

Kidmore End Parish Council

Cane End Chalkhouse Green Gallowstree Common Kidmore End Tokers Green

Newsletter Summer 2008

June 2008 No. 96

Editor's Notes

It is a pleasure to welcome a new member to the Parish Council. At its meeting on 21 May, the Council co-opted Mr John Swift, QC, of Chalkhouse Green, to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Mr Malcolm Naish.

Plans for the New Pavilion at Gallowstree Common are progressing nicely. The architect is currently working with the structural engineer to prepare a submission to South Oxfordshire District Council (SODC) for building regulations approval. When that is done, a task force will be assembled to look again at the overall design and suitability of the building and make comments and recommendations.

The plans, which have been approved, can be viewed on the SODC website (plan No. P07/E0410). In addition, the

drawings and a model of the proposed pavilion are on display in the old pavilion at Gallowstree Common.

The Fundraising Group charged with the task of raising the £500,000 (or thereabouts) needed to pay for the New Pavilion is hard at work, under the able Chairmanship of Mr John Sheldon.

It is hoped that the English Cricket Board will be sympathetic to this venture and may be able to provide some funding. At a later stage, money from the National Lottery may be available through Sport England, but their giving is always related to the sum already raised and so a lot of effort is needed before making an approach to that source.

However, it is clear that a

large slice of the money will have to be found locally and the Cricket Club have already committed themselves to raising £50,000.

On **10 August** there will be a **Bale Rolling Competition** (see page 2) in aid of the New Pavilion. Do come along and have fun, while supporting this important local cause.

On page 7 you will find a letter from Mrs Williams about an old postcard of Kidmore End pond that her daughter has discovered. There must be many other people in the Parish who have interesting memories or tales to tell of times past. If you care to write, we would be pleased to print your stories.

Trevor Morris (editor)

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Report from The Chairman of the Parish Council

Dear Parishioner,

I am typing this not long before the Council's Annual Meeting, when another municipal year will spread out before us. This is the meeting at which the Council elects its Chairman and appoints its Vice-Chairman, committees and representatives.

Hopefully, at that meeting, we will get back to full membership again. I told you in my last report that Julia Appleton had resigned as a councillor. Since then, we have also said "goodbye" to Malcolm Naish, whose work has taken him to Scotland. As you did not call an election to fill either vacancy, the Council has co-opted Sue Biggs of Kidmore End. I expect the Council to co-opt another person, to fill the other vacancy, at the next meeting.

A high profile local development is that the A4074 road is to be closed between Cane End and the Pack Horse pub for at least two weekends, and possibly a third, to enable works to be undertaken on the road, starting on Saturday 31 May. This amply demonstrates the danger that road poses, when the highways authority have formally had to close it, in order to undertake tree felling, install edge markers and make some surface adjustments.

Your Council welcomes this recognition by the County Council that something needs to be done. We hope that these works will have some effect in reducing the loss of life on the section of road in question.

Your Council was concerned that all the traffic would be diverted from the A4074 through the Parish. Actually, the signed diversionary route will be from Crowmarsh via Nettlebed and Sonning Common. However, we will all need to be careful on the weekends in question, because inevitably people "in the know" will use "our" roads, rather than the signed route.

On the subject of roads, we have again approached the District Council about the condition of Coopers Pightle. The County Council has never adopted that road as a public highway. It is not, therefore, maintainable at public expense in the same way as, say, Chalkhouse Green Road. Your Council gathers that the road was laid in as the vehicular access to the cemetery and so we have approached the District Council, who own and manage the cemetery. I am not sure where we go if SODC deny responsibility for the road.

You will read elsewhere in this edition about issues exercising your Council, for example raising the funds for the replacement Pavilion. This is going to be a major project, but I gather that an excellent start has already been made.

On the planning front, we have been consulted on the usual range of local planning applications and noted an unusually high number of planning decisions at our April meeting. I have written before about the South East Plan and the Local Development Frameworks. These, the strategic planning documents for the area, seem to be in limbo at present. Things will no doubt hot up when the final South East Plan is announced by the Secretary of State. In the meantime, the District Council has consulted on its Design Guide. Your Council found this a worthy document, but perhaps a little too idealistic. If the guide was followed slavishly, we might enjoy a utopian built environment!

Earlier this week (and last) we were enjoying truly marvellous warm, sunny weather. Today it rained. I just hope that summer has not been, and gone, already!

Giles Martin (Chairman, Kidmore End Parish Council)

Villages Fun Day

A Villages Fun Day has been arranged for Sunday 10 August from 11 am to 4 pm at the Recreation Ground Gallowstree Common, to raise funds for the New Pavilion. This must not be confused with the Kidmore End Village Day, which is on 21 June (see page 9). The Villages Fun Day is intended to embrace all five villages in the Parish.

The fun will include a Bale Rolling Competition, when up to 16 teams of four will compete to roll a straw bale along a course in the fastest time. There will also be a youngsters' penalty shoot-out at goal, tombola, numerous side stalls, a bar, a barbeque and light refreshments.

This event is suitable for children of all ages, including (grandpa and toddlers). There is no entry fee to the Recreation Ground, but you will have to pay for the BBQ and refreshments and to enter the competitions.

Roddy Young (972 2097)

Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground

Dear Sir,

As someone who was born in the Parish back in the nineteen twenties and has lived in Gallowstree Common all my life, bar a few short years immediately after the war, may I ask you to clarify the correct title of our Recreation Ground.

Very regularly, the Recreation Ground is referred to, in the Newsletter and elsewhere, as “the cricket field” or “the football field” or “Gallowstree Common Cricket Pavilion”. All these terms are incorrect. In my senior years, I find this mis-naming annoying, to say the least. The correct title is “Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground” or, if need be, “the Pavilion at Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground”. The area is provided for use by all members of the community and is not reserved exclusively for any particular sporting activity.

The Cricket Club and the Football Club are both tenants who pay rent for use of the facilities. It is the Parish Council which owns the ground and it is looked after, for the benefit of all parishioners, by the Kidmore End Playing Fields Committee, a registered charity that manages both the Recreation Ground and the Kidmore End Play Area.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Mary Holmes (The Hamlet, Gallowstree Common)

Speeding on the A4074

Dear Sir,

The Highways Department is reported as saying that if they knew for sure how to make the A4074 safer, they would do it. How about speed cameras, which would soon pay for themselves?

Cameras a short distance before the turnings to Deadmans Lane, to Woodcote and Checkendon and to Ipsden would surely make the road safer? Most importantly, cameras sited at each end of Cane End, where the houses start, would make it much safer for residents to go in and out of their drives and might reduce the lethal speeds of some of the cars and motorbikes along this road.

Living right on the A4074, I am very conscious of vehicles which come past here at excessive speeds, especially at weekends when motorbikes drive past at very high and dangerous speeds. Also there is a difficult problem getting out of the drive when cars are travelling above the 50 mph speed limit.

The one and only speed camera in this area is badly sited. It is after the turning to Gallowstree Common on the carriageway heading towards Reading. A survey has shown that a third of all traffic turns off at this junction, which forces following traffic to slow down, thereby making that camera redundant. It needs to be relocated.

Speed cameras maintained in continuous operation are very effective in deterring drivers from breaking the speed limit. Those who continue to offend will provide the money to pay for the cameras.

Yours sincerely,

Jill Harding (Old Farm House, Cane End)

Closure of A4074

The long-promised trimming of trees along the A4074 at Green Dean Bottom is scheduled to take place on 31 May – 1 June, just before this Newsletter reaches you.

However, the road is due to be closed again on 7-8 June, to allow for road alterations, and an additional closure has been authorised for the weekend of 14-15 June, just in case the work is not completed in the first two weekends.

The main road will be blocked off between Mill Lane and the turning to Gallowstree Common for part or all of these three weekends.

Know Your Councillors

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

Trevor Morris

Trevor was born and raised on a Cotswold farm and schooled in Gloucestershire. In 1948 he went to Reading University to read Agriculture, with the intention of returning home afterwards to join his father and two elder brothers. There were about 3,000 outdoor chickens on the home farm (a lot for those days) and so, following his first degree, he took a postgraduate qualification in Poultry Husbandry.

Towards the end of his postgraduate training Trevor was offered a post as Demonstrator and this set him on a course towards a PhD and an academic career. He was appointed to a tenured post in 1957 and went on to research the nutritional and environmental requirements of chickens (and, occasionally, turkeys and ducks). He rose through the ranks and eventually retired at 70, having at one stage served for 8 years as Head of the Agriculture Department that he had joined as a student 52 years earlier.

Trevor and his first wife, Jean, met as students in the University Singers. They married in 1954, sang together in the Reading Bach Choir for many years and had 5 children, who have produced 9 grandchildren. Jean died in 1992 and Trevor married Mary in 1994. Mary has four children and (so far) one granddaughter.

Mary and Trevor moved from Reading to Tokers Green in 1999 and quickly made new friends, through the Quiz Team, Christ the King Church in Sonning Common, carol singing round the hamlet and a Progressive Dining group, which they instituted.

Trevor was co-opted to the Parish Council in 2005 and was appointed a member of the Editorial Board for this Newsletter. When John McNie retired as Chairman of the Editorial Board in 2006, Trevor was appointed to succeed him. Besides the Newsletter, Trevor is interested in planning policy and is actively involved in fund-raising for the New Pavilion. Mary and Trevor are both keen gardeners and walkers.

Comments on the Newsletter are always welcome. Please telephone Trevor on 947 0758.

Jane O'Sullivan

Jane was born in Kidmore End and grew up in Gallowstree Common, where her family have been farmers and builders for many generations. She trained as a state registered nurse at St Thomas' Hospital, London in 1976 and went on to qualify as a midwife in 1982.

Peter and Jane were married in 1983 and moved back to Gallowstree Common, where they have lived very happily for the past 24 years. They have three children, now all in their final year at university. Jane has worked at Dunedin Hospital in Reading since 1984, first as a staff nurse and, for the past 10 years, as a senior non-clinical manager.

Jane is a keen walker and has been involved in many charity fundraising events over the years, the most recent being a Moonwalk in May - 26 miles around London at night in aid of breast cancer. She is also a dedicated gardener and a bit of a workaholic!

She is very passionate about village life and the preservation of our rural areas and has chaired the Village Association, worked with fellow parishioners to organise village fetes and helped to raise funds and build the children's play area in Gallowstree Common.

Jane's grandfather, Ernest Callis, was Chairman of the Parish Council in the 1940's and 50's and her father, Kenneth Callis, was Clerk to the Parish Council in the 1950's and 60's. Following in their footsteps, she had earlier served for 9 years on the Parish Council and was a school governor and a member of the playing fields committee. She was therefore very proud to be co-opted back onto the Parish Council in June 2007.

Jane is a member of the Traffic Calming Subcommittee and also a member of the fundraising committee for the new pavilion. If you would like to talk to Jane about traffic, fund raising, or any other parish matters, please contact her on 972 4279.

Kidmore End Pre-School

We have had a busy few months and there are some changes to report. First of all we would like to thank the Sonning Common WI for making some wonderful new curtains for the Parish Rooms. The curtains are now hanging up and really brighten up the rooms. We are very pleased with them and I hope that other users of the rooms appreciate them as much as we do! Our second piece of important news is that we have just recruited a new member of staff. We are thrilled to welcome Belinda Gross to the Pre-school. I am sure that she will settle in quickly and become a real asset to us!

Summer is finally here! The children are enjoying the ducklings on the pond, and walks in the woods and around the village. We are learning all about animals this term. We have three goldfish in a tank in the Parish rooms for the summer term, and lots of animals are coming to visit us, including dogs and kittens. Village residents have invited the children to look at their chickens,

guinea pigs and fish, so we have had lots of varied activities around the village.

The older children have started to visit the reception class at Kidmore End Primary School in preparation for September, when they will start 'Big School'. We have 17 children going up to Kidmore End School this year and a further 7 leaving to go to other primary schools in the area. This means that a total of 24 children will be leaving this year! We are planning a huge 'leavers party' in July, which will be both a happy and a sad time for everyone.

Our Easter Egg Hunt on Sunday 16 March was a wonderful success, in spite of the terrible weather, and we made over £1995 which is great news for our small Pre-school. A big Thank You to everyone who organised, helped and came along to have some fun. A special thank you must go to the residents of Gallowstree Common for coping



with all the extra cars and to people in the village and Lord Phillimore for allowing us to park on the field next to the pavilion. We would also like to thank our sponsors. We have allocated some of the funds that were raised on the day to pay for a special coach trip to Odds Farm later in the summer. Other trips out this term include a visit to Legoland in June and taking part in the Big Toddle at Child Beale Park on 17 June.

Our Pre-school is very small and friendly. Session numbers are limited to 14 children. We will be having an open afternoon on Tuesday 17 June for new and prospective families. Please be aware that we are full for the September '08 intake and have only a few places left for September '09. If you would like to come along to the open afternoon to learn more about the Pre-school, please contact our registrar, Nerys Havers, on 972 2027.

Caroline Aldridge (Preschool Manager) Tel: 972 3700

Tokers Green Quiz Team

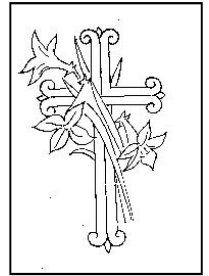
After our win in last year's Knockout Competition, there were high hopes for the performance of the Tokers Green Team in the South Oxfordshire Village Quiz Competition this season. These were sadly dashed when TG were knocked out in the first round. Despite a respectable score of 80 points, we were well beaten by Stoke Row with an impressive 95.

The League Competition did not go so well either. TG lost to Ewelme and Stoke Row (again!), before winning against Park Corner and Rotherfield Greys. We then lost to Checkendon and Preston Crowmarsh before another win against Bix. The last two matches of the season were both at home (the Kidmore End Parish Room). We lost to Nettlebed and to Highmoor, but team members were well consoled afterwards by the fine ale at the New Inn

Morale remains high. Our policy is to have a large panel of performers. We use the competition as a means of getting people together from all parts of our scattered hamlet and we like to make the evenings fun.

Marshall Barr (TG Quiz organiser)

The Parish Church



All who took part were agreed that our Lent Study this year was very successful; and it was good, once again, to have some of our friends from St Michael's participating.

The study, "The Lord's Prayer – Praying it, meaning it, living it", was excellent preparation for Easter, but before Easter we had Good Friday, when our traditional ecumenical Procession of Witness was well supported by the local churches, on a cold but sunny morning. Then, in the afternoon and at St John's, our choir performed splendidly for the Service of Meditation and Music.

Easter Day saw little sunshine but this was more than compensated for by the beautiful decoration of our churches, both of which were full for the celebration of the Feast of the Resurrection of Christ.

At our Annual Meeting in April, we elected a new member of the Parochial Church Council – Mrs D Gittings.

Saturday 21 June is the date of a Gift Day, which will be held at both ends of the parish. Our finances are in a poor state; and Gift Day is an occasion when all villagers – whether church members or not – can make a donation towards the support of St John's. The Parish Room will be open for donations and free coffee will be served from 10 am until noon on that Saturday. The value of what you give (assuming you are a taxpayer) can be increased by the use of **Gift Aid**. Appropriate envelopes will be available for those who wish to use this scheme.

Sunday 29 June is the day on which we celebrate our Patronal Festival at St John's. Coincidentally it is the fifth Sunday in the month when we share a service with Peppard. On this occasion, the shared service will be at St John's at 11 am

Father Graham, our Rector, this year celebrates the 25th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood and, to mark the occasion, there will be a special service at St John's on Friday, **4 July at 8.00 pm**. Everybody welcome.

We thank all those who collected for and contributed to Christian Aid, during May.

Neil Scott (Lay Chairman, Parochial Church Council)

Mobile Library Coming Earlier

As from 3 June, the Mobile Library is due to arrive (and depart) 10 minutes earlier than the old timings.

The new times for alternate Tuesdays are:

(The Editor notices that it takes 25 minutes to serve the avid readers of Tokers Green, but only 10 minutes to satisfy Kidmore End!)

Tokers Green	Arrive 13.35	Depart 14.00
Chalkhouse Green	Arrive 14.15	Depart 14.30
Kidmore End	Arrive 14.35	Depart 14.45

FISH

With the arrival of the sunshine, our outings have proved to be popular once again; so much so that we are proposing to add extra trips in the future. The regular door-to-door shopping bus taking you to Henley or Reading has great environmental advantages and you have no petrol costs, parking expenses or carrying heavy items home. Shopping bus

journeys are free for those who have a bus pass or travel tokens.

If you need transport for a medical appointment, or wish to add your name to one of the bus trips, please call the FISH office on 972 3986 between 9.30 am and 11.30 on a weekday.

We are always short of volunteer car drivers. To offer a few hours occasionally, taking clients to

appointments, please ring the FISH office and leave your name and telephone number so that the FISH coordinator can contact you. Mileage allowance is paid.

Barbara Perez has completed her term as Coordinator and I would like to take this opportunity to thank her most heartily for all her hard work.

Caroline Stockill (FISH Coordinator)

Kidmore End Cricket Club

The new cricket season is in full swing and we are enjoying better weather than at the same time last year. Kidmore End Cricket Club is again fielding three senior sides on a Saturday and two on a Sunday. The Saturday first eleven hopes to go one better than last year, when they just failed to gain promotion to Division One of the Marrant Thames Valley League, finishing in second place. There are one or two new players and, with the development of many juniors, the Club is now in a better position to put out a stronger third eleven. This team has found a new ground at neighbouring Highmoor and a very fruitful relationship with that club bodes well for the future.

The junior section continues to thrive and this season has 170 boys and girls on its register. They will compete in the Berkshire Youth Cricket League at ages from under 9 through to under 15. Progress has already been made by the under 15 team in the County Cup. This year also sees the tenth anniversary of the Kwik Cricket Festival hosted by the Club. Kidmore End Primary School will be defending their title on 4 June.

Fred Curzon (972 2827)

Times Past

Dear Sir,

I have lived in Gallowstree Common for fifty five years and have many fond memories. My daughter grew up here, but has now lived in Somerset for just over thirty years, though she still has ties with the village.

Whilst using the internet, my daughter came across five postcards featuring places of interest which were here approximately 100 years ago. One of these was of Pond House and the pond and she was able to see what was written on the back of the postcard. I thought your readers would be as interested in the following comments as I was.

KIDMORE END POND

"We are sitting close to the left hand corner of the pond on a stone covered by Lil's mackintosh. The sun is quite warm. It's ever so quiet. While we've been here, a man brought a horse to drink. Two boys brought a tub to fill with water. A boy brought 9 cows to drink and all the time the ducks were turning somersaults in the water. A few people pass occasionally. Sometimes a bicycle, sometimes a cart. Some pretty birds singing all the time."

It seems ever so quiet! Sounds like a rural Piccadilly Circus

Unfortunately there is no signature on the card and I am left wondering who "Lil" was?

The card bore a King George V stamp, and as a fifteen year old I remember going to London to see the funeral procession. That would have been in 1936, I believe. As George V was on the throne during the first World War, maybe the writer was a soldier home on leave?

Who knows, perhaps someone will come up with something!

Yours sincerely,

Mrs C. Williams (Gallowstree Common)

This is a list of the Marrant Thames Valley League home games still to be played on Saturday afternoons at Gallowstree Common in 2008:

Jun	7	2 nd	XI v Yateley 2nds
	14	1 st	XI v Chalfont St. Peter
	21	2 nd	XI v Burnham 3rds
	28	1 st	XI v Farnham Common
Jul	5	2 nd	XI v Farnham Common 2nds
	12	1 st	XI v High Wycombe 2nds
	19	2 nd	XI v Purley 2nds
	26	1 st	XI v Reading 2nds
Aug	2	2 nd	XI v Fleet 2nds
	9	1 st	XI v NPL Teddington
	16	2 nd	XI v Wooburn Narkovians 2nds
	23	1 st	XI v Falkland 2nds
Sep	30	2 nd	XI v Hampton Hill 2nds
	6	1 st	XI v Boyne Hill

Visits to Kidmore End Primary School

As you walk past the school have you ever wondered what goes on inside the doors? Have things changed since you were a child? What changes have we made since you last visited? Why not visit us to find out? We will be holding two open mornings this summer:

The first open morning is for parents with young children, who may be thinking about sending their child to our school. This will take place on Friday 6 June at 9.30. Parents will have a guided

tour and then a talk from me about the organisation of the School and the admission process.

The second morning is for local people who would like to come and look around. You do not need a reason; you will be very welcome. Guided tours will be available between 9.30 and 10.30 and from 11.00 to 11.45 on Wednesday 11 June. These will be led by our Year Six pupils, so you may be shown the inside of their desks or the cleaners'

cupboard, as has happened in the past (!), but you will also have a fresh and honest look at the school through the eyes of an eleven year old.

I will be available on both mornings and will be delighted to answer any of your questions. Please come if you can. There is nothing sadder than a tour guide with no visitors!

If you would like further information please telephone the school on 972 3149 or email: office.3807@kidmore-end.oxon.sch.uk

Janet Maul (Headteacher, Kidmore End C of E (VA) Primary School)

South Chiltern Choral Society



The Society is looking forward to its summer concert on **Sunday 6 July at 8 pm**, when the main work will be Carl Orff's raucous medieval romp, *Carmina Burana*. The Choir's sell-out Verdi Requiem in April left choir and audience floating on air and this very colourful piece should bring them back to earth again!

Carmina Burana, written in 1935, has many memorable melodies. The beginning of the work is constantly used to advertise practically anything and shows no sign of being forgotten! The film 'The Omen' and a certain 'Old Spice' advert, both shown in the 1970's, used Carmina Burana as their unforgettable soundtracks. The piece is full of exciting rhythmic passages and to satisfy Orff's writing we have hired seven percussionists and two pianists (with a piano each!)

As well as the choir of 100+, there will be a soprano and a baritone to provide the dramatic solos.

To add to the summer evening's entertainment the soloists will also be singing some separate solo pieces and the Choir will sing three choruses by Gilbert & Sullivan.

Let's hope we'll have some lovely English sunshine and all be able to have picnics in the beautiful University grounds, which will be open from 6.30 pm.

Venue: The Great Hall, Reading University.

Tickets (£12 Adults, £6 Under 18's) are available from Judy Griffiths (934 5746) or from any choir member.

Further information about the Choir is available on its website: www.southchilternchoralsociety.org.uk

Emma Sieling (SCCS Publicity)

Chiltern Edge Horticultural Society

The Society's **Autumn Show** will be held on **Saturday 6 September** at Chiltern Edge School. The Show is open to the public from 3 pm onwards.

Coach outings planned for this summer are:

21 June The Nursery Further Afield and Woodchippings, near Brackley.
20 September RHS Gardens, Wisley.

For more information about the trips, or to book a ticket, please contact the Programme Secretary, **Janet Evans**, on 972 3245.

Kidmore End Village Day

Please come along and support the Kidmore End Village Day starting at 2 pm on Saturday 21 June.

The event will be held in the grounds of Kidmore End School and throughout the afternoon there will be a vast array of entertainment for all the family.

Admission is free. In addition to magnificent entertainment, there will be the usual book stall, plant sales, raffle, charity stalls, treasure hunt, teas and coffees, ice creams and a fabulous coconut shy.

If you have spare plants that can be sold in aid of funds, please take them to Dr John McNie at Breesha Cottage, Butlers Orchard, Kidmore End in the morning of 21 June, or on Friday 20 June. It might help to let John know that you are coming (telephone 972 2672).

This is an important day for the village, so please come and show your support.

John Elliot (972 3698)

New Late Buses at Weekends

From 1 June, there will be a new late evening bus service on Fridays and Saturdays from Reading to Sonning Common and Peppard. The 137 bus will leave Reading at 23.26 and will return from Peppard Common at 23.55

Your Council's Budgets

These are the amounts allocated by your Parish Council for spending in the previous and the current financial years.

	2007-08	2008-09
	£	£
Maintenance of Recreation Ground		
play areas, wells, ponds and greens	3,903	3,855
Preparing for the New Pavilion	3,702	5,539
Allotments, less rents	325	325
Clerk's salary and expenses	2,510	2,586
Council Members' expenses and course fees	140	140
Insurances	1,650	1,700
Newsletter and website	600	600
Post, telephone, audit fees, and other admin	1,650	1,023
Road Safety Measures	3,240	3,240*
Contribution to footway in Rokeby Drive	1,000	1,000*
Grant to Paying Fields Committee	800	840
Grant to Parochial Church Council	600	1,230*
Provision for Parish Plan	500	-
Small grants to other bodies	460	490
	<u>21,080</u>	<u>22,568</u>

* these figures include unspent balances carried forward from the previous year: not all new money.

Local Weather Report: Year 2008

	Average Minimum Temperature		Average Maximum Temperature		Rainfall	
	Cel	Fahr	Cel	Fahr	mm	in
February	-0.6	31	10.4	51	18	0.7
March	1.9	35	10.2	50	79	3.1
April	0.8	33	12.4	54	48	1.9
Rainfall, 3 months to end of April					145	5.7
Total rainfall during previous 12 months (May 07 to April 08)					940	37.0



Rainfall for the past 12 months is still **37% above** the normal average figure of 685mm (27 in).

Contrary to the old adage 'February fill-dyke', there was a long dry spell of 18 days in the middle of the month, with significant precipitation on only four days in February, giving the low rainfall figure shown above.

Also in February, there were 17 nights with temperatures below freezing, compared with only 6 during January. Whilst March had only 7 nights below zero, April had 9 nights during the first 18 days. These low readings reflect in the slower start to Spring that has become apparent.

Lowest and highest temperatures during the last 3 months

	Lowest		Highest	
	Cel	Fahr	Cel	Fahr
February	-6.6C	20F (18 th)	15.7C	60F (9 th)
March	-3.9C	25F (5 th)	15.0C	59F (30 th)
April*	-5.2C	23F (8 th)	17.5C	63F (4 th)



* records incomplete: the writer was away for the last 12 days of this month.

Derek Brown (972 3895)

Crime Statistics

Crime figures compiled by Robin Hunter, a volunteer in the Sonning Common police office.

Crime figures for Kidmore End Parish do not show much change over the past three years. An average of less than one reported crime a week indicates a comparatively "safe" parish, though if you are the one having to make the report, you may think differently!

The summer is a favourite time for opportunistic thieves to look for open windows, so please continue to be vigilant.

	Apr 05 / Mar 06	Apr 06 / Mar 07	Apr 07 / Mar 08
Burglary	9	9	9
Theft	7	16	9
Car crime	4	4	4
Other crime	19	20	18
Totals	39	49	40

Gardening Tips

After a long, cold, wet winter and spring, the summer has arrived and the garden has taken off with a bang! Here are some tips for a glorious summer in the garden

Lawn care

I like my lawn to resemble a patchwork of spring bulbs, clover, daisies, buttercups and other meadow flowers. My husband wants a green sward reminiscent of a golf green. Luckily, most garden lawns fall somewhere between these two extremes! Whatever your preference, it is not too late to give your lawn a boost with a spring lawn fertilizer. Read the label carefully and follow the instructions. Raise the blades on your lawn mower now. Your grass will remain in better condition during a prolonged period of drought and will green up quicker after rain if it has not been cut as close to the ground as possible. Leaving the grass longer also discourages moss growth, thus reducing the amount of time that you will have to spend on your lawn in the autumn getting it ready for the winter.

If you don't have time to mow the lawn, trim the edges of your beds and borders. This will give the impression that the garden is looking neat and tidy!

Weeding

Try to stay on top of this! If your weeds have got out of hand, do not despair. Choose a small area to work on. Once this area is tidy and free of weeds, go on to the next bit. Gradually your garden will look wonderful. If your garden is full of pernicious weeds (bind weed, ground elder, etc), this will require some thought as to the best method of weed removal.

Spraying or painting the growing weeds with a glyphosate-based weed killer is the most efficient method. Two or three applications of this during the growing season may be needed to kill pernicious weeds. Glyphosate is deactivated upon contact with the soil and is permitted for use by organic gardeners. A mulch of black plastic or cardboard also reduces the vigour of weeds, but you will have to leave the area covered for a year to kill the difficult ones, and this can be a bit unsightly.

Colour

Summer bedding looks fantastic and adds a magical bit of colour to all gardens. Place pots where you can see them from your windows: on your patio, by the front door, and in bare patches in your borders. Don't forget to water, feed and dead-head these plants. They will reward you with flowers until the first frost.

Beginner's veggie patch

If you have never grown crops before, now is a good time to start. The easiest crops to grow are lettuces and beans. Only grow radishes if you actually like to eat them! Sow a few seeds in a prepared seed bed. This just means a weed-free patch of soil that has been broken up a bit with a garden fork so that there are no hard lumps. Lettuce seeds are tiny and the seedlings are delicate. If they have a chance to root into the soil easily then they will produce lovely salad leaves and heads of lettuce. Bean seeds are large and easy to sow. Read the seed packet so that you know if the beans need support (pole, climbing or runner) or not (dwarf and French). Beans are quite decorative and can look very elegant in the flower border. When runner beans were first brought to England, they were grown purely for their flowers!

Once you have tasted your first lettuce and tender, small beans you will want to grow all sorts of vegetables. Salads and dwarf beans can also be grown in a large pot on your patio.

The most important thing to do in your garden this summer is to sit out and enjoy it. Happy gardening!

Caroline Aldridge (gardener for over 20 years and still learning)

Calling all Dog Owners

The Recreation Ground at Gallowstree Common is being spoiled by a few irresponsible dog owners who allow their pets to defecate on the Playing Fields and then walk away without clearing up the mess.

This irresponsible behaviour is totally unacceptable. We have a special dog hygiene bin for use by dog owners. PLEASE USE IT

Roddy Young (Chairman, Playing Fields Committee)



Summer Diary

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Parish Council Meetings:

18 June

23 July

at 8pm in Kidmore End parish room
including 10 minutes public session

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 August 2008.

Useful Numbers and Contacts

Thames Valley Police, non emergency	0845 8505 505 www.thamesvalley.police.uk
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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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)
CAB Website	www.adviceguide.org.uk

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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