



Kidmore End Parish Council

Cane End Chalkhouse Green Gallowstree Common Kidmore End Tokers Green

Newsletter Winter 2007

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Editor's Notes

As reported on page 2, a proposal by the Henley & District Housing Trust to build a pair of retirement homes on land behind Felix Lodge in Kidmore End came before the Parish Council in October. Your Council decided to advise against the proposal, mainly on grounds of access and safety.

However, the debate raised an interesting general question about policy in relation to infilling behind existing properties where there is sufficient land to allow this. Do you feel that the parish of Kidmore End should make what contribution it can to the provision of more homes by allowing sites within the village envelopes to be developed, or should this always be resisted?

There has been comment in local newspapers recently about proposals by Reading

Borough Council to adopt park and ride schemes, in some cases using Oxfordshire land for the parking. This might or might not be coupled with a congestion charge for driving into Reading at certain times.

Most residents of this parish are probably not greatly concerned about access to Henley from the Berkshire side, but car parks on the A4074 in Mapledurham parish and/or in Emmer Green and/or Playhatch may be of more concern.

It seems to your Editor that if we are to be given the choice of driving into Reading and paying the cost (whether that is a congestion charge or simply the charge for parking in the town centre) or leaving our cars on the perimeter and taking a cheaper bus ride, we really can't grumble about having the option.

A more serious question is whether the provision of park and ride facilities on the north side of Reading, with (at present) no dedicated bus lanes to make the bus option speedier as well as cheaper, will actually reduce much of the traffic that presently crosses the two Thames bridges at busy times.

The Editorial Board would like to thank all our regular contributors and especially, on this occasion, John and June Manuel who are giving up their Topical Tips on gardening, after more than 30 years. If there is a volunteer out there who would like to take over this slot, we would be pleased to hear from you. We wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

Trevor Morris (Editor)

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Report from The Chairman of the Parish Council

Dear Parishioner,

In some respects, there is little to report from the Parish Council since I last wrote in August. There has been the usual range of planning applications, although, I have to say, the one from the Henley Housing Trust Ltd for development at the rear of Felix Cottage, Wood Lane, Kidmore End stirred sufficient interest for some of you to sit in the public gallery at the October meeting.

The Parish Council decided, after much debate, to comment to the planning authority, South Oxfordshire District Council, that this application should be refused on grounds of the access difficulties onto a road which is already busy and congested at certain times of day. Of course, it is for the District Council to determine the application but, having seen comments made by others on the SODC website, I anticipate that they will refuse the application.

On the wider planning front, the report of the Examination in Public (EiP) of the draft South East Plan has been published. The inspectors supported the boundaries of the Western Corridor & Blackwater Valley Sub-region in the draft plan. At this stage, therefore, the Parish remains outside a Sub-region which is likely to experience significant internal development pressures. The inspectors also endorsed the housing development figures proposed by the District Council for southern South Oxfordshire. This would suggest that housing growth in the Parish will continue to be minimal.

However, the EiP is not the "last knockings" in respect of the South East Plan. The final say rests with the Secretary of State for

Communities and Local Government, Hazel Blears. Given recent Government statements about housing growth and the proportion of affordable housing, the final plan could well be different from the draft submitted by the Regional Assembly, itself now under sentence of death.

As it is, the District Council is concerned that, if the Secretary of State adopts the EiP comments, there could be significant housing growth elsewhere in South Oxfordshire, principally in the Oxford Green Belt. The District Council has written to the Secretary of State about this.

Those of you who drive in Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common will have spotted that the vehicle activated speed advisory sign is at last in operation. I cannot imagine for one moment that any resident of the Parish has seen it flash at them as they drove past! I say this because so many of you raise with me, and other councillors, the speed of vehicles on our roads. Your Council hopes that the sign, which was paid for by the Council (and, therefore, you), will deter non-residents from exceeding the speed limit. If the sign is as successful as the Council hopes, we might well consider investing in further such signs in the future.

I have also spotted the salt/grit bin by the bus stop opposite the well at Kidmore End. This has been paid for by your Parish Council. Local residents have assured us that they will spread the salt or grit in time of frost.

Your Council has also arranged, through the good offices of John McNie, to provide a map showing the public footpaths and

bridleways in the Parish and beyond. This is now on display outside the New Inn, Kidmore End.

We are also pursuing with Robert Peasgood, a District Councillor, the possible restoration of a bottle bank at Gallowstree Common and/or Kidmore End. That said, as reported elsewhere in this Newsletter, the District Council is planning kerbside collection of glass, on a fortnightly basis, when the refuse collection contract comes up for renewal in 2009.

May I take this opportunity to remind you of the Parish Council's website www.kepc.info. The agenda for Parish Council meetings, the minutes of those meetings, and the monthly list of planning applications all appear on the site. It also has contact details for all parish councillors and very useful links to other sites, most notably the District Council.

I must say that, although I am not a great surfer of the internet, our website seems very professionally pleasant to me, to say the least, and it is very easy to navigate around. I would strongly encourage all who use the World Wide Web to look at it and perhaps consider getting some dialogue going on parish issues, parish news etc., not just the factual reporting of the Parish Council business. Councillor Rupert Gutteridge (rupertgutteridge@hotmail.com) is our link man to the Web Master.

I accept that it is very, very early, but this is the last time I will be communicating with you before Christmas, so I really must take this opportunity to wish each and every one of you a "Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year".

Giles Martin (Chairman, Kidmore End Parish Council)

The Future of Rubbish Collections

South Oxfordshire District Council, like other councils up and down the country, is under pressure to increase the proportion of waste that is recycled and to reduce the amount that goes to landfill. Probably, most householders in this Parish would support these objectives, but when there is talk of wheelie bins and fortnightly collections, hackles tend to rise.

The District Council has done some thinking about this, knowing that the present contracts for rubbish collection run out in 2009. That will be an opportune moment to introduce any changes that are required. They have therefore put forward a suggested new scheme and asked for the public's views. This scheme, if approved, would begin in 2009.

The essence of the new plan is to ask householders to separate food waste (which would be composted) from other non-recyclable rubbish, such as steel cans, broken crockery and the occasional old sewing machine. As now, there would be a separate collection of recyclable materials (paper, plastic, aluminium) and, for those who pay the fee, garden trimmings that can be chopped and composted. The Council is also considering providing kerbside collection of glass, thus saving a trip to the bottle bank.

The proposal for food waste is that it should be collected weekly, thus avoiding the problems that arise from having putrefying waste in the kitchen or on the pavement. Then, by providing two receptacles (which might or might not be wheelie bins), one for recyclables and one for non-degradable rubbish, emptying of these could be done in alternate weeks. This would avoid the nuisance and cost of sending three different lorries (four counting the garden waste – but that is charged for) to every address every week.

The Council is aware that not everybody likes wheelie bins and some properties do not have anywhere suitable to store them. They therefore launched a consultation exercise in September to gather the views of residents.

A clear majority (78%) of those who answered the questionnaire supported the idea of a weekly collection of food waste and 95% said they were willing to make use of kerbside collection of glass.

When it came to dealing with recyclable materials, half the respondents were happy with wheelie bins, 32% preferred a

green box and 18% didn't mind either way. When asked if, assuming that wheelie bins were provided, they would support fortnightly collection, 55% said yes, but 26% were strongly opposed to the idea.

...under pressure to increase the proportion of waste that is recycled...

For collection of the residual rubbish (not recyclable and not food waste) 42% preferred wheelie bins, 39% wanted plastic sacks and 19% were indifferent: 64% of respondents were willing to accept fortnightly collection of this residual rubbish.

These proposals are due to be considered by various committees and then by the full Council on 16 November.

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The District Council considered this proposed new scheme at their meeting on 16 November. It was decided that, from 2009, food waste will be collected weekly from kerbside bins and other waste (destined for landfill) will be collected fortnightly in wheelie bins. Garden waste (for which there is an annual charge) and recyclable materials, including glass, will probably also be collected fortnightly.

Carol Singing around Tokers Green

The now traditional carol singing around the roads of Tokers Green will take place in the evening of Wednesday 19 December. Both adults and children will be very welcome, whether from Tokers Green or further afield.

Collecting boxes will be taken from house to house and the proceeds will be sent to the Chiltern Centre for Disabled Children in Henley.

All those wishing to take part should assemble in Elm Road at

6.30 pm on 19 December, wearing suitable winter woollies. Any queries should be addressed to Teresa Heffer (972 2840) or Trevor Morris (947 0758)

Know Your Councillors

A series in which the Newsletter introduces you to some members of your Parish Council

Mrs Sarah Hall

Sarah Hall was born in Northamptonshire in 1943, but has lived at Chalkhouse Green with her husband and four sons since 1969.

There she runs a small farm specializing in rare breeds, selling free range beef and pork from the farm. A passionate gardener, tree planter and conservationist, she encourages visitors to the farm both on private visits and on Open Days.

Sarah is in favour of less government at all levels and a pruning of the tottering piles of paperwork and over-regulation imposed by distant legislators.

With Reading pressing on the Parish boundaries, she is vigilant in helping to preserve the rural character of the five hamlets, strongly opposing a potential third bridge across the Thames, disgorging traffic onto local roads. Yet she wishes to encourage affordable housing for local people within the village envelopes on suitable agreed sites. She also supports sustainable commercial outlets to benefit the local community and provide employment.

Sarah is guardian of the green recycling boxes. If you need another box (or two?) please telephone her on 972 3631.

Dr John McNie

John McNie came to Kidmore End in 1988 after living in Stoke Row for 14 years. He worked as a GP at an Emmer Green practice until his retirement in 2002 and still does some locum work there.

John was Editor of this Newsletter for 10 years, handing over the reins in 2006. He did this job without initially being a member of the Parish Council, but was co-opted to fill a vacant seat in 2001 and was re-elected to the Council in May this year.

He is a member of the Rights of Way Committee, which is responsible for footpaths in the Parish, and of the Plans Sub-Committee. He is also asked for his opinion whenever health matters come up at Council meetings. John takes a keen interest in planning matters, especially those relating to Kidmore End. If you would like to talk to him about local planning issues, his telephone number is 972 2672.

John and his wife are keen gardeners and enjoy walking in the local countryside. John's latest contribution to potential walkers can be seen in the form of a map of local footpaths, now on display outside the New Inn.

Kidmore End Pre-School

We are thrilled to be back after the summer. The Parish rooms in Kidmore End have a new kitchen and a new floor covering and are looking wonderful. These alterations have been funded by the Parish Room Committee, Kidmore End Pre-school and the Kidmore End Village Day Committee. Thank you everyone. Special thanks to our chairperson, Sarah Cleall, who supervised the alterations and to all the staff who spent part of their summer holidays moving stuff, tidying and cleaning.

Our new children have settled down well this term and it was lovely to see the older children back after the summer break. We are busy learning all about the planets, stars and space. We have also been enjoying the opportunity of having lots of messy play, utilising the new floor covering that is easy to clean.

We raised £158.59 for Macmillan Cancer Research as part of 'the world's largest coffee morning' on 28 September, and we are busy organising our Christmas shopping afternoon in Sonning

Common as this article goes to press. We have enjoyed the autumn sunshine, gathering conkers and leaves during walks through the village. We also visited Legoland, and celebrated Halloween with all the children

coming to preschool in fancy dress and learning how to bob for apples. In November we had special Bonfire lunches of baked potatoes, beans and sausages, the children made poppies for Remembrance Day and we celebrated Thanksgiving.

Now it's the count down to Christmas, and we are looking forward to a trip to the pantomime to see Aladdin. 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. In fact, we have so many children this term that we may have to hold our party in larger



premises!

On a more serious note, we have had another complaint about parking in Wood Lane and Craysleaze at drop off and pick up times. We take

parking issues very seriously and we are trying our best to ensure that all those involved with the preschool understand the importance of considerate parking. Please bear with us, and if you see any incident that is causing a problem, either come into preschool and inform a member of staff, or e-mail me at caroline_aldridge@btinternet.com or phone me on 972 3700. Thank you for your help in this matter. It is wonderful that the Pre-school continues to have the support of the local community.

If you would like to learn more about our Pre-school, please contact our Registrar, Nerys Havers, on 972 2027.

Best wishes. **Caroline Aldridge** (Pre-school Manager)

Diary Dates for Kidmore End School

December	Friday 7	Talent show in the afternoon
	Tuesday 11	Infant play: 1.40 pm
	Wednesday 12	School Christmas lunch
	Thursday 13	Visit to Hexagon to see Jack and the Beanstalk
	Friday 14	Foundation Stage play: 9.30 am
	Thursday 20	Infant play: 1.40 pm
	Friday 21	Carol concert in the church: 7.30 pm
		Church service: 9.20 am
		Break for holiday at 1.30 pm
January	Monday 7	Back to school
February	Monday 18 - Friday 22	Half term
	Monday 25	Training day for teachers
March	Friday 21 - Monday 24	Closed Good Friday and Bank Holiday Monday
April	Monday 7 - Friday 18	Spring break

The Parish Church

This is being written before the date of our Christmas Fair. In anticipation, therefore, of an excellent result, it is appropriate to express our thanks to all who have contributed to its success – not least to those responsible for its organisation.

Our Harvest Thanksgiving went well, with both churches beautifully decorated and excellent attendances, including lots of children. Afterwards, in Kidmore End School, we

enjoyed a splendid bring-and-share lunch, at the conclusion of which we took a collection for UNICEF's "Jar of Grace Appeal". This appeal is designed to raise funds to assist UNICEF in their efforts to improve sanitation and water supplies in many countries around the world, where the absence of proper facilities results in the spread of disease. Our collection raised £318.



Good news for parents of children under five, who are not quite ready to attend even our Family Service at St John's on the 3rd Sunday of each month. A new group, Little Lambs, has been formed, which meets at St John's at 9.30 am on the last Wednesday of each month during term time. This is a friendly group offering a short service, relevant craft activity and refreshments. Enquiries to Felicity Cooper on 947 7862.

And so our thoughts turn to Christmas. Details of our services, to which everyone is welcome (you can spare an hour!), are listed here.

Christmas Services		
Friday 21 December	7.30 pm	Service of Carols and Readings at St John's
Monday 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

A **Christingle** is a lighted candle set in an orange,

representing Christ as the Light of the World. In case you missed the first of our Christingle services, at which each child is presented with a Christingle, your attention is drawn to the second which will be held in Christ the King Church, Sedgewell Road, Sonning Common **at 4.30pm, on Christmas Eve**. You don't have to be a church member to attend, but it is very popular, so come early for a good seat!

A full house is anticipated, too, for our **Service of Carols and Readings**. This candlelight service is always popular and, with the St John's choir on a "high", enthused by their new leader, this year's should not be missed; **7.30 pm on Friday 21 December** should be in your diary.

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 and the congregation of All Saints, Peppard will be sharing a joint service **at Christ the King at 10.30 am**. Please note the unusual time!

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

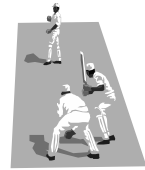
Our clergy and members wish the Editor and all readers a Happy Christmas.

Neil Scott (Lay Chairman, Parochial Church Council)

Fireworks

Bonfire Night has passed for this year, but many people like to celebrate a special occasion at home by letting off a few rockets and bangers. That's fine, but the police have asked us to remind you that it's illegal to set off fireworks after 11 pm. Late night explosions upset the neighbours and could result in prosecution and a fine of up to £5,000 in serious cases.

Kidmore End Cricket Club



On Monday 8 October Kidmore End CC was presented with its England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) Clubmark certificate by Mark Roche, the Berkshire Cricket Board Development Manager.

Kidmore End CC has been identified as a Focus Club by the Berkshire Cricket Board in recognition of its strategic and geographical importance as well as its ability to deliver the development objectives of the county. It has a proven track record in administration, player and facility development.

The ECB and Sport England Clubmark accreditation scheme is a national programme that seeks to recognise "safe, effective and child friendly" practices within clubs. With it come a range of benefits, not least the prestige the scheme brings and the positive messages it sends to the local community, schools, community groups, local authorities and other local funding agencies about the

quality and safety of a club's junior section.

The involvement of Berkshire's CDM, Mark Roche, has been crucial in helping the club to go forward with its plans. "Members of Kidmore End CC should be commended for their approach to club development as they continue to be a focal point within their local community, and are one of only nine clubs affiliated to Berkshire to have achieved this important accreditation", he said.

The first stage was to assist the club in achieving Clubmark, which guarantees a base level of quality in all areas of health and safety and child protection. The next stage is to ensure the club's development plan is aligned with the county development plan, so that it not only addresses the needs of the club but also of the district and county. This in turn will help the club secure future funding and demonstrate a clear development path to potential

sponsors.

The club has dedicated coaching staff who run regular junior coaching sessions, including summer and winter cricket schools, maintain good relationships with all local schools and communities and encourage young cricketers to make the transition from school cricket to club cricket. With a commitment to improving its facilities and administration through volunteers and officials, the club's future is bright.

The ECB, through its strategic plan (<http://www.ecb.co.uk/ecb/publications/buildingpartnerships,518,BP.html> Building Partnerships), has set a national target of over 1000 cricket clubs achieving ECB Clubmark accreditation by 2009. The individual successes of the 892 accredited clubs to date set the recreational game in good stead to achieve that 2009 target.

Keith Atkinson (972 2844)

Kidmore End School Choir

On Wednesday 14 November, twelve children from Kidmore End School had a very exciting day when they went to sing at the Royal Albert Hall. They had been practising for this event for seven weeks, along with many different groups from schools from all over Oxfordshire.

When the day came to perform, children from Nettlebed, Checkendon, Stoke Row and Kidmore End schools all went on one coach. Before they left, the Henley Standard took a picture of all the schools on the coach and then the children left. The journey was quite pleasant; it took about two hours. When they arrived they were a little bit early so they went to play in the park, next to the Royal Albert Hall where the statue of Prince Albert is.

Before the actual performance everyone got to have a practice. Then the children had their packed tea. Then the time came to perform. It went successfully and near the end Richard Stilgoe (the composer of the songs we sang) came on stage and told us all that, while the orchestra played, he would point at us and we would flash our lights on then off again. At the end we all sang Land of Hope and Glory then suddenly lots of balloons and confetti flew everywhere along with indoor fireworks being set off.

We got back home at about half past midnight. We all felt tired but pleased that it had gone so well.

Ellis Langford (aged 10)

Citizens Advice Bureau

A client asks : I work full time but I am having to take on increasing responsibility for the care of my elderly mother who is now disabled. I'm worried about how I can fit this in with work.

CAB replies: From 6 April 2007, employees who are carers of adult dependants have the right to ask for flexible working and to have that request considered seriously by their employer.

So, if you think more flexible working would help, talk to your boss as soon as possible to explore what options may be available. Flexible working describes a wide variety of working patterns, including compressed hours, flexi-time, home working, job sharing, staggered hours and term-time working.

Under the new rules, a carer is defined as an employee who is, or expects to be, caring for an adult to whom they are married, or who is their partner or civil partner, or is a near relative (parent, parent-in-law, adult child, sibling, aunt, uncle or grandparent, or step relative). It can also be someone unrelated but living at the same address.

There is a formal procedure to follow which starts with you providing your employer with a carefully thought out application in advance showing when you would like the new work pattern to take effect. Your boss then has to follow a set procedure to ensure that your request is considered seriously and a discussion takes place. The employer may only refuse your request where there is a recognised business reason for doing so.

There are straightforward forms and letter templates available, along with guidance for both employees and employers, at www.direct.uk/Employment/Employees/fs/en and at www.acas.org.uk

For more information and advice on employment issues go to the Citizens Advice website www.adviceguide.org.uk or phone the Citizens Advice Bureau in Henley (number on the back page).

FISH

The Charity Christmas Fair held on 27 October was a great success. Most of the charities who occupied a table in the Sonning Common Village Hall continue to do well, thanks to support from the residents in all the surrounding villages. FISH as usual ran a homemade cake stall and raffle, both of which rely on generous donations of cakes and prizes from our many supporters. This year we were extremely fortunate with the number of cakes and raffle prizes donated and so our profits were a little more than last year. The refreshments made and served by FISH volunteers were also much enjoyed. Our grateful

thanks go to all who made this possible.

By the time this article goes to press we will be well into the festive season. As in other years we have arranged to take clients to Millets Farm for their last minute shopping items and, as last year, the Christmas Pub lunch will be at the Unicorn, where the landlord makes our clients very welcome.

At the beginning of 2008 our Bus Manager will start to consider a new programme of events and he would welcome suggestions for new venues. So, if anyone has any bright ideas for places to

visit, please call in at our office in Sonning Common Village Hall during our normal working hours of 9.30 to 11.30 am or telephone us on 972 3986 and leave the details with the volunteer on duty.

Following our recent request for helpers, we are pleased to say that three new volunteers have been recruited for office duties and one for car driving. However, more car drivers, shoppers and companions to accompany those of our clients who are less sprightly will always be welcome. To offer your services, please telephone the number above and either speak to a volunteer or leave a message.

Barbara Perez

New Homes for Old Fires

The Sue Ryder Care Home can always do with your unwanted electrical goods, if they are in good working order and acceptable for resale. All items are checked for safety by qualified volunteer electricians, ensuring that the correct plug and fuse are fitted, with correct safety earth wiring where necessary. Television sets must have a matching remote control and be fitted with scart sockets to be acceptable. They will be checked for condition and safety and then tuned in.

Goods for resale must be taken to the Sue Ryder Home at Nettlebed. There is always

someone there to receive things on Tuesday mornings, but items can be left at any time under cover in the main yard

Sue Ryder will accept any goods that are considered safe and good enough for resale. Besides electrical items, other sections welcome toys, furniture, books, leatherwear, clothing, bicycles, shoes and sports equipment. Anything that has a resale value is very welcome. Items that are damaged or unsafe or not up to the required standard for resale, find their way into a very large skip for disposal as waste.

About every third Saturday

morning, from 10.30 to 12.30, Sue Ryder offers the public a Grand Sale of these goods. Hundreds of cars (plenty of car parking available) and people arrive from 8.30 onwards. The weather can make all the difference between a bumper sale and a poor one but, on average, the Electrical Section alone will take £1,000 on any one sale day.

It's amazing how much the many volunteer workers can raise over a year, through these sales, to support the excellent work of the Sue Ryder Care Home.

Malcolm Evans (volunteer electrician)

Road Casualties in Oxfordshire

Oxfordshire County Council has published its Casualty Report for 2006, which includes the following figures.

Road casualties in the county by year and severity of injury

	Fatal	Serious	Slight	Total
1999	57	522	2996	3575
2000	63	453	2923	3439
2001	49	473	2876	3398
2002	37	466	2831	3334
2003	64	418	2480	2962
2004	33	348	2252	2633
2005	40	306	2513	2859
2006	68	304	2563	2935

There has been a welcome reduction in the total number of injuries over the past eight years but, worryingly, not much change in the number of deaths on Oxfordshire's roads.

The annual trends for each District are not reported, but in 2006 there were 18 fatalities and 85 serious accidents in South Oxfordshire, more than in any other area of the county. The planned spending on roads in South Oxfordshire, on the other hand, is less than for most other districts and much less than for Oxford and its immediate surroundings.

In discussing strategies for road improvements aimed at reducing accidents, the Report says "with approximately 4500 km of public highway within Oxfordshire, the cost of carrying out all the maintenance and improvement work that could be

justified far exceeds the available budgets". This is rather different from earlier comments by the Highways Department that, if they knew for sure how to make the A4074 safer, they would do it.

Perhaps we should be pressing our elected representatives to increase the highways budget in general and provision for the A4074 in particular, so that a larger proportion of improvements "which can be justified" on road safety grounds actually get carried out. Assuming that spending more taxpayers' money would produce safer highways, would you be prepared to vote for an increase in council tax to achieve this?

Trevor Morris

Local Weather Report: Year 2007

	Average Minimum Temperature		Average Maximum Temperature		Rainfall	
	Cel	Fahr	Cel	Fahr	mm	in
Aug	10.8	51	20.4	68	52	2.0
Sep	8.7	47	16.7	62	35	1.4
Oct	6.0	43	14.9	59	49	1.9
Rainfall, 3 months to end of October					136	5.3
Total rainfall during previous 12 months (Nov 06 to Oct 07)					990	39.0



Rainfall for the past twelve months is 44% **above** the normal annual average of 685mm (27 in), as opposed to the 63% above average reported in September

After the three wet summer months of May, June and July, the sun finally shone for a sustained period of almost a week at the beginning of August. Immediately after, there were 10 wet days giving us a near normal month's worth of rain.

The last week of August heralded the start of nearly four weeks of sunny weather with virtually no measurable rain, giving us the long awaited dry spell of summer. Regrettably and perhaps unwisely, the writer went on holiday abroad during this wonderful sunny period! This explains the lack of dates for the highest and lowest Temperatures in September in the tables below.

There were two further separate dry spells, each of about a week in October, although we did receive almost a months worth of rain around these spells.

The first frost for four years during the period August to October was recorded on 19 October, with a further five cool nights following.

Lowest and highest temperatures during the last 3 months

	Lowest		Highest	
August	7.0C	44F (1 st)	28.6C	83F (25 th)
September	4.7C	40F	23.5C	74F
October	-0.9C	30F (21 st)	19.8C	68F (14 th)



Derek Brown (972 3895)

Christmas Rubbish Collections

Those of you who live in **Gallowstree Common** and **Chalkhouse Green** will not have a rubbish collection on Boxing Day, Wednesday 26 December. You must save up the turkey bones and Christmas wrappings until the following **Wednesday, 2 January**.

In **Cane End**, **Kidmore End** and **Tokers Green**, rubbish will be collected as **normal** on Thursdays, 27 December and 3 January.

Topical Tips

Now is the time to study your garden and look to make any changes, if necessary. Look at the lawn and if you see a worn track you walk regularly it may be a good idea to put in a permanent path. You must be sure of yourself; if it's a heavy task, get a landscaper or garden designer in.



Hedges and trees that form the basics of a garden can be planted now, bare rooted, from November to March.

Don't forget your mower needs a service before you put it away.

June and I feel its time to let someone else with new ideas take over this column. We've enjoyed doing Topical Tips for about 30 years, but we are signing off now.

Happy gardening!

June and John Manuel

Crime Statistics

The Sonning Common police office has issued the following figures for crimes recorded in Kidmore End Parish during the past two years.

	Oct 05 - Mar 06	Apr 06 - Sep 06	Oct 06 - Mar 07	Apr 07 - Sep 07
Burglary	5	7	2	3
Theft	2	9	7	5
Car crime	1	3	1	1
Other crime	3	7	13	7
Totals	<u>11</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>16</u>

A Nasty Scam

You may have had experience of a note through the door from the postman telling you that he tried to deliver a parcel but could not get a reply at your door. You are then asked to collect the parcel, or name a date when it can be delivered, and there is a charge to be paid when you collect the package.

That's fine, but some rogues have used this genuine system to set up a scam. A note comes through your door saying that the Parcel Delivery Service has been unable to deliver a parcel and asks you to call a premium rate telephone number. When you do this, you just hear a recorded message and are charged £15 on your phone bill.

As far as the Sonning Common police know, this nasty trick is not being used in our area at present; but if you do get a card through your door about an undelivered parcel, check carefully that it is genuine and never respond by calling a premium rate telephone number.



Winter Diary

7 Dec	KES Talent show	p5
11 Dec	KES Infant play	p5
12 Dec	KES Christmas lunch.....	p5
13 Dec	KES Hexagon visit	p5
14 Dec	KES Stage play.....	p5
19 Dec	Carol Singing Tokers Green.....	p4
20 Dec	KES Carol concert	p5
21 Dec	KES Church Service	p5
21 Dec	Carols and Readings at St John's.....	p6
24 Dec	Christingle (4.30pm)	p6
24 Dec	Midnight mass (11.00pm)	p6
25 Dec	Family Eucharist	p6

Parish Council Meetings:

12 December 2007
16 January 2008
20 February 2008

at 8pm in Kidmore End parish Room

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 15 February 2008.

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	01865 883433 orc@oxonrcc.org.uk
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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 30 Venetia Close, Emmer Green, Reading RG4 8UG	947 3130

SODC Councillors

Malcolm Leonard	940 2299
Robert Peasgood e-mail	972 1877 rob@peasgood.net

County Councillor

Carol Viney	01491 680887
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Newsletter Editorial Board

Derek Brown (derekcbrown@btinternet.com)	972 3895
Andy Miros (andym-general@usa.net)	972 1001
Trevor Morris (trevor@trevormorris.wanadoo.co.uk)	947 0758
Sue Rowland (sue@srlegal.net)	972 3107
Newsletter website	www.kepc.info
e-mail	webmaster@kepc.info

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)
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CAB Website	www.adviceguide.org.uk
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Kidmore End Parish Room

Bookings: Paula Beville	972 2247
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Oxfordshire Highways www.oxfordshirehighways.org	0845 310 1111
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