated on 87 with his innings being punctuated by 5 sixes. The only real support he received being from 15 year old Zac Leonard with 26 as Kidmore totalled 162 for 8 in their 40 overs.

This total proved to be insufficient as Datchet opened with Berkshire all-rounders, Harry Stephens and Steve Naylor, they had put on 87 before Naylor was dismissed by Abi Ul-Wahab. Stephens guided Datchet with the only further victim being Tim Alldis as Datchet won by 8 wickets with 10 overs remaining.

Kidmore's first victory was obtained the following weekend on Sunday 19th April against Cookham Dean. New Signing, James Walker proved to be an instant success as he and James Frost reduced Cookham Dean to 85-8 before Cookham Dean captain Jonathan Gay and Simon D'Ardenne put on 66 for the 9th wicket and skipper Frost elected to make use of the sides bowling options. Cookham eventually totalled 162 before being dismissed with 7 balls of their allotted 40 overs remaining.

Kidmore's innings was started by another new signing James Harvey and Abi Ul-Wahab with the run rate being brisk before Ul-Wahab was dismissed. Tom Bodeker proved the benefit of regular winter nets as he scored a well-made 41 before his dismissal. Following a middle-order wobble, Anthony Holland ended the game by depositing Gay's bowling in the nearby field to ensure that Kidmore won by 4 wickets.

Kidmore's game against Marlow Park on 25th April was abandoned due to the rain. The major contributor in the Kidmore innings was Australian import, Matt Stevens who made 57 and in company with Chris Pigden put on 91 for 6th wicket and Kidmore totalled 168 before being dismissed with 1 ball remaining on their 40 overs.

Marlow Park's reply never got started as James Walker and James Frost reduced them to 18-5 before Majid Khjan and Bilal Iqlaq managed to stop the rot and as the rain increased, the game was abandoned with Marlow Park having reached 135-8 with 6 overs remaining.

Kidmore End will now approach the League Season in good health with promotion being the goal for all 3 Teams.

David New



Crown and Anchor Pub, Gallowstree Common



Clare Scott sent us this photo of her home from the days when it was the Crown and Anchor pub in Gallowstree Common.

The photo was taken on March 4th 1922, the day after the murder of the landlady Sarah Blake. It shows the two detectives and policeman who attended. The detective in the centre wearing a cap is Sgt. Rippington. Clare already has a lot of information about the murder but would love to hear recollections of the pub.

We showed this photo to John and June Manuel who remember the pub in the 1940s and 50s.

They recall cricket teas taking place on the front lawn under a big cider apple tree. The cricket committee used to meet in one of the upstairs rooms. The landlord at that time was Mr Payne who always wore leather gaiters.

Inside the pub there was no bar, your glass would be filled straight from the barrel. The customers were always men, no women and they would sit around a table drinking and chatting, sometimes playing darts.

Mrs Payne also had a couple of shelves for selling food, mostly tins. June remembers as a child being sent with sixpence for a tin of pineapples many a time.

Does anyone else remember the pub?

Jackie Russell

Kidmore End Pre-School - Summer Fete

This year Kidmore-End Pre-School are holding their Summer Fete on the 27th of June from 11am to 3pm in Kidmore End Primary School. Admission is free. As always it will be a fantastic day for all the family.



Attractions will include;

- Tractor Rides around the village and through the woods
- Treasure Hunt with a prize
- Hog Roast and Bar
- Cake Stalls
- Local stalls
- Welly Wanging
- Raffle
- Silent Auction
- Bouncy Castle and much more!!!

We are really excited about our event this year and it is a great way for people to find out more about the Pre-School and the Primary School.

The Pre-School is a charity based school and without these fundraisers it would not be able to stay open.

www.kidmoreendpreschool.co.uk

Flick Haines

Parish Room for Hire

The Parish Room is available to hire for small groups, and makes an excellent venue for band or choir practice, christenings and children's parties. The Room is available most evenings, at the weekends and during the day during school holidays.

Please contact Paula Beville to book the room on 0118 9722247.

Cost of hire is £18 per morning, per afternoon and per evening.

Community First Responders

We are small team of volunteers trained by the South Central Ambulance Service in basic lifesaving skills and are sent, following emergency calls to the ambulance service, to provide on the spot care until the ambulance arrives.

Because we live within the community we arrive at about 70% of calls before the ambulance and these extra minutes are vital in providing immediate lifesaving treatment particularly in the case of cardiac arrest.

Our fastest response time has been 1 minute – the caller hadn't even got off the phone when the responder arrived. As the call was to a 9 day old baby the parents were extremely pleased to see us.

To qualify as a First Responder we do an initial weekend of training followed by some observation shifts with an ambulance crew. We then have regular top-up training and must re-qualify every 6 months to prove our skills are still up to date.

Currently we have two responders, one in Kidmore End and one in Sonning Common. We will be joined at the end of May by a third responder once they have finished their training.

We operate on a rota system from our own homes and attend 'immediately life threatening' emergencies such as cardiac arrest, diabetic coma, strokes, unconscious patients, breathing difficulties and seizures. The equipment we carry includes a defibrillator, oxygen, airways and medical aspirin. Generally we attend 10 to 15 calls per month, but this March we attended 31 calls.

The Kidmore End / Sonning Common Community First Responders Group although part of the South Central Ambulance Charitable Trust receive no direct financial help. All our funds are raised by us.

It has become obvious that to do the best job we can we need a 4x4 car all-terrain vehicle as we are currently unable to respond during winter weather. We are looking to raise about £13,000 to purchase a car that would be sign painted in ambulance livery. Having a liveried car will also identify us to the general public thus ensuring co-operation in hazardous situations.

If you are interested in finding out more about volunteering with us or are able to make a donation or to help us with our fundraising please contact me.

Chris Brook Kidmore End/Sonning Common Scheme Coordinator
0118 9242515



Kidmore End Spring Clean

Sunday 31st May 10 am – 11 am - please come and collect a bag at Kidmore End telephone box.

It seems several years since a Spring Clean for Kidmore End has been organised, so I'm asking for volunteers to give up an hour of their time to help pick litter from our hedgerows and woods on Sunday 31st May.

Please come along to the village phone box between 10 am – 11 am to collect a bag and a litter picker supplied by SODC.

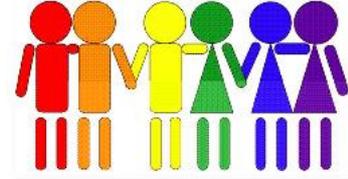
Thank you

Guy Hayne Guy.hayne@btinternet.com



Development Matters at Kidmore End CE (VA) Primary School

As in any good school, we are constantly reflecting on how we can improve our school, moving it forward and ensuring our children get an education appropriate for the twenty-first century. We regularly ask different groups of stakeholders what they think about different aspects of school life, and this includes one of my favourite parts of the job, the pupil interview. In general, our children are extremely positive about their experience in school, with one notable exception. I'll leave it to one of our Year Five pupils, Ben, to explain the issue.



“Our classroom is not really suitable for adults and children. Some of the problems are, we do not have heating so we have to plug the heaters in, costing more money. Our computers are very close to the windows, which we can't do anything about because our classroom is so small. The problem with this is the water drips down the windows and onto the computers. We also have a really tiny cloakroom, which makes it hard for us to get our belongings.”

We don't have toilets or hand-washing facilities in the hut so we have to go over to the main school building and if it's raining we get very wet.”

...great news! this year's funding bid has been successful...

Those of you who have been involved with Kidmore End School in the past will know this is a long-standing issue. The 'Devon Lady' came to school as a temporary measure in 1969, expected to be in place for a couple of years while funding for a more permanent building was raised. For several years now, the governors of the

school have applied to the Diocese of Oxford for a capital funding grant to replace the classroom. Finally, in March, we heard the great news that this year's bid had been successful, subject to final approval from the Education Funding Agency, and of course to appropriate planning permission being granted.

Since then, we have been busy choosing a supplier to lead the project, and making the detailed preparations such a project requires. We intend to build a double classroom, which will allow us to reconfigure space in the main school building, while creating a dynamic learning environment for Years Five and Six to work together in the new building.

With support from our fantastic parents' association, KESA, we will turn the current Y6 classroom into a 'Learning Zone' including an improved library, cookery facilities and space for small group work which is badly needed.

We will also be able to increase the office space available which is crucial as more and more duties fall on school staff as the local authority provision lessens. Finally, in the longer term, it leaves scope for the kitchen to be enlarged should the provision of universal free school meals be extended.

We hope the new build not only provides a better learning environment for the children in their final years at school, but also that it is a more attractive sight for the community at large. As Ben says, “I do hope we can get a new classroom; it would make our learning so much more enjoyable.”

In other news, we have recently taken delivery of a defibrillator as a result of a kind donation from the 'Millie's Dream' charity. We have also been given a box to be mounted on the front wall of the school, in order that the defibrillator can be made available to the whole community. Staff at school and pre-school will be receiving training on how it is used, but having seen a demonstration it really is very straightforward and gives step-by-step instructions. Once the box is in place, the code can be accessed on dialling 999. I hope this is a helpful addition to the first response provision already available in the village and would like to thank all involved in fundraising.

Linda Hull Headteacher

Local Weather Report: Spring 2015



	Average Minimum Temperature		Average Maximum Temperature		Totals		Rainfall Highest		
	C	F	C	F	mm	in	mm	in (day)	
January	6.8	44	2.1	36	81	3.2	14	0.6 (14)	
February	6.4	43	1.6	35	51	2.0	13	0.5 (13)	
March	10.6	51	4.3	40	26	1.0	6	0.23 (25)	
April	15.8	60	5.3	42	14	0.6	5	0.2 (25)	
Rainfall - 4 months to end of December 2014					172	6.8			

This has been a much drier winter than 2014 and much milder than 2013. The total rainfall for this 4 month period equalled the rainfall for January 2014 (172mm/6.8in) and there were no days when the maximum temperature remained below zero.

March & April were particularly dry months. March had 20 dry days and April had 26 including a three week period without rain. The total rainfall in April was 14mm/0.6in the same amount that fell on the wettest day this winter (January 14th).

There were only two days which recorded more than 13mm/0.5in rain and none with more 25mm/1in.

Besides being very dry, April was also warm with 3 days when temperatures reached 20C/68F and another 19 days where the temperature was over 17C/63F. Let's hope that this wasn't our summer!

Including the sub-zero nights in December we have had 21 nights below zero in the whole winter period. Although there have not been any sub-zero nights since late February there have still been frequent ground frosts, the last being April 29th.

Lowest and highest temperatures for the 4 months to April 2015

	Highest		Lowest	
	C	F (day)	C	F (day)
January	13.7	56 (9 th)	-5.2	23 (22 nd)
February	11.3	52 (26 th)	-4.2	24 (21 st)
March	14.1	57 (22 nd)	0.6	33 (4 th)
April	23.5	74 (15 th)	2.3	36 (6 th)



Chris Brook

Gardening

We have certainly had a long, cooler than average, spring. I am looking forward to some sunshine and maybe the chance to sit out in my garden and appreciate it.

The spring bulbs have been a riot of colour, and the spring-flowering shrubs have never been better this year. There is always a silver lining and the cherry and apple blossom have been an absolute joy this year, with cool nights extending the flowering period to weeks rather than the usual few days!

As my garden borders burst into life, I find myself looking forward to the giants of the border. I am talking about the ephemeral joy of biennials. A biennial plant is a plant that flowers in the second year of growth, producing lots of seeds then dying. During the first year, the plant is small and insignificant, but quickly bursts into a huge exuberance of colour and form during the second year.

My favourites are forget-me-nots, foxgloves, Giant mullein (*Verbascum bombyciferum*), honesty, teasel (*Dipsacus*), angelica (*Angelica archangelica* (herb) and *Angelica gigas*), *Onopordum* (introduced to me as the Vicar's Thistle), Mrs. Willmott's ghost (*Eryngium giganteum*) and parsley. These all self-seed around the garden easily; all you need to do is to learn to tell them apart from weeds and ensure that they are encouraged to grow in the area where they will make a dramatic impact.

Biennials are pretty forgiving and really do not require much in the way of care. The only problem is one of too many plants which is easily sorted out by giving away seedlings and weeding. I have also found that growing plants not normally given a space in the border produces interesting variations in colour and form.

Growing parsnips as a biennial is an amazing experience (this was demonstrated at Chelsea a couple of years ago). Just because it is usually grown as a vegetable does not mean that the plant should be confined to the vegetable patch. The seedlings can be pulled up and eaten as baby parsnips. A win-win situation in anyone's book.

Happy gardening!

Caroline Aldridge



Hire the Diamond Jubilee Pavilion

There are vacant times in the diary when the pavilion can be rented throughout the week. The rate is £10 per hour, with a deposit for private parties. The pavilion is suitable for children's parties, wedding receptions, fitness or other classes and a host of other activities



The premises can be used between 0700 and 2330 hours on Mondays to Saturdays inclusive and between 0800 and 2230 on Sundays.

The pavilion will be available for hire during the day on weekdays throughout the year. Between 1 April and 30 September inclusive, the premises will generally not be available at weekends, and only on Friday evenings, as it is being used by the cricket club. Between 1 October and 31 March of the following year inclusive, the premises will be available on Saturdays, Sunday afternoons and on any evenings.

Please contact **Mr Penfold** for further information **0118 947 3130**



Newsletter Spring/
Summer 2015

Spring/Summer

Parish Council Meetings:

- 17 June 2015
- 22 July 2015
- 23 September 2015
- 21 October 2015
- 18 November 2015

at 8pm in Kidmore End Parish Room
including 10 minutes public session

**Newsletter/Website
Contributions**

Are we missing your club or society?
Would you like to see their activities
listed in the Newsletter? Do you have
any news items or pictures for the
Parish?

If you would like to contribute to the
next edition, or to the website we'd be
delighted to hear from you. Articles
can be sent to any member of the
editorial board.

The **closing date** for the next edition
is **11 Sep 2015**.

Useful Numbers and Contacts

Thames Valley Police, non emergency 101
emergency 999
website www.thamesvalley.police.uk

Crime Stoppers (anonymous) 0800 555 111

Victim Support 01865 751511

SODC email: info@southoxon.gov.uk 01235 520202

Open: - Mon-Thu 8.30 am - 5.00 pm
Fri 8.30 am - 4.30 pm



ORCC Directory of Transport Schemes 01865 883433
email orc@oxonrcc.org.uk

Oxfordshire Rural Community Council, Jericho Farm, Worton, Oxon OX29 4SZ

Oxfordshire Highways 0845 310 1111
www.oxfordshirehighways.org
<http://fixmystreet.oxfordshire.gov.uk>

Fix my Street

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Parish Council Chairman Sue Biggs

Clerk to the Council Roger Penfold 0118 947 3130
Email clerk@kepc.info

30 Venetia Close, Emmer Green, Reading RG4 8UG

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County Councillor

Kevin Bulmer (kevin.bulmer@oxfordshire.gov.uk) 07526 743091

Citizens Advice Bureau - 08444 111 444

Services available at 32 Market Place, Henley

Drop-in service - Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri 10 am - 1 pm

Pre-booked appointments - every weekday 10 am - 3 pm

Telephone advice - Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri 10 am - 4 pm

Services also available at: (call above number for an appointment)

Woodcote Community Centre (Old School House) 10 am - 11 am (Fridays)

Watlington Parish Office (Old School Place) 10 am - 11 am (Thursdays)

CAB (Henley) website www.caox.org.uk/henley

Kidmore End Parish Room

Bookings: Paula Beville 0118 972 2247

Diamond Jubilee Pavilion at Gallowstree Common

Bookings: Roger Penfold 0118 947 3130



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