



Kidmore End Parish Council

Cane End Chalkhouse Green Gallowstree Common Kidmore End Tokers Green

Newsletter Spring 2009

March 2009

No. 99

Editor's Notes

As this is my first newsletter as editor after the sad loss of Trevor, I need to start by expressing my appreciation to Andy, Derek and Sue, who are the real stalwarts of the editorial team and who had everything under control for our first meeting. This therefore left me with relatively little to do except sit in the garden on a beautiful Saturday in March to write this editorial and to contribute one or two other things which you will see as you flick the pages.

If you glance at this issue number, you will see that we have reached number 99. Number 100 ought to be special, don't you think, so if you have any memories about 25 years or more concerning the parish, please share them with us. If you have memorable pictures of any vintage, we can also put them on a website. If you can't scan

old prints, we can do that for you.

Not only has it been a hard winter in terms of weather, as Derek's valuable local observations show (p 12), but for many it has been a tough time economically, too. As the first flowers help to bolster spirits, I also note that the parish is a hive of building activity, mostly using local tradespeople. The tenders for the possible sports pavilion are also mainly being sent to local firms, so let's hope they can compete successfully.

In the light of all this, it did cross my mind to say that, not only is it a good time to make home improvements if you have the capital available because prices are keen and VAT is marginally lower, but it will help to sustain local traders until the economic recovery, ensuring that we continue to have a skill base locally.

In this and subsequent issues there will be some new articles. One will be about what is happening in our parish fields because, although nearly all of us work in towns and cities, the farmland is still at the heart of the parish. So it is not only interesting for us to know how the modern farming year progresses, but invaluable for our children to learn why they should treasure the farms in this area in the future.

This brings me on to two other points. First, you will find articles appearing in the future that are directed towards families with smaller children, or for children to read for themselves. There is a lot to look out for and explore as a family. This first article, under the heading 'Curiosity Corner', is about Kidmore End Well. More will follow, so they become a

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Report from The Chairman of the Parish Council

Dear Resident,

I have the sad duty to report the death of Professor Trevor Morris, since I last wrote one of these reports. Trevor passed away in February, after a relatively short illness. Although he had only been a parish councillor since March 2005, he had made a significant contribution to our community, especially as a tireless member of the Parish Newsletter Editorial Board and a major player in the Fund Raising Group for the replacement Pavilion. More than that, however, he always gave a measured and commonsense response to the issues that the Council has faced over the past 4 years. He will be missed

Notice has been given of the vacancy caused by Trevor's untimely death. The electors of the Parish have not called an election to fill the vacancy. Your Council will, therefore, co-opt someone as a parish councillor, for the period until the next quadrennial elections, in 2011.

The most important action by your Council since my last

report was to set its budget for the year commencing 1 April. The Council has adopted a budget which "marks time" in respect of the routine business. However, mindful of a number of projects in the offing, not just the replacement Pavilion, but also items like the replacement of the equipment at the Kidmore End Play Area, the Council decided to make provision of £20,000 for "capital projects".

Thus, your Council precept on the District Council for 2009/10 will be £29,000, a substantial increase. This is added to the Council Tax bill issued by the District Council, which also covers the expenditure of the County Council and the Thames Valley Police Authority. The annual cost of the Parish Council in 2009/10 will be just under £44 per household (for the national average band D property) – less than a £1 a week. This will be appreciably below the average parish precept in South Oxfordshire, which was £63 in the current year.

I am writing this shortly before the Annual Parish Meeting, the occasion when electors of the Parish can, amongst other things, call their Council to account. In some ways, these meetings are an anachronism, and are not replicated in respect of the principal local authorities like district and county councils. However, the concept of empowering the populace in this way is embodied in the Sustainable Communities Act, passed last year. It will be interesting to see if anyone other than parish councillors turn up for the Annual Parish Meeting this year. Sadly, this has been the form in so many recent years.

One final note. I thought the recession had really begun to bite in Kidmore End, when we only considered 1 planning application in December, and none in January. They are, however, now back with a vengeance. There were 3 in February and, so far, 9 in March.

Giles Martin (Chairman, Kidmore End Parish Council)

Editor's Notes *...from page 1*

regular part of the newsletter. As young children like facts, if you know of a 'corner' of the parish worth talking about and it has lots of facts, then do let me know.

In terms of environmental issues, the prospective park and ride / third bridge etc etc issues continue to be an active topic for all the southern Oxfordshire parishes. As I write, there is discussion of the possibility of asking for the southernmost part of the parish (and adjacent areas) to be made part of a new green belt to the north of the 'People's Republic of Reading'. Find out more about the whole issue on page 6 (Strategic Matters).

Just to say again, please help to make the 100th edition memorable by sending in any contributions, humorous as well as serious. We would need them by the end of May.

Brian Knapp (Editor)

Kidmore End Primary School

At the beginning of March we had a visit from the Ofsted Inspectors. Fortunately they now only give a few days notice, so the teachers had less than a week to prepare and have sleepless nights!

We are delighted to report that the Inspectors think that we are a good school and more than half of their judgments graded us as outstanding. Before they left they gave us some good advice about how to become even better, then we waved goodbye to them for another three years. The full inspection report will be on the Ofsted website from the 24th March.

Our other big news is that we took possession of the All Weather Play Area this week. When the newly planted trees, shrubs and grass have had time to establish it will look very attractive. The amphitheatre is due to be turfed this week. You will be able to see this for yourselves on village day.

As usual in a primary school there are numerous activities going on. Our chess team came second in a tournament yesterday, and the choir will be taking part with other local schools in 'Orpheus' at the Hexagon with many of our pupils in leading roles. All of the children

will be enjoying Henley Youth Festival events both sporting and cultural. A theatre group will be coming here to perform Henry V to Years Four and Five.

In amongst this excitement we are continuing to work hard. Year Six are preparing for their SATs and their teacher is encouraging them to stop looking out of the window at the glorious spring weather and concentrate instead on long division. Some things never change!

Tokers Green Open Gardens

On **Sunday 21 June**, six gardens in Tokers Green will be open to the public in aid of the Chiltern Air Ambulance Trust. The gardens will be open from 2pm to 5pm with an admission charge of £3.50. Children and car parking will be free. Plant stalls, tea and cakes will be available.

Look out for the signs for parking. Everyone is welcome and we look forward to seeing you.

Teresa Heffer, who is organising the teas, has asked for help in one of two ways (or even both): She needs loads of home-made cakes and biscuits to sell on the day, and She needs helpers on the day to set up, serve tea, coffee and cakes, take money and wash up.

Please put the date in your diary and let her know well in advance that she has plenty of support. Her telephone number is 972 2840 or you can e-mail her at teresa.heffer@lineone.net.

Kidmore End Spring Fair

The Spring Fair, Saturday, 9 May (2-5pm)

This year's Spring Fair will also incorporate Kidmore End Village Day. A fun day out for all the family with coconut shy/golf putting competition/Punch and Judy/a magic show/a garden stall/homemade cakes and refreshments/hotdogs and beer tent and numerous other stall holders.

A raffle with a chance to win one of 7 super prizes, including a photo shoot by Charlotte Snowden (a Checkendon based local professional photographer).

Funds raised will partly go towards Village Day Projects and funding towards School improvement projects.

Adults are £1 (with a free fair brochure) and children are free.

Come and enjoy a fun family day out.

Camilla Skinner (972 4100)

- Coconut shy
- Golf putting
- Punch and Judy
- Magic show
- Garden stall
- Homemade cakes
- Beer tent

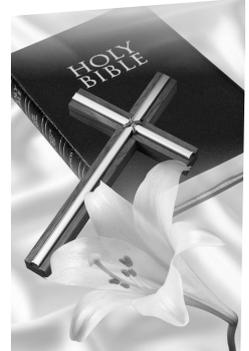
The Parish Church

By the time this piece appears, Ash Wednesday being on the 25th February, we will have moved into Lent - that period of forty days before Easter, traditionally a period of penitence, abstinence and fasting, during which Christians recall Christ's suffering in the wilderness.

By way of preparing for Easter, on the five Wednesdays following Ash Wednesday, there will be a Lent Study Group meeting, at 7.30pm, at Christ the King. The study will focus on "*These three.....Faith, Hope and Love*" and will include listening to an audio tape, featuring some well-known personalities. Everybody is welcome at these meetings; the study is not at all intense, and we do offer a cuppa and a biscuit or two!

Women's World Day of Prayer is on the 6th March, when attention will be focused on Papua New Guinea; locally, there will be a service at Stoke Row Chapel at 2.30pm

Palm Sunday, this year, is on **5 April**. As usual the service will begin in the school, with the distribution of palm crosses, after which we will process to the church.



5 April	Palm Sunday, - distribution of palm crosses
9 April	Maundy Thursday, - Commemoration of the Last Supper - 8pm
10 April	Good Friday ecumenical Procession of Witness Good Friday Service of Meditation
12 April	Eucharist at Christ the King, Sung Eucharist at St John's
26 April	Annual Parochial Church Meeting

On Maundy Thursday, **9 April**, we have the Commemoration of the Last Supper - 8pm, at St John's. This is another joint service with All Saints'.

The Good Friday ecumenical Procession of Witness, is on **10 April**. All are welcome, young or old, to join in this event, which starts from Christ the King car park, at 10am. Surely we deserve good weather, this year! In the afternoon, we have our Good Friday Service of Meditation, with music, at St John's, at 2pm - for an hour.

All of this is leading to Easter, the Feast of the Resurrection of Christ, the oldest and greatest feast of the Christian church - and the day when all Christians attend church, don't they?

The arrangements for Easter Day **12 April** are:

9.30am Eucharist at Christ the King and

11am Sung Eucharist at St John's

Everybody welcome; we expect a full church

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting will be held on Sunday **26 April**, following the 10am service, at Christ the King Church, Sonning Common.

Despite the "credit crunch", we hope for a generous response to collection for Christian Aid, during May.

Our clergy and members wish all readers a Happy Easter

Neil Scott (Lay Chairman, Parochial Church Council)

A Farmer's Diary: Springtime

A look at the season's farming activities in the parish.

All of us are very privileged to live out here in the countryside, but very many are perhaps not too sure of what is happening out in the fields that surround us and perhaps why it is happening. This new feature is an attempt to let everyone know what is generally happening on the farm at this time of the year. Both here within our parish and also as you may drive around other parts of the country.

Many farmers will have spent the dormant winter period patching up any gaps in their hedges by planting new seedlings, known as 'whips'. They may also have planted a few specimen trees, which will be allowed to grow to their full maturity and beauty.

When the weather allows, tractors can be seen in the arable fields of winter-sown cereals (mainly wheat and barley, the crops some people think is grass at this time of the year) plus oilseed rape (the yellow flowering crop) dosing with fertiliser to encourage rooting and general well being. Grassland will also be top dressed with nitrogen so that it will be able to support more animals or produce a strong growth for later cutting as hay or silage, which will then be kept for

next winter's livestock feed. The deep cuts you see in the grassland are done along with harrowing to rake out any old dead grass, promote new growth, and get a bit more air into the soil. Cereals will be rolled to conserve moisture in the coming summer months and to push down any stones that could cause damage to any machinery later in the year, particularly the harvesting machinery.

Soon you will also see sprayers applying doses of herbicides for weed control and fungicides to reduce disease.

You may well notice in the 'tramlines' of blank rows running the length of arable fields. By blanking off specific sections on the seed drill at drilling time, the farmer creates these tramlines to make it easier to drive tractors and other machinery over the cultivated land. They may seem haphazardly spaced, but they are, in fact, set out to match the width of fertiliser spreader and sprayer. This avoids any over or under lapping of applied materials.

Many dairy and beef farmer's who have spring calving herds of cows,

will be busy (day and night) making sure that they are checked regularly in case they need assistance with calving. Those with sheep lambing will be doing the same. Usually, cattle and sheep are yarded for the calving and lambing period to make it easy to spot difficult births and give help quickly. But, within 24 hours or so, when all is considered well, both will then be turned out to pasture unless the weather is exceptionally cold.



So, as spring progresses, look out for the new calves and lambs in the fields, and get children to measure out the tramlines if they happen to cross public footpaths.

Many farmers also take especial care to promote wildlife in their hedges. Look out for the special signs, which tell you what has been done.

Spring is a time of rapid change, and a time when you are more likely to be out in our fields, so do keep an eye out for everything that is going on.

Roddy Young, Giles Martin.

Loss of a Landmark

The English inn has been a feature of the urban and rural scene for centuries. Now, the rate of closure of many long established hostelrys has meant the disappearance of familiar landmarks. On the A4074 at Cane End, a conspicuous landmark, *The Fox*, has become the *Palm Tree* restaurant. A map of Cane End after the enclosure of the neighbouring commons in 1864 shows the *Fox Inn* within that familiar triangle of roads indicating, without further research, that there has been a *Fox* at Cane End for at least 140 years.

The Thames Travel bus timetable gives X39 and X40 stopping times at "Cane End, The Fox". The Thames Valley Cricket League handbook provides directions to Kidmore End CC from Reading and the south which include "turn right at *The Fox*, Cane End". Many readers probably give similar directions to their visitors. Larger scale Ordnance Survey maps also indicate the locations of hotels, inns and public houses. Thirsty travellers need to carry out thorough reconnaissance in these times of change!

Keith Atkinson

Strategic Matters

For the past two years Reading Borough Council has been working on proposals to put before the Department of Transport a TIF (Transport Innovation Fund) bid. The bid would be substantial, probably in the region of £250 to £300 million.

The principal purpose of the TIF would be to control and relieve congestion in the Reading area. In July 2008 an Independent Transport Commission produced a report, endorsed by Sir David Rowlands, former Permanent Secretary at the Department for Transport, which, among several recommendations, included a recommendation for a new crossing of the Thames. The report took into account the evidence they had received in favour and also referred to the evidence of the Oxfordshire County Council "that they have consistently opposed a bridge and remain concerned that improved

capacity across the Thames would only serve to increase traffic flows and impact adversely on settlements such as Henley and Sonning Common." The report and the TIF bid were discussed by the Parish Council in October 2008 with a view to determining how it could play a part in influencing the content of the proposals so that the interests of residents in the parish are properly taken into account. Meetings have now been held in January with representatives of Oxfordshire CC (which we know remains opposed to any third crossing which increases traffic flows within this area) and in March with representatives of Reading Borough Council, at both of which all the parishes within South Oxfordshire were themselves represented at Councillor Level. A Steering Group of those Parish Councils has now been set up with a view

to developing a common approach, if that is practicable, to ensuring that the proposals, when they emerge, fully take into account the interests of residents.

More generally, South Oxfordshire DC launched a campaign in March 2008 to save the Green Belt in and around South Oxfordshire from proposed development. Your Council believes that we are more likely to make progress by participating with other Parish Councils in respect of all issues connected with the Reading TIF, not least in supporting Green Belts or the extension of AONB's or both so that the countryside is protected and that the parish of Kidmore End retains its special character. KEPC is represented on the Steering Group by Councillor John Swift and on the Executive Committee by Councillor Sue Biggs.

Waste Collection

You will have received a circular from the new waste collection contractor, telling of changes starting on June 8th. We will all get a micro chipped green bin and a caddy for food waste, a larger micro chipped green bin for mixed recycling and a micro chipped grey bin for the rest. The microchips are apparently for tracking our bins! We are not told where we should put all these bins for the tidiness of the parish, however, and this could be a problem for those of you with smaller properties.

The food waste will be collected weekly, the other items rotating fortnightly. Also the day your collection takes place is likely to change.

The new arrangements leave you with your existing green boxes, which, I understand, you are free to keep. How you might get rid of them, however, is another matter, as they won't fit into the new green bin for recycling. You might want to take them to Oakley Wood recycling centre, but unfortunately this was closed at the end of March and will remain closed for at least three months.

If anyone can make up a rhyme to help the rest of us remember which week is green bin and which week is grey bin, then we would love to publish it.

Curiosity Corner - *The Well in Kidmore End*

A look at one aspect of the parish for the young.

Do you spend a lot of time learning literacy at school? Well here is a poem you can read out in class one day – if you dare. How many puns can you find?

The Well

Before you turn another page
Remember parishioners from another age
Who had to draw their water slowly
From a well that was oh so holy.



Ladies wound down a bucket each day
To the centre of the Earth they heard some say
Then they hauled it up with all their might
Which gave them muscles that would give you a fright.

And all the while their men stood near
Propping up their jugs of beer
In and out of the inn, then new
They staggered, with pints more than a few
And all in times you must just note
Well before ladies got the vote.

Well have things changed as well they oughter
Now we all have running water?
Of course not, it is plain to see
Who still goes out and makes the tea?!

(The editor will place himself in a pillory to receive rotten eggs after that!)

Well facts produced on the demand of George Malaperiman and translated by his mum, dad and the editor. Some have answers, some you have to do for yourself.

How many tiles are there on the well roof?

Go and count them with the help of your mum and dad. By the way they are made of wood and so they are called shingles.

How deep is the well?

About 218 ft (its in feet because it's an old well). If you dropped a stone that fell at about 30 feet a second, how long before you heard a splash?

How long did it take to haul up the bucket?

You can work this one out, too. About a foot a second, so 218 feet would take....?

Where does the water come from?

If you dig your garden you will find it is stony clay, but underneath that is chalk rock and water can seep through chalk. So the well taps in to the chalk.

The well is so deep because in summer the level of water in the chalk falls and the well has to be deep enough to provide water all year.

How big was the bucket?

They varied, but say about 5 gallons. By the way, a pint of water weighs a pound and a quarter, and there are eight pints to a gallon. Ask your mum and dad to help you to work out how much 5 gallons weigh.

Now imagine carrying that back home each day for your bath. How often do you think people used to bath?

The notice says 6d. What is that in today's money?

There were 240 pence in a pound. Over to you...

What do all the wheels do?

They make up something called a gear, which makes it easier to lift heavy weights.

Kidmore End Cricket Club

Junior Cricket Activities

Outdoor training begins on 20th April, weather permitting. U7/8 boys and girls and U13 boys will train from 6.30 pm to 8 pm on Monday evenings; U13 girls and U11 boys on Tuesday evenings; and U9 and U15 boys on Wednesday evenings. U17 boys will train with senior members on Thursday evenings. We intend to maintain our ability to provide quality cricket for nearly 200 youngsters, but we will be relying heavily on parental input across the range of the club's activities.



Any enquiries about junior cricket should be directed to Rob Potter. He can be contacted on 972 3043.

The Season Ahead

The club season begins on 18th April, when Kidmore End 1st XI entertains Hurst with a 1.30 pm start. Our opponents in the nPower Village Cup will be Oxford Downs at home on Sunday, 3rd May. On Saturdays, 25th April and 2nd May, the 1st XI plays Eversley at home and Amersham away, with reverse fixtures for the 2nd XI. Marrant Thames Valley League matches begin on 9th May, with the 1st XI playing at home against Cove. The 2nd XI is away to Stoke Green 2nds, while the 3rd XI plays Odiham 2nds away. Thames and Chilterns Sunday Competition matches begin on 10th May, when Slough visits Gallowstree Common to play the 1st XI.

TVL Cricket

Kidmore End CC matches at Gallowstree Common in the *Marrant* Thames Valley League in 2009.

Date	Start	1st XI v	2nd XI v
9 May	1.30pm	Cove	
16 May	1.30pm		Cove 3
23 May	1.30pm	NPL Teddington	
30 May	1.30pm		Wokingham 3
6 June	1.30pm	Wokingham 2	
13 June	1.30pm	Reading 2	
20 June	1.30pm		Hillingdon Manor 2
27 June	1.30pm	North Maidenhead 2	
4 July	1.30pm		Bagshot 2
11 July	1.30pm		Stoke Green 2
18 July	1.30pm	Farnham Common	
25 July	1.30pm		Henley 3
1 August	1.30pm	Boyne Hill	
8 August	1.30pm		Burnham 3
15 August	12.30pm		Chalfont St Peter 2
22 August	12.30pm	Falkland 2	
29 August	12.30pm		Bracknell
5 September	12.30pm	Henley 2	

Obituary – Professor Trevor Morris

11th April 1930 – 2 February 2009

Professor Trevor Morris died in February this year. Trevor had been a Parish Councillor since March 2005. He had made a significant contribution to all aspects of Parish activities in particular he was Editor of the Parish Newsletter and a key member of the Fund Raising Group for the new Pavilion. Trevor contributed not just as a Parish Councillor he made a huge contribution to Tokers Green where he lived. With his wife Mary he instigated and managed with enormous tact and patience the circulatory dinners in the village and was one of the key contributors to the Tokers Green Garden Open Days. He will be very sadly missed.

As many of you will know Trevor was Emeritus Professor of Animal Production at Reading University with an international reputation as a poultry scientist. The following is an extract from a eulogy given at his funeral by Professor Tony Giles OBE who was a close personal friend and colleague of Trevor's.

"Trevor Morris was a man of many parts – a family man, churchman, singer, walker, gardener par excellence, traveller, and parish councillor and so on. He gained a B Sc, PhD and D Sc degrees from Reading University and became a Professor in 1981.

He left his Gloucester family farm in 1948 to come to Reading for his first degree, it's said he liked the look of the place – town and gown; well, he must have – he stayed for sixty years – becoming a Reading man through and through.

When he graduated in 1951 the University invited him to stay on as a Demonstrator and from then on, with a minor break for National Service, his career progressed until 1995 when he retired. This progression no doubt reflected his excellence in each of the four strands of academic life: teaching, research, outreach and administration.

After retirement Trevor continued to travel, speak and publish – and more especially spearheaded the raising of funds that made the completion of Reading University's splendid new Agricultural Building – What a legacy.

Trevor's last publication was as co-author of a book on ducks and when I asked him as only a good friend can "Trevor what do you know about ducks" he replied "Not much when I started, but plenty when I had finished".

I think that says a lot about Trevor – willing to accept any challenge and in accepting it, mastering it. Perhaps that's the man we will most remember and respect – multi talented; often single minded, but a genial and kindly man, with a ready smile – someone we are all the richer for having known.

Community Policing

We would like to remind people about home security; there has been an increase in house burglary in the Henley area, the most vulnerable time being late afternoon and early evening. We would remind you to secure windows and doors every time you leave your property.

Youths from the north of the country are in the Kidmore End area attempting to sell small household items on your doorstep.

The Neighbourhood Team will be carrying out regular patrols around the Cricket Pitch area following some criminal damage there.

We are continuing to develop the Henley Rural Pub Watch to share information in an effort to reduce crime.

We will be advertising Police Surgeries in the coming weeks, please look out for the posters or consult the Thames Valley Police neighbourhood website. (See the back page for contact details)

WPC Julie Greenough

PCSO Janice Smith

Kidmore End Pre-School

We have been having a very busy time since Christmas. We all enjoyed the snow, although preschool was shut for quite a few sessions while the snow melted! Now, hopefully, the weather will start to get a bit warmer and we can enjoy the outside space at the Parish room. We are learning all about nursery rhymes, so the Parish room is decorated with pictures including 'Humpty Dumpty', 'The Grand Old Duke of York', clocks and mice from 'Hickory Dickory Dock', all the animals in 'Hey diddle diddle', flowers from the rhyme 'Mary, Mary quite contrary' and lambs from 'Little Bo Peep'. All the artwork and collages are lovely. We are visiting real lambs at Ipsden at the end of term in April, but I don't think that we will meet Little Bo Peep there.

Earlier in the year, we celebrated Chinese New Year on 22nd January, and ate lots of pancakes on Shrove Tuesday in February. In March we celebrated St. David's Day and St. Patrick's Day, and we did not forget a very important date on Sunday 22nd March (Mothering Sunday). We have been going to the 'Little lambs' church group at the Church. The children really enjoy

Best wishes

Caroline Aldridge (Pre-school Manager, 972 3700)

this group, and it is a good way for the pre-school children to meet other children in the Parish.

Our important news is that our annual Easter Egg Hunt at Gallowstree Common Pavilion will be on Sunday 5th April 2009 from 2pm until 4pm. This is a great tradition in the local community and we are grateful to the residents in Gallowstree Common who put up with all the chaos on that day. Hopefully we won't have the rain that we had last year. For those of you who would like to come along, there will be delicious homemade cakes, teas, coffees, hot dogs from a great local butcher and beer to wash them down with. To keep the children amused there will be bouncy castles, face painting, the Easter egg hunt trail in the nearby woods and plenty more. There will also be a silent auction with some fabulous prizes. Tickets can be purchased from Adele Hawkes 972 4845 and are £2.50. This fund-raiser is our most important one of the year, and enables the pre-school to buy new toys and to partly fund our summer outing. This year we



would like to put some of the proceeds from this day towards a covered bench at the Parish room which everyone will be able to enjoy.

Talking about fund raising, our donations from the Christmas Shopping Extravaganza and our 'Bring a bear to preschool' day came to a grand total of £45 for Children in Need. We also raised over £60 for Comic Relief on Friday 13th March by having a pyjama party at the Parish room. The children were all very excited and noisy, but we all had a wonderful time eating red snacks and making 'red nose' biscuits.

The older children are getting ready to go to Big School, and during the summer we run extra sessions on a Monday and Friday afternoon to help them get used to the idea and to introduce them to their new class room and teachers at Kidmore End Primary School.

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

Charity activities at the Reformation, Gallowstree Common

As an important part of the community we are enthusiastic about raising money for local charities, e.g. Sue Ryder, Air Ambulance, and, as you know, we recently hosted a log-splitting competition. The crowds proved that it was a great event for the local community and a fantastic sum of £1,676.50 was raised for the parish pavilion.

Coming up, we're taking part in the first ever National Cask Ale Week (6-13th April). With 39 pubs continuing to close every week, we strongly believe in promoting the importance and pleasures(!) of drinking real ale in pubs - especially in small community pubs like ourselves.

Local customers are looking forward to getting together and celebrating St George's Day (Thursday 23rd April) again - this year with a tractor run & spit roast, all dressed up in armour & swords off course!

www.the-reformation.co.uk (972 3126)

Local Weather Report: Year 2008/2009

	Average Minimum Temperature		Average Maximum Temperature		Rainfall	
	Cel	Fahr	Cel	Fahr	mm	in
November	3.1	37	9.6	49	87	3.4
December	0	32	5.6	42	30	1.2
January	-1.6	29	5.6	42	66	2.6
Rainfall, 3 months to end of January					183	7.2



Total rainfall during the previous 12 months
(February '08 to January '09)

783 30.8

This is 14 % above the normal average twelve month figure of 685mm (27 in) or 57 mm / 2 ¼ inches per month.

There was a long dry spell without any measurable rain (or snow) for the last ten days of December through to almost the middle of January.

Lowest and highest temperatures during the last 3 months

	Lowest		Highest	
November	-3.6C	26F (23 rd)	13.8C	57F (9 th)
December	-5.7C	22F (30 th)	11.7C	70F (22 nd)
January	-8.9C	16F (7 th)	10.4C	50F (17 th)



This period has had some long spells of cold nights, with the night time temperature below freezing for a total of 46 nights, compared with 29 for the same time last year. This started with twelve nights at the beginning of December, with a further seventeen from Boxing Day, through to the middle of January. There were additional short spells during the remainder of January.

Indication of these very cold nights are shown in the readings above.

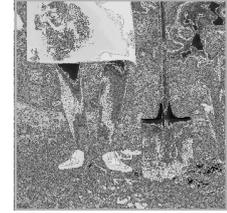
Derek Brown (972 3895)

Duckhouse to be Re-Moored

Residents will probably have noticed that one of the duckhouses in Kidmore End pond has come adrift from its moorings. This has meant that the broods of ducklings and moorhens are exposed to predators. Two volunteers propose to come to the rescue and to re-fix the structure to its moorings. If anyone else would like to help (maybe one or two of the mums and dads whose children so enjoy feeding the ducks) please contact Derek Brown (972 3895) or Rupert Gutteridge (972 4562).

Gardening

Welcome everyone to a new year. Hopefully all the bulbs that you planted last autumn are now starting to flower and your garden and/or pots are looking bright and cheerful. Spring is a very busy time for all gardeners, so read on for some jobs to do now!



Lawn Care The wet summer and winter has encouraged moss growth. Do not get too down in the mouth. All lawns will have some moss in them. Moss will stay green all year round, even in a drought, but if you really hate moss, then now is the time to start eradicating it! Good drainage is key to this, so improve drainage by spiking the lawn (making holes with a garden fork), using a lawn dressing (sand that is brushed into the holes made when the lawn is spiked), and using a propriety 'feed and weed' with moss killer.

Removing the dead moss and thatch (dead grass) with a rake is hard work, but it does work! Just do a small area at a time, or hire a de-thatching machine to do the job for you. If there are spring flowering bulbs in your lawn, these should be fed after flowering with Fish, blood and bone (organic), Growmore or similar (NPK fertilizer with trace elements) to promote good flowering next year. Green bulb leaves should be left un-mowed for 6 weeks after flowering, but the longer the leaves are left, the better the flowers will be next year.

Weeding Little and often is the motto. It has been very hard getting into the garden to do any work this winter because it has been too cold and wet, so just do your best now that it is getting warmer. Tidy up the borders, cutting back dead growth and splitting up herbaceous plants which are getting too big. Shrubs that are getting too big can be cut back now with the exception of the Mediterranean ones which are a bit fussy and should be left until the nights are warmer.

Colour Do not be tempted to buy any summer bedding until after the first May bank holiday. I know that trays of bedding look lovely, but walk away. Summer bedding hates the cold, and one frosty night will mean that you will have to go back to the garden centre to buy replacements. If you have a bit of bare ground, sow some hardy annuals. They will come up year after year, and most are loved by bees and butterflies.

Beginner's Veggie Patch Hopefully your veggie patch is dug over, weed free and just waiting for the first sowing of lettuces and carrots! Assuming that this is the case, warm up the soil by covering with black plastic. Once the soil is warm, you can start sowing some of the seeds that you bought during the winter! Read the packets as to the best time to sow. Remember that salad crops should be sown every 3 weeks to maintain a steady supply, and only sow a few seeds at a time. Most lettuce seed packets contain over 200 seeds. This does not mean that you should sow all 200 seeds at once! Just how many lettuces can you eat in a week? If you are going to grow potatoes, get the tubers now and place them somewhere light to 'chit' (allowing small shoots to develop). Potatoes can be successfully grown in large pots on the patio (or black bin liners), and taste delicious. Sow peas, sugarsnaps and mange toutes now. Take appropriate action to prevent your precious seeds and seedlings being eaten by mice and birds. Wait a bit before sowing any of the beans with the exception of broad beans (think of beans like summer bedding; they hate the cold)! If you have an empty window ledge, sow tomatoes, courgettes and cucumbers in April. These seedlings hate the cold, and will die if placed outside too early. Alternatively, buy young vegetable seedlings from the garden centre or from Mr Hanson.

Butlers Orchard play area

I am proposing to start a residents group in Kidmore End to try to get a grant to improve our play area. Lottery money has already been set aside to improve play areas all over the country, so all we have to do in the first instance is apply! Butlers Orchard play area is the only communal play area in Kidmore End, and of great benefit to families with children. If you are interested in joining the 'Friends of Butlers Orchard play area', and any and all offers of help would be gratefully received, or if you would like to learn a little more about this project, then please contact me.

Thank you

(Editor's note: The Parish Council Capital Items Precept will go some way to help with this).

Happy Gardening

Caroline Aldridge (972 3700, caroline_aldrige@btinternet.com)

