



Kidmore End Parish Council

Cane End Chalkhouse Green Gallowstree Common Kidmore End Tokers Green

Newsletter Winter 2006

Dec 2006 No. 90

Editor's Notes

The subject of affordable housing in the Parish, is now a dead duck. At its September meeting, the Parish Council turned down a proposal to support a small scheme of new homes in Horsepond Road. It was a close call, as the votes for and against were initially tied, but the Chairman, very properly, used his casting vote to maintain the *status quo ante*.

Your Editor is personally disappointed by this result, as it seems to him that, amongst residents who had expressed a view in writing, a majority were in favour of the scheme and that those Councillors who voted against it did so largely as a result of pressure from a very vocal, but unrepresentative, group of parishioners who had mostly declared themselves in favour of affordable housing in principle, but were against building in that particular back yard.

A new planning issue has

now arisen, but this one is perhaps not as controversial as the last. The South Oxfordshire District Council is looking for parcels of land on which to build houses at the rate of about 95 a year for the next 20 years. This is in addition to land already identified around Didcot and Wallingford, which will take the bulk of new homes.

Owners have been invited to "volunteer" pieces of land that might be included in the plan and one such piece, on the edge of Emmer Green, but actually just over the County Boundary in Oxfordshire, has been suggested. Maps showing the location of this site on Gravel Hill are reproduced on page 6.

Residents of this Parish will naturally be concerned that creeping additions on the edge of Reading do not so erode the green spaces of South Oxfordshire that, one day, villages like Chalkhouse Green, Kidmore End and Tokers Green find themselves

part of a proposed new City of Reading. But the redevelopment of The Piggery at Gravel Hill does not seem much of a threat in this respect. It is perhaps of more concern to residents of Highdown Avenue and Gravel Hill than the good people of South Oxfordshire.

Our District Councillor, Mr Nigel Spencer-Jones, has embarked on a crusade to get all the bits of South Oxfordshire that lie between the presently designated Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and the Reading Borough boundary to the south and the River Thames to the east re-classified as part of the Chilterns AONB. It will be interesting to see whether this initiative succeeds and whether, as a result, the patch of land at Gravel Hill proposed (by its owner) for housing becomes part of an AONB before it can be built on.

Trevor Morris (Editor)

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Report From The Chairman of the Parish Council

Dear Resident,

Since the last edition of the Newsletter, your Council has taken some quite significant decisions.

In September, the Council finally debated a proposal to support a small scheme of affordable housing on its favoured site on Horsepond Road, Gallowstree

Common. When this proposal was put to the vote, five councillors voted for the proposal and five against, so I had to exercise the Chairman's casting vote. It is well known that I was a supporter of the affordable housing project and I initially voted for the proposal. However, I exercised my casting vote, in accordance with convention, to maintain the *status quo ante*; in other words, against the proposal. The proposal was, therefore, lost.

Subsequently, at its October meeting, the Council decided to take no further action on the results of the Housing Needs Survey conducted by the Oxfordshire Rural Community Council in the Spring of 2004. As far as your present Council is concerned (there are elections next year), the subject is dead.

No doubt many of you will have responded to the District Council's Housing Site Allocations Development Plan consultation document. The District Council is seeking to find sites for some 10,000 housing units in the period to 2026, i.e. during the currency of the present Oxfordshire Structure Plan and thereafter under the South East Plan. The majority of these houses will be sited in or near Didcot and Wallingford, but

additional land needs to be found for 1950 homes to be built in other parts of South Oxfordshire during the next 20 years.

In general terms, the draft document proposes development in existing sustainable

settlements, like Sonning Common, with a continuation of a presumption of restraint elsewhere. However, the draft document includes a site in the very south of the Parish, right on the County boundary, which has been put forward by its owner. The site can only be accessed satisfactorily from existing roads in Emmer Green, which are outside the Parish. At the time of writing, your Council, while broadly supportive of the general thrust of the consultation document, has yet to reach a view on this specific site.

Incidentally, the examination in public (EIP) of the draft South East Plan is scheduled to start in the New Year. Your Council will endeavour to keep an eye on what develops at the EIP.

The Council has decided to submit a planning application to the District Council for a replacement building for the Pavilion at the Gallowstree Common Recreation grounds. Our agent will be lodging that soon. Clearly, the Council hopes that the District Council will grant permission. Once permission is obtained, applications will be made for funding from sources like the National Lottery. The new building will undoubtedly be expensive and, frankly, the project cannot proceed unless

substantial external monies can be secured.

Whilst talking money, the M1 bus service, which goes through Gallowstree Common, Kidmore End and Chalkhouse Green, is supported financially by the County Council. The contract for the service runs out in June next year, so the County Council will shortly consider whether to maintain financial support. Your Council hopes that it does, as the service provides the only public transport link available to the bulk of residents in the Parish. However, as is often the way these days, if you don't use it, you'll lose it!

On another subject, it seems likely that a variable speed indicator can be installed in Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common, albeit at the expense of your Council. It is hoped that this device will go some way to reducing the speed of traffic there. A similar sign was installed on the A4074 road at Cane End earlier this year, but thieves dismantled it, apparently to steal the solar panel that powered it!

Recently the Council has granted permission for a duck house to be installed at Tokers Green pond, provided that no cost falls on the public purse.

Finally, it may seem early, but this is my last chance to wish all of you a "very merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year".

no further action on the results of the Housing Needs Survey

variable speed indicator in Horsepond Road

Beware Burglars About

The following is a press release by Julia Wheeler, Crime Reduction Advisor, Thames Valley Police, Henley:-

Since the beginning of October, there has been a dramatic increase in the number of house burglaries in Sonning Common. In just three weeks, ten houses have been broken into, more than would normally take place in a year.

The majority of burglaries are taking place overnight. Thieves have been targeting houses with UPVC doors. They have got in by using something to put through the letterbox and pull the inside door handle down.

The message from the police is simple. If these doors are locked with a key and the key is removed the thieves can't get in.

In many of the burglaries, car keys, and subsequently the cars, have been stolen as well as electrical equipment such as laptops and digital cameras.

..in three weeks ten houses have been broken into...

In most cases residents do not realize they have been burgled until they come downstairs in the morning. In the most recent burglary the householder woke up and thieves fled. A man was later arrested in Reading.

In other cases ground floor windows or doors have been forced while the house is unoccupied.

Police patrols are taking place in Sonning Common at key times and officers are conducting house-to-house enquiries in hotspot locations.

Henley Crime Reduction Advisor, Julia Wheeler is appealing to householders to protect their property. She said "The most important thing to do is lock all your doors and remove the keys so that they can't reach them through the letter box and so that they can't pull down the door handle to let themselves in. We offer a free home security service for people who would like to improve their home security."

The advice is as follows:

- Ensure doors are locked with the key and that the key is removed
- Lock all ground floor windows
- Hide car keys away
- Put a lamp on a timer inside the house to make the house look occupied after dark.

Residents who are concerned about their home security and would like a free home security survey or further advice can contact Julia Wheeler on 01491 843 835 or by e-mail on julia.wheeler@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

Sonning Common Police Office: Volunteers Needed

We need more volunteers to run the front office and provide support to our Area Beat Officers.

If you enjoy dealing with people and are prepared to commit a morning or afternoon each week (with guaranteed flexibility for holidays and other commitments), we can train you



and you will be providing an important service to the community.

The work is interesting and the working environment friendly and congenial. The services provided cover the production of documents, the reporting of traffic accidents, lost and found

property and helping in the reporting of crimes: but every day is different.

If you are interested or would like to learn more, please contact one of our volunteers (there are 16 of us) at the Police Office, 74 Lea Road, Sonning Common or by telephone on 0118 972 1283.

The Parish Church

After an excellent summer, we couldn't complain about a wet day for our Harvest Festival. We needed the rain and, in any case, the day was brightened for us by the splendid decoration of both our churches. Likewise, after the inspiring services, we were further cheered by the attractive setting which had been prepared for our Bring and Share Lunch in Kidmore End School. After an excellent lunch, a collection for a mission in Uganda raised £340.

At the time of writing, the building work at Christ the King is progressing well, after a delay resulting from the need to deal with the presence of some low-grade asbestos, which had been discovered in a part of the existing building. We are now looking forward to being able to use the additional and improved facilities and we are grateful to our tenants for being so understanding about the inconvenience, which they have

experienced during the last few months. We hope that they will feel that it has all been worthwhile.

And so our thoughts turn to Christmas. Details of our



services, to which everyone is welcome, are listed below. Our first **Christingle** service (the one with the oranges) will be held on **Sunday 3 December** in **St John's Church** at **4.30 pm** and the second one is at **Christ the King Church** at **4.30 pm** on **Christmas Eve**.

You don't have to be a church member to attend, but these services are very popular, so come early for a good seat!

On the last Sunday of the year, there will be no service at St John's. It being the fifth Sunday in the month, we will be sharing our service with All Saints' Peppard and meeting at **Christ the King** at **10.30 am** (please note the time).

The annual Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is held between 18 and 25 January, each year. Look out for details of a local ecumenical service to mark this occasion.

Our clergy and members wish the Editor and all readers a Happy Christmas.

Christmas Services

Friday 22 December	7.30 pm	Service of Carols and Readings, at St John's
Sunday 24 December	4.30 pm	Christingle Service, at Christ the King
	11.00 pm	Midnight Mass, at St John's
Christmas Day	9.30 am	Family Eucharist with Carols, at Christ the King
	10.30 am	Family Eucharist with Carols at St John's

Neil Scott (Lay Chairman, Parochial Church Council)

The Parish Room, Kidmore End

Sadly, Mrs Ann Gunn has decided, after very many years, to stand down from managing bookings for the Parish Room and also from being a key holder. However, we are pleased to tell you that Mrs Paula Beville of Woodstone, Chalkhouse Green Road, Kidmore End has very kindly agreed to take over from Mrs Gunn. Mrs Beville's phone number is 0118 972 2247 and Woodstone is just past Cooper's Pightle, on the same side of the road.

Miss Dunning of Felix Lodge, just beyond the Parish Room, is also a key holder and is willing to be contacted in case of any emergency, but Mrs Beville should be your first point of contact.

Kidmore End Pre-School

We have been 'Beside the sea' this term and the parish rooms are decorated with all the children's paintings and collages of beach huts, sand, ships, light-houses, etc. The rooms look lovely and colourful and the children love to see their pictures up for everyone to enjoy.



We have been very busy this term. We raised £170 for Macmillan Cancer Research as part of 'the world's largest coffee morning' in September, and a further £320 at our Christmas Fair in Sonning Common on 10 November. A big thank you to everyone who organised, supported and attended these successful events! In addition, we have enjoyed the Autumn

sunshine, gathering conkers and leaves during walks through the village. We also visited

Legoland where both adults and children enjoyed the sunshine. The children have also had lots of fun in the garden playing on the scooters that we bought with the remainder of the monies donated by the Kidmore End Village Day committee. A big thank you to this committee for enabling the children to have so much fun.

In October we celebrated Divali with colourful clothing and the children made tea lights. In November we had special Bonfire lunches of beans and

sausages and the children made poppies for Remembrance Day. Now it's the count down to Christmas, and we are looking forward to a trip to the pantomime to see Cinderella. The children will be practising special songs which they will sing in front of their families at our Christmas performance.

At the end of term we will be holding a Christmas party for all the children. This is always a fun and noisy party which is enjoyed by all, especially when our special Christmas visitor arrives.

If you would like to learn more about the pre-school, please contact our registrar, Janet Hartrup, on 972 2966

Caroline Aldridge (Pre-school Manager)

FISH

During the past few months the new FISH minibus has been busier than usual. In addition to the regular shopping trips to local towns, we have ventured further afield on Shop and Lunch trips to places such as Windsor, Maidenhead, Oxford, Marlow and Newbury. We have also been to Wallingford and Abingdon so that clients can go for a trip down the river. All these trips have been popular and well attended. However, we always welcome new clients, so why not join us on the next trip?

We advertise at the beginning of each month in the Sonning Common Library, outside the Village Hall and on local notice boards. We operate on a



first come first booked principle and seats can be booked by telephoning the Fish Office (0118 972 3548) between 9.30 and 11.00 am, Mondays to Fridays.

Our Charity Christmas sale, which took place on 28 October, was once again a great success. Twelve charities were represented and all reported that takings were more than last year. This, of course, is due to the

generosity of villagers and volunteers from Sonning Common and surrounding villages with their gifts for the raffle and cakes and their time and energy on the day making things work. The organisation was done most efficiently once again by Barbara Butler. Our Chairman and Committee would like to give a big thank you, both to those who supported us and those who worked so hard to make it a success.

Next year we will be organising many more trips to places of interest and a few more Shop and Lunch trips. Look out for the advertisements and book early.

Barbara Perez

Your New Year's resolution for 2007?

So you've stopped making New Year's resolutions because you never stick to them? Now here's one you can keep: volunteer to work at your local Citizens Advice Bureau!



It's such an easy resolution to fulfil – just ring Sarah Westcott, Manager of Henley CAB, on 01491 578267 in early January and tell her you are interested. She'll do the rest – invite you for a chat and a look round the CAB, tell you what's expected of you, give you a chance to observe the bureau in action (just so you can be sure the work is for you), set up an interview (yes, we interview candidates for such important work) and, if you are accepted, provide free professional training.

Your training to become a volunteer adviser, delivering our free and confidential advice and information service, results in you being awarded the CAB Certificate in Generalist Advice Work. This is a nationally recognised qualification and can lead to other job opportunities.

The work in the CAB is challenging and rewarding. We need you to be keen to develop new skills, to want to help others and enjoy working as part of a team. If you are looking for a way back to work in the social sector, this training is for you.

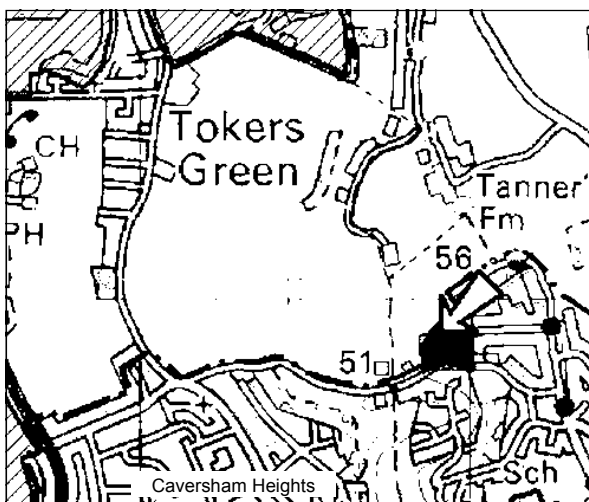
If you simply want to make a New Year's resolution that you can keep, this opportunity is for you! We can't run our service without volunteers.

So call Sarah or visit us or write to us at 32 Market Place, Henley, RG9 2AH. You can also e-mail us at henleycab@cabnet.org.uk

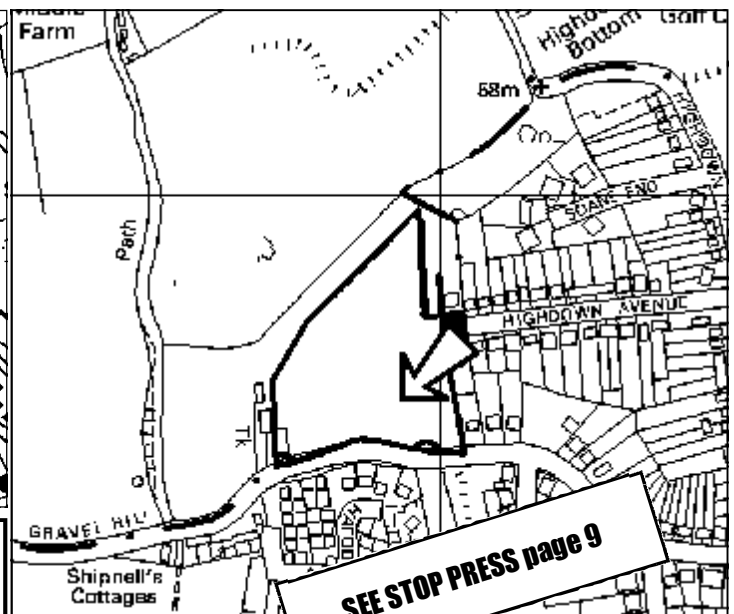
The closing date for applications is 31 January 2007.

Telephone numbers for the Henley office of the CAB can be found on the back page

Gravel Hill site offered for housing development



To the very south of the Parish, right on the County boundary. The site has been put forward by its owner. Satisfactory access is only from existing roads in Emmer Green



SEE STOP PRESS page 9

Obituary – D. Roy Hansen

Nurseryman, 13 April 1920 – 3 September 2006

In September, the Parish lost one of its much loved characters with the death of Roy Hansen, proprietor of D R Hansen & Son in Wood Lane, Kidmore End.

Roy was born at Little Stoke Manor Cottage, Checkendon, the fourth in a family of nine children. The family later moved to Wantage where Roy attended King Alfred's School. His interest in agriculture began as a boy when he had an allotment and kept the family in vegetables.

On leaving school, he worked in a market garden and on the farm in Oxford until he was called-up in 1940. He joined the Royal Armoured Corps at Tidworth, becoming a Sergeant in Tank Gunnery Instruction at Lulworth, Dorset and Barnards Castle in Yorkshire. He was posted to India in 1945 and de-mobbed in 1946.

On his return, he worked with the rest of the family on the farm at Cane End before becoming a Farm Manager for many years in Staffordshire, Hampshire and Hertfordshire.

He married Barbara in 1951.

He then started a business selling vegetables and a small farm shop at Bryants Farm, close to Emmer Green. The family recall long hot summers picking cherries in the farm orchard.

He opened a market garden in Kidmore End selling vegetables and, at Christmas time, fattened up chickens, working day and night plucking and preparing them for the Christmas trade.

Over the years, his children spent weekends and school holidays working there for pocket money, remembering him for loudly

singing hymns and whistling as he worked.

His son Robert joined the business in 1983 and they began to grow bedding plants and hanging baskets in Summer together with Christmas trees for Christmas.

He always had the stamina of a much younger man and until Spring of this year, at the age of 86, was working a 12 hour day, six days a week, followed by gardening at home in the evenings.

Although his long hours gave little time for hobbies, he enjoyed the company of his children and grandchildren together with reading about military campaigns, country life and listening to military music.

Oxfordshire Highways

Have you ever wondered how you get a dangerous pothole in the road mended?

The answer is that you should ring Oxfordshire Highways on 0845 310 1111 and tell them about it. The same number applies for reporting dangerous structures (e.g. bridges falling down), flooding, trees on the road, overgrown hedges and winter salting and snow clearance. You can also report highways matters or request help by using the online forms at www.oxfordshirehighways.org

Oxfordshire Highways is a partnership formed by Oxfordshire County Council, Isis Accord and Jacobs Babbie to deal with highways maintenance in the county. They are also responsible for road signs and road markings and can issue licenses for road closure, scaffolding or skips on the road, or anything else likely to interfere with free passage down the highway.

However, if you have a problem with an abandoned vehicle, a live (or dead) cow in the road, flyposting, litter or litter bins, you should apply to the South Oxford District Council (01491 823000) for relief.



Potholes! Call 0845 310 1111
www.oxfordshirehighways.org

Local Weather Report: Year 2006

	Average Minimum Temperature		Average Maximum Temperature		Rainfall	
	Cel	Fahr	Cel	Fahr	mm	in
August	12.2	54	21.1	70	70	2.7
September	12.0	54	22.7	72	51	2.0
October	8.8	48	16.1	61	143	5.6
Rainfall, 3 months to end of October					264	10.3
Total rainfall during previous 12 months (Nov 05 to Oct 06)					722	28.4



This is about 5.5% above the average twelve-month figure of 685 mm (27 in).

This is the first time for 18 months that an above average figure has been recorded, which might suggest that we are out of the danger zone.

Unfortunately, we still need several above average scores for the coming months to help the underground aquifers recover to better levels of storage for the future. Even after the large amount of rain in October, we are still being asked to conserve as much water as possible.

The very high temperatures in September led to an all time high for the month for this area of 28.8C (84F), as shown below.

Lowest and highest temperatures during the last 3 months

	Lowest		Highest	
	Cel	Fahr	Cel	Fahr
August	7.8C	46F (30 th)	27.5C	81F (6 th)
September	7.4C	45F (23 rd)	28.8C	84F (11 th)
October	2.8C	37F (27 th)	20.3C	68F (9 th)



Derek Brown

Rubbish Collection during Christmas Holidays

If your refuse is normally collected on a Monday; for the collection days **Monday 25 December 2006** and **1 January 2007** the revised collection day will be **Saturday 30 December 2006** (for both days)

NOTE: The next normal [Monday] collection day will be Monday 8 January 2007

For **Tuesday 26 December 2006** the revised collection day will be **Tuesday 2 January 2007**

All other collection days are unaffected. The revised collections may occur at a different time in the day compared to your normal collection, so refuse and recycling should be placed on the kerbside by 7 am in the morning. Please do not leave your refuse out for collection on days other than your collection day, or any earlier than 6 pm the evening before. Further detailed information, if required, can be obtained from the SODC website at www.southoxon.gov.uk/ccm/navigation/environment/refuse-collection/bank-holiday

Topical Gardening Tips for December



- Check your trees to see if any dead branches need removing.
- Plant out new hedges and shrubs. Shorten shoots on late flowering shrubs, such as buddleias.
- Tidy up your borders and remove rotten foliage, but leave some seed heads for the birds to eat.
- Give borders a good dig, adding generous amounts of well rotted compost.
- Remove fallen leaves from alpiners and add a bit of fine grit around their necks: this stops the crowns from getting wet.
- Sow winter lettuce in your greenhouse to enjoy in the spring.
- Clean out containers of compost and any loose material. Wash with warm water and a little disinfectant and store until spring.
- Check container plants are getting enough to drink, but don't over-water them.
- Repair any damaged fruit cages.
- Move non frost-proof pots to a sheltered spot.
- Drain hosepipes and bring them inside.
- Lag outside water pipes and taps.
- Clean and oil tools and sharpen blades.
- Treat your wooden garden furniture with wood preservative before storing for the winter.

Enjoy the arriving catalogues and order your seed potatoes.

Remember, as Thomas Cooper said: 'A garden is never so good as it will be next year'.

Merry Christmas

J. Manuel

Light up your Bicycle

If you (or your children) are cycling on the roads this winter, do make sure that the bike is fitted with front and rear lights that actually work. The Thames Valley Police are running a campaign to reduce cycle casualties. This includes a determination to issue fixed penalty notices (£30 a time) to every cyclist caught on the roads without proper lamps. It's much safer (and cheaper) to go out now and buy the lamps if you need them!



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Gravel Hill At its meeting on 22 November, the Parish Council received copies of a letter sent by its Planning Committee to South Oxfordshire District Council. This said, amongst other things, "On balance, the Council is opposed to the development of the [Gravel Hill] site, because, if housing were allowed, Members [of the Parish Council] believe that it would be very difficult to resist development of further sites in the Parish and the District."

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Newsletter
Winter 2006

Useful Numbers and Contacts

Thames Valley Police, non emergency 0845 8505 505
Thames Valley Police, emergency 999
Crime Stoppers (anonymous) 0800 555 111
Victim Support 01865 751511
SODC e-mail: info@southoxon.gov.uk 01491 823000

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

ORCC Directory of Transport Schemes
e-mail: orc@oxonrcc.org.uk 01865 883433

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

Parish Councillors

Parish Council Chairman: Giles Martin 972 2365
Parish Council Vice-Chairman: Roddy Young 972 2097
Clerk to the Council: Roger Penfold 947 3130

SODC Councillors

Malcolm Leonard 940 2299
Nigel Spencer-Jones 01491 575573

County Councillor

Carol Viney 01491 680887

Newsletter Editorial Board

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Sue Rowland (sue@srlegal.net) 972 3107

Citizens Advice Bureau

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
(phone 01491 578267)
Telephone advice - Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri 10 am - 4 pm
(phone 01491 572129)

Kidmore End Parish Room

Bookings: Paula Beville 972 2247

Oxfordshire Highways 0845 310 1111
www.oxfordshirehighways.org

Newsletter Contributions

Are we missing your club or society? Would you like to see their activities listed in the Newsletter? Let us know by contacting one of the editors.

If you would like to contribute to the next edition, we'd be delighted to hear from you. Articles should be sent to one of the editors. The closing date for the next edition is: Friday 16 February 2007.