



Kidmore End Parish Council

Cane End

Chalkhouse Green

Gallowstree Common

Kidmore End

Tokers Green

Newsletter Winter 2024

Issue 154

Happy New Year!



2024 certainly started as 2023 left off as far as the weather is concerned. What a wet time we have been having! That said we are fortunate that our Parish lies on relatively high ground, and the dreadful flooding has not directly affected our villages. The additional water in the village pond at Kidmore End did, however, cause the duck house to pull away from its supports leaving it drifting into the reeds. Not to be deterred, three men and a boat came to the rescue and returned the house to its rightful place. Our thanks go to Grant Readings, John Davies and James Dockree.

The Newsletter team would like to wish everyone in the Parish a very happy New Year – we hope you enjoy reading the quarterly news of the parish and we do welcome contributions about activities and events in our villages so please consider sending something in time for the Spring issue. Publication dates and contact details are always listed on the back page.

The Editors

Chair Report



As we take the Christmas decorations down, I would like to wish you all a very Happy New Year. As always, there is lots to report, and I will start with the budget for the next financial year. We are all facing a difficult financial future, and it is no different for Kidmore End Parish Council. At the meeting in December, we took the decision that our anticipated end of year balance of £1920 would offer sufficient provision for contingencies, while cash flow would be sustained, if necessary, by using the Community Infrastructure Levy monies. This means that we intend to increase the precept by up to 5% to £47,000, to ensure that we have funds for all the projects that we want to do in 2024-25. This sounds like a lot of money, but your parish council is surprisingly good value, with this precept equivalent to a Council Tax payment of £66.15 per Band D property, or £5.51 per month or £1.27 a week. So an overall increase of £3.15 per Band D property compared with 2023-2024. However, there will be very little money available if there is an emergency or if an unanticipated project emerges in 2024.

The precept will be used to continue all the jobs that we normally do, like cutting the verges and other areas that we mow regularly, keeping the play areas in Kidmore End and Gallowstree Common in good order, maintaining the pavilion and allotments, looking after the pond in Kidmore End and maintaining the new Village Green in Tokers Green. Unfortunately, we will have some additional costs in 2024, including an unanticipated project to protect the well in Kidmore End, and a huge financial hole to plug at the pavilion in Gallowstree Common.

The future financial sustainability of the pavilion at Gallowstree Common is not a new problem, but Covid and the huge increases in the costs of electricity has exacerbated and highlighted the need to put in place plans to ensure future financial sustainability. Your parish council has been working hard to address this issue. Your council and the charity tasked with managing the pavilion and recreation ground in Gallowstree Common on behalf of the council have been in talks. The Playing Fields Committee have tried turning off the heating to save money, but this idea has not been workable, so another plan needs to be put in place to ensure that those hiring the pavilion find the room warm enough to use. Further talks with Kidmore End Cricket Club (KECC) are ongoing. We hope to have talks with all stakeholders, including neighbours, hirers of the pavilion, and the anchor tenants, KECC, to develop a plan to protect the financial sustainability of the pavilion over the next few months. For those interested, I know that I was hoping to publish something in this newsletter. I will need to refer you to the parish council website. These documents are live and will be updated as and when new information is available, so the internet is the best way of keeping updated with new developments.

News from the Parish Council

We had a memorable celebration for our Clerk, Mr Penfold, on Wednesday 13 December 2023, with over 30 people coming along to thank Mr Penfold for looking after the parish for 50 years. I would like to thank everyone who made the evening such a wonderful event, particularly all the ex-councillors who made the effort to come out on a damp and cold evening. Mr Penfold was clearly touched, and I think that he will remember the evening with fondness.

I would like to welcome Nick Room to the parish council. Nick was co-opted at the October meeting, so it was too late to report in the last newsletter. This means that we have a full complement of 10 parish councillors, for the first time in several years.

News from the parish

The well at Kidmore End needs urgent repairs. This will mean that the well will be fenced off as soon as we have permission from OCC Highways. We plan to do any urgent works during school holidays, for obvious reasons.

The new village green at Tokers Green is looking splendid. Please see the report later in the newsletter.

Thank you to Grant Readings who sorted out the vandalised window in the phone box at Chalkhouse Green. We are in the early stages of looking at moving this phone box to the other side of the road, where it will be safe from the encroaching hedge and won't be splashed by the huge puddle, which seems to be a permanent water feature because of all the rain this last year.

In this issue

<i>Happy New Year!</i>	1
<i>Chair Report</i>	2
<i>From the District Councillor</i>	3
<i>John Howell MP writes</i>	4
<i>The Parish Church</i>	4
<i>St Michaels Church</i>	5
<i>Tokers Green News</i>	5
<i>Gardening Update</i>	7
<i>The Asian Hornet</i>	9
<i>Dates for your diaries</i>	9
<i>Useful Numbers and Contacts</i>	10

Planning

There are two Local Plans to check out. One in Reading where Reading Borough Council is now consulting on the Local Plan Partial Update (Consultation on Scope and Content under Regulation 18) until 31 January 2024. You can find the documents here <https://www.reading.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/planning-policy/new-local-plan/local-plan-partial-update/infrastructure-local-plan-partial-update/>. The other Local Plan is the Joint South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse district councils Local Plan 2041. This Joint Local Plan will guide the kinds of new housing and jobs needed and where they will go, informing planning application decisions for the districts. Planning policies to help address the climate emergency, restore nature, and meet needs of residents, such as delivering genuinely affordable low-carbon homes with the right infrastructure to go with it. The consultation period starts in January, so you can find details at letstalk.oxfordshire.gov.uk.

Community Infrastructure Funds

We are in the process of looking at further projects. We have agreed to spending funds on a new play train at Gallowstree Common which will be inclusive, and a great new addition to the play area. This project will be actioned when the weather improves in the spring. I have a feeling that new notice boards in Tokers Green, Gallowstree Common, Cane End and Chalkhouse Green would be greatly appreciated by parishioners. In addition, we have started looking at placing a defibrillator in the phone box at Cane End. Please send ideas to me or the clerk at clerk@kepc.info.

Other News

What a treat to have the Christmas tree next to the war memorial in Kidmore End. It looked beautiful, and it certainly was the centre piece for Christmas spirit in the parish. Thank you to the Flower Ladies and their helpers.

Caroline Aldridge chairman@kepc.info



From the District Councillor



After many years on Goring Heath Parish Council, I stood for the District Council as I was not impressed by some of the decisions taken by the planning committee when I attended as a parish council representative.

Now I am on the District council, and on the planning committee, I have been able to influence some of the decisions to be made in line with the values that I hold, and I am pleased that some of those decisions have been upheld on appeal.

There are still cases where approval is given for developments that I don't like, but it is really a good thing that these decisions are not based on personal preferences but in accordance with national and local policy. National Policy is set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), and one of the main elements of the NPPF is that there is a presumption in favour of sustainable development. Of course just what is meant by sustainable is not at all clear, and there are often conflicting policies to consider about a development.

When it comes to considering actual planning applications, one of the matters that parish councils will feel most strongly about is retrospective applications, in other words a planning application for something that has already been developed. However, there is no local or national policy which requires the fact that an application is retrospective is relevant to a planning decision; the decision must only be made on planning grounds. Similarly, an application cannot be refused or approved because of who the applicant is, or the claimed personal needs of the applicant such as family size or need to accommodate an aged relative.

One of the reasons retrospective applications come forward is that they arise as part of the process of addressing a planning enforcement matter, in other words development has taken place that should have had planning consent. A retrospective application regularises the position. Although many people have an expectation that enforcement means that the council – or demolition contractors – move in to remove or demolish what has been built, that rarely happens. Readers of the Henley Standard may be aware of the saga of an unlawful art studio that was built at Rotherfield Peppard, and this was a case where the developer used all the options available to try and legitimise an unlawful development. However, I believe that demolition and site clearance is now in the offing. A huge expense must have been incurred by this developer in both building work and legal and professional costs, all wasted.

There are few cases as dramatic as this “Art Studio” at Rotherfield Peppard, and very often a retrospective application, brought forward through enforcement, is granted. This is because the development does not cause “Planning harm” and might well have been granted consent if it had gone through the normal, proper process. At other times changes are made to something that is already built to fix the objectionable aspects of the development.

Other countries take a more robust attitude. Some years ago I was walking a coastal path in Turkey, and found that a waterside café recommended in my guide book had been demolished, as had several villas nearby that had been built illegally. I don’t suppose that the process in Turkey had taken as long as it does here, where the Art Studio case has been going on for about 6 years.

The Local Plan, drafted in compliance with the NPPF, sets out the policies for development, and while there is a current plan, a new Joint Local Plan (JLP2041) is being developed with Vale of White Horse, and there will be a consultation opening very shortly. The results of the 2022 Consultation which will help to frame this new Joint Local Plan is on the SODC website, and it is interesting to see the variety of views that are expressed about issues. I would urge everyone to respond to the next round of consultations on the forthcoming Joint Local Plan 2041.

Councillor Peter Dragonetti,

District Councillor for Kidmore End, Whitchurch, Goring Heath and Mapledurham

John Howell MP writes...



I would like to begin this month by wishing all my constituents a peaceful Christmas, and to send my best wishes for the year ahead.

I know that, for many, life is not easy, and that personal and global struggles can weigh us down. Across the world too many people are still being affected by oppressive regimes and the effects of war. Still more suffer as a result of natural disaster. Our thoughts and prayers go out to anyone suffering at this time.

Here at home, many continue to feel the impact of the rising cost of living. However, I hope that this year has brought some respite with the successful work to reduce the level of inflation and the measures that the Government has introduced to help ease the burdens on households across the country. Further measures planned for next year will continue to improve the situation.

There are never easy or straight forward answers to the big issues of our day. There will always be different solutions to consider, and any proposals will have knock on issues to be considered and weighed up against the alternatives. I am always interested to learn of the different views that people have and to consider them against my own. We may have to agree to differ, but discussion is helpful.

Closer to home when I look around the constituency and read the many parish magazines that are sent to me, I am always grateful for the generosity of time that so many people give to their communities in so many different ways. There are those who sit on our local councils and parish meetings and work at the challenges of local decision making; those who organise the wide-ranging group activities for others week by week or month by month; those who volunteer to maintain community facilities and our environment. Those who drive people to medical appointments or do shopping for those who are not able to do it themselves. There are so many people who volunteer in a wider range of ways it is impossible to list them all. I would like to take this opportunity to pass on my sincere thanks to this army of volunteers who work throughout the year to strengthen our communities and make our towns and villages desirable places to live and work. Your generosity is very much appreciated. Thank you all.

We never know what each year will bring and as another new year comes nearer, I remain optimistic and hopeful that those things that we hope will get better do, and that we will find new solutions and innovations to resolve some of the bigger problems of the world.

Whatever your beliefs, I do sincerely hope that the peace of the Christmas season may bring you some comfort and joy.

Printed and promoted by John Howell MP House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA

The Parish Church

As I write, Christmas is almost upon us, but you will be reading this in January 2024, so may we wish you all a Happy New Year and a carefree and healthy 2024!

Many people walk past our village church and say how pretty it is, especially in spring when the primroses and crocuses are out in abundance. Some of you come to church regularly, some to the occasional service, and some come at Christmas or Easter. Others are glad to be able to use the church for those important milestones in their lives,

christenings, weddings and funerals. It matters not; this is *our* church and along with the School and the New Inn, is very much part of the tapestry of our village life.



As you know, plans are proceeding for the development of the church, and the Appeal has now been launched. It is hoped that the plan would allow the church to be used as a community asset, as there will be space at the back for meetings, with storage to include a kitchenette, and an extension by the existing porch, with a toilet and more storage space. The electrics and the heating will be upgraded, and the church will be redecorated. Outside, there will be better lighting and the paths will be improved.

We will need to raise around £600,000 to complete this ambitious plan, and the PCC is working on getting grants to cover some of it. However, the remainder will have to be raised locally and this is where we would ask for your help. There is so much talent in the Parish, so we wondered if anyone had any ideas for, or experience of fund-raising. If so, please do contact our churchwarden, Nick Room, churchwardennick@gmail.com. We would also like to ask for your support for the various fund-raising events which will take place over the next year. Details of these will be published in due course.

Looking back, the autumn was busy, with a concert and a wine-tasting evening, both of which were very successful and enjoyed by so many of you. The Remembrance Sunday service by the War Memorial was well supported, and the service in church was a first as our Roman Catholic friend, Deacon Brian Theobald, gave a very thoughtful sermon. It was a truly ecumenical service.

Looking forward, please note the following dates for your diaries:

- Mothering Sunday 14th March.
- Maundy Thursday 28th March.
- Good Friday 29th March
- Easter Sunday 31st March.

Finally, as I have said before, do look at the church noticeboard and the website, and sign up to the e-bulletin for updates and full information about services and progress with the development plans. www.achurchnearyou.com/church/166.

Jocelyn Lynch

St Michaels Church

At the time of writing, we have just entered December and have had the coldest day of the winter so far. This has also ushered in the season of Advent which is intended to prepare us for the coming of Jesus. Not so much remembering his coming as a baby 2000 years ago, but that at the heart of the Christian faith is his promise that he will come again in glory. Advent leads into the Christmas season when we hope to be able to welcome friends old and new, and any visitors to the area, to celebrate Christmas with us. See our website for Mass times.

Looking back on 2023 St Michael's community has put the COVID pandemic behind it and there has been a gradual return of people to our weekend Masses. We continue to stream each Mass via YouTube for those who are unable to attend in person through illness or frailty. St Martin's our primary school in Caversham Park Village is again contributing to our family Mass on the first Sunday of the month. Social events are again beginning flourish with a wonderful parish lunch to celebrate the feast of St Michael, and a fun Christmas pudding making evening at the end of November.

Our Thoughtful Living Group continues to encourage the parish to face its responsibilities in caring for our world. This year it showed how we could have a more sustainable Christmas and encouraged our support for CIRDIC.

Every 25 years the Catholic Church celebrates a Year of Jubilee. The next is in 2025 with the theme: Pilgrims of Hope. It is meant to be a year when we are encouraged to re-establish a proper relationship with God, with one another and creation. Leading up to the Jubilee Pope Francis has dedicated 2024 as a special Year of Prayer. Here at St Michael's, we will be reflecting on prayer to help us pray more effectively for the needs of the world.

If it is not too late, every blessing for Christmas and the New Year.

Parish webs: www.saintmichaelsonningcommon.org.uk

Tokers Green News

Carol singing - was on Sunday December 17th from 5.00pm. Funds were raised as usual for the Air Ambulance from collections on the night and on the gift page set up for online donations. More detail in the next edition. For more info please contact andrew.harlandkiteuk@gmail.com and 07747 470108

Village Xmas dinners – the annual village women's dinner was on December 7th at the Pack Horse with 23 attending, and the men's dinner on December 8th at the Pack Horse with 22 attending.

Progressive Dinner – our first dinner of 2024 will take place on January 27th. Information was circulated via the village email list and the WhatsApp group with everyone invited to join a simplified event this time – just main courses in various houses and dessert together in one house. If you would like to know more, please contact gill.k.beale@btinternet.com

Defibrillator - Our local defibrillator is in a lockable red cabinet (you can get the code if needed by dialling 999 in an emergency) at the junction of Rokeby Drive and Gaskells End. For any queries, email fiona.h2009@hotmail.co.uk

Tokers Green Village Green and pond - After a long wait, we finally received the great news that the application for National Lottery funding, to support the transformation of the Village Green, has been successful. This, in addition to the support from the Kidmore End Parish Council, has enabled the project to make some great progress during November. The reduction in the tree canopy, ground reprofiling, knee rail installation and the laying of turf to increase the grassed area of the Village Green has been completed. In addition to this, a level hard surface has been introduced to provide wheelchair access to one of the benches.

The recent wet weather has not been helpful, but during December we hope to have the beech hedging planted to finalise the landscaping work. There are also plans underway to replace the aging Parish Notice Board. All of this will leave us with a Village Green that is more inviting and accessible for us all.

At the time of writing, the new turfed area is taped off with 'Please Keep of the Grass' notices. However, this instruction has been completely ignored by the Muscovy ducks from Dysons Wood Farm. They seem to approve of the changes and are now daily visitors to the Green! Sadly, one of these ducks has already been lost due to a collision with a car. The installation of some signs warning drivers of the presence of ducks is being quickly arranged.



Please contact Michael Jan-Janin if you would like to be involved in the plans and/or maintenance of the Village Green. michael@jan-janin.co.uk

Donations of stamps and printer cartridges – many thanks to everyone who have donated their used stamps and donations can be made in the box in the entrance hall at the KE school or to Ian. The stamps are donated to Hearing Dogs for the Deaf and the school recycle printer cartridges to provide some funding directly for the school.

Community Orchard – There is a lot of information – it is like a digital diary - about the orchard at <https://www.mapledurhampc.co.uk/community-orchard>

We had another round of planting 15 more fruit trees in early December (to coincide with National Tree Week). As before this was a community activity where everyone who had made a donation to fund a tree planted new trees over the same Sunday morning. We also replaced the 4 trees that had not survived. A couple of photos from the morning:



Also, during the last quarter, we prepared the ground and sowed wildflower seeds to hopefully create a beautiful meadow to enjoy in future years and the seeds were planted in early October in two 20m x 3m strips – with a strip on both sides of the footpath, to the south of the field. The seeds were kindly funded by a grant from FiPL.



We have also weeded and laid mulch around the base of the trees, mended mesh damaged by the autumnal strong wind, and varnished the bench.

Our second annual Wassail will be on January 20th from 3pm. All welcome to join in the singing and dancing around the trees to encourage their growth and health in the new year.

Staying in touch - The village WhatsApp group is very popular and a great way to get the latest news on what is happening in Tokers Green, Chazey Heath and Dysons Wood. Anyone wishing to join please contact Mike on 07540 955992 or michaelfoxton@hotmail.com

If this village update is missing news about your club, activity or plans please let me know.

We have a map of all the houses in the village which helps when a delivery driver asks for directions – you can find the map on the KEPC website - look in “Life in the Parish” and then “Village Addresses”. <https://kepc.info/life-in-the-parish/village-addresses/>

Quiz Team – The Tokers Green Quiz Team got off to a flying start in early November with a convincing win in the first match of the season against Stoke Row. If you would like to join this friendly, winning team, you might be interested to know that:

- We have a squad of nine or ten players and need a team of five for each fixture so there is no expectation that you will be able to play in every match
- Matches take place on weekday evenings (generally Tuesday or Wednesday) from November to April with roughly two fixtures per month
- Matches tend to finish by 10:00 at the latest.

If you would like to come along to a fixture and spectate, to see if it is for you, please contact Joanne on 07960 231353 or joannelhumphrey@gmail.com

Walking football – several of us play walking football regularly with Rotherfield Peppard FC. It is great exercise, with a fantastic set of men, with sessions every week on Monday evening and Thursday morning either at HighDown or Bishopswood. There are also social events and we recently had a great music / quiz evening, a trip to the racing at Newbury, regular post-match beers at the Loddon brewery and we had our annual awards celebration and a meal at The Lebanese Village in early December. Ask me for more info ian99beale@yahoo.co.uk

Ian Beale, ian99beale@yahoo.co.uk

Gardening Update

“A beautiful plant is like having a friend around the house.” Beth Ditto

As temperatures drop and more time is spent indoors, my thoughts have turned to indoor plants. There are many advantages to having plants in our homes and it’s something the younger generations, who tend to be very in tune with general wellness, are embracing. Bringing greenery indoors enhances the room, makes us feel happier and purifies the air. For many people, their home is their only garden. For this article, I will concentrate on how to look after a few indoor plant varieties and general troubleshooting.

It’s been long known that plants change their breathing overnight taking in carbon dioxide and releasing oxygen. Humans benefit from refreshed oxygen in our rooms making plants perfect companions for us, especially at night. The key to successful indoor plants is the same as that of outdoor ones – “right plant, right place.”



Many house plants originate from tropical and subtropical origins; learning where each one comes from will help provide you with the most chance for success. For example, the very popular Orchid phalaenopsis, also known as the Moth orchid, grows naturally underneath the canopy of a tree, in places like Thailand. Whilst they enjoy warm day and night temperatures of 21-23 degree Celsius, they naturally do not take in direct sunlight. Positioned on tree trunks and branches their roots never sit in soil. Instead, their efficient aerial roots absorb moisture from the air. How can we transfer this environment to our South Oxfordshire homes? Place in a well-lit, warm room, ideally by an Eastern facing window to absorb the soft morning light. Orchids are sold in clear pots filled with wood chippings that mimics their natural environment and allows these roots as much light as possible. Tap water is a little too hard for them in this area, so ideally use cooled boiled water at room temperature... the perfect way to use those "morning after" hot water bottle contents! A one-hour bath once a week will keep them flowering for 7-9 months of the year. Orchids normally send

up one stem annually, but a second growth can be encouraged if you trim back the stem to just above the first node immediately after flowering. Whilst an orchid fertiliser will benefit the plants, they do not require many nutrients.

Many people will get Poinsettia for Christmas as the red leaves (known as bracts) provide a wonderful festive display -the flowers, are in fact, the small yellow centre. I have tried to keep them going for another year. Indigenous to Mexico, where it grows as a 0.6m - 4m shrub, its temperature rarely fluctuates between night and day, and due to being close to the equator, it naturally experiences equal amounts of day and night. A lot of commercial work goes into making the Poinsettia onto supermarket shelves, including several doses of a dwarf hormone, daylight control, temperature regulation and a plastic wrap. Almost as soon as we take it out of its little greenhouse bag it will suffer and drop leaves. Even if we do manage to keep it going for a year, it will eventually become leggy as the growth hormone depletes.

At this time of year particularly, when growth is restricted outdoors and daylight hours are shorter, tending to a house plant is reported to lift mood, lower stress levels, and help stave off loneliness. This was very apparent in the pandemic years when house plant sales boomed while we were all confined indoors, and our social connections curtailed. Some plants boast more effective ability to freshen the air than others, which include the Spider plant and the Peace Lilly. The former is easy to care for enjoying indirect light and watering, except in Winter. It produces lots of babies which can be potted on. The latter is a wonderful starter house plant with beautiful glossy leaves. It's found growing in the wild on forest floors where they receive dappled light and consistent moisture. Such as with the Moth orchid, replicating these conditions is the key to getting your Peace Lilly flourishing. It will thrive in an East facing window or partial shade. Too much shade may result in failure to flower. They do best in temperatures of 21 degrees and away from cold draughts and windows. Repotting it in Spring, when it has outgrown its container will pay dividends as it will really appreciate the refreshed soil. Cut back the faded flowers, to encourage more flowers. Wait until the soil has completely dried out before watering and maintain the high humidity by misting or ideally place in the bathroom. A moistened tray of gravel in water will also do the job.



It's the caring of and tending to houseplants that makes them so rewarding. However, things do go wrong. I find the number one offence is too much love in the form of water. Plants wilt when they are dry but also likewise when they are too wet. Allowing plants to sit in a container of water causes wilting, anaerobic respiration, and root rot. Another problem is leaf scorching brought about by allowing the plant to sit in direct light, particularly dark glossy leaves which go brown

suddenly. Relocating the plant to more shade will fix this. In general, it is a good idea to move plants around the house as natural light levels change throughout the seasons. The common household pest is White fly, as it thrives and multiples in warm temperatures of 21 degrees and above. It damages the plant by sucking sap. A good wash under the tap may remove it from smaller plants. One effective method I used on my infested Bourgenvillea was to vacuum them off. Honestly, it worked! Sticky traps work, as do pesticides such as Ecofective bug clear, Rose Clear 3-in-1, and SB plant invigorator also work well. They combine nutrients to aid plant growth and fatty acids which have a physical mode of action against aphids.

Plants are verdant companions to us all, young, and old. Treating them to, favourable conditions - a warm, environment and watering with tough love - will reward us with healthier air, a calming space and who knows, we may even have the odd chat with them.

Niamh Kendall

The Asian Hornet



Readers may have seen the short article in the last newsletter explaining a little about the Asian Hornet and its potential risk to pollinators in the future. The council have agreed to fund a small-scale monitoring project this year, which I will co-ordinate. We have purchased 5 monitoring traps, one of which will be positioned in each village. A volunteer will monitor and replenish the bait in these traps during February and March, which is when the queens are looking for nest sites. It is quite possible that we will not discover any Asian Hornets this spring, but they are on their way, and we will need to be vigilant when they do arrive to manage and minimize the spread of nests. A key aim of this project is to involve the local community and to be prepared.

As some of you know, I am a beekeeper, and we have been concerned about the arrival of the Asian Hornet in the country for a time now. I would like to ask all beekeepers in the parish to also join this project by placing one or more monitoring traps in the vicinity of your apiary (although for his purpose not in the apiary). Please contact me to let me know you are participating, and I will record findings from everyone in the parish who has traps.



The Asian Hornet will be a serious pest for gardeners as well, so I invite anyone to join this initiative by placing one or more monitoring traps in your garden. The more monitoring we can do the more data we will have to help manage the spread.

Simple traps can be purchased from £6.00 (<http://tinyurl.com/htd6sm3h>).

I will be giving a short talk about the Asian Hornet and why it is so important that we learn more about this creature on Saturday 3 February, 1100-1200 (venue to be confirmed). Please message or email me to let me know if you would like to attend.

Sue Remenyi sue.remenyi@gmail.com

07791 840999

Dates for your diaries

20 January	Tokers Green 2 nd annual Wassail at the community orchard from 3pm
27 January	Tokers Green first progressive dinner of 2024
4 February	Asian Hornet Briefing
14 March	Mothering Sunday, service in St John the Baptist church
28 March	Maundy Thursday
29 March	Good Friday
31 March	Easter Sunday

First Tuesday evening of the month from May – October – Tokers Green maintenance activity at the orchard



Spring 2024

Parish Council Meetings:

24 January
21 February
20 March
17 April
22 May

Friends of Sonning Common Library Application form

<http://www.kepc.info/news.php#foscl-application>



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

If you would like to contribute to the next edition, or to the website we'd be delighted to hear from you. Articles can be sent to editor, members of the editorial board or directly to the website webmaster – see right panel for contact details.

The **closing date** for the next edition is **7 March 2024**.

Useful Numbers and Contacts

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

Crime Stoppers (anonymous) 0800 555 111
Victim Support 01865 751511

SODC email: info@southoxon.gov.uk 01235 422422
Open: Mon-Thu 8.30 am - 5.00 pm
Fri 8.30 am - 4.30 pm

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

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

Oxfordshire Highways 0845 310 1111
<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/roads-and-transport>

Fix my Street <http://fixmystreet.oxfordshire.gov.uk>

Citizens Advice Bureau (Henley)
Website <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/local/oxfordshire-south-vale/contact-us/>
Telephone 0808 278 7907

Parish Councillors

Parish Council Chairman

Caroline Aldridge chairman@kepc.info
Andrew Harland andrew.harland@kepc.info (07747470108)
Iain Pearson iain.pearson@kepc.info
Tony Bowley tony.bowley@kepc.info
Jane Mather jane.makower.mather@kepc.info
Patrick Malaperiman patrick.m@kepc.info
Candy Mason candy.mason@kepc.info
Debbie Page debbie.page@kepc.info
Grant Readings grant.readings@kepc.info
Nick Room nick.room@kepc.info

Clerk to the Council

Roger Penfold clerk@kepc.info (0118 947 3130)

District Councillor

Peter Dragonetti peter.dragonetti@southoxon.gov.uk (0118 9844711)

County Councillor

Kevin Bulmer kevin.bulmer@oxfordshire.gov.uk (07803 005680)

Diamond Jubilee Pavilion at Gallowstree Common

Bookings:
Roger Penfold 0118 947 3130

Kidmore End Memorial Hall

Bookings:
Alan Gibbon alan47b@btinternet.com

Newsletter Editorial Board

Caroline Aldridge (Editor) editor@kepc.info (0118 972 3700)
Sue Remenyi sue.remenyi@gmail.com (07791 840 999)

KEPC website <http://www.kepc.info>
Tony Bowley webmaster@kepc.info