

Kingston Parish & Church Magazine



April 2018

Village Diary

Wednesday 4 th April	Village Coffee/Tea – Village Hall – 10.30am
Saturday 7 th April	Village Pub Night – Village Hall, 6pm-10pm
Friday 27 th April	Charity Auction for the Church – Village Hall, 7pm
Tuesdays 3 rd , 17 th and 24 th April	Core Fitness Class, 10.00am & 7.15pm

Wheelie bin collection dates

Friday 6 th April	Black bin
Thursday 12 th April	Blue and Green bins
Wednesday 18 th April	Black bin
Wednesday 25 th April	Blue and Green bins

Editorial

Judging by some of the entries in this edition of the magazine, April is the month for anniversaries. It is thirty-two years since the disaster at Chernobyl and Paul Wright provides us with a fascinating eye-witness account. It is seventy-three years since the final days of the Second World War and this month's Book of the Month is a recent best-seller that covers the final days of the war in northern Italy.

Several readers have commented on how much they enjoyed David Heath's light-hearted article in last month's magazine. When I took over the editorship of this magazine, I asked readers to submit articles and David Heath was one of the first to step up. Since then he has offered several interesting submissions and a similar number of photographs. Thank you, David! This month's wonderful cover photo comes from Lee Steele and shows her new-born lambs, surely a sign that spring has sprung!?

Peter Holly pjholly45@gmail.com 01223 264 556

Vicar's Letter

Were you fooled? I mean on Sunday April 1st, of course - April Fools' Day.

Whether it's a simple prank at home, or a well thought out spoof advertisement from a major company, each year people have a go at catching each other out. Some people and companies aren't much different the other 364 days, it seems, but on April Fools' Day the aim is to have fun.

And this year, for the first time since 1956, April Fools' Day was also Easter Sunday.

What prank that was - stealing Jesus' body from the tomb to make his disciples think he'd come back from the dead! At least, that was what the Jewish authorities wanted people to believe. They had asked the Roman army to guard the tomb to stop the disciples from doing exactly that, but somehow, even with the guard, the tomb was empty. So now they were spreading the rumour of foul play.

But Jesus' disciples knew better - there was no fooling them: Jesus was back. They had seen him, heard him, touched him, eaten with him, walked with him, sometimes for hours at a time. They had started off sceptical, but had come to know beyond doubt that it was the Roman and Jewish rulers who had been fooled - Jesus really was alive, even though they had watched him die, and helped to lay his body in its tomb.

Alive to embrace Mary in the garden, alive to walk to Emmaus with Clopas and his companion, alive to cook barbecue fish beside Lake Galilee, alive to ascend to heaven while his followers watched. Alive, never to die again. Alive to prove that death is not the end.

Whatever jokes caught your attention this year - whether it was Spaghetti Trees, or King's College Choir using Helium to hit the high notes - don't be fooled about Jesus.

Revd. Steve Day

Church Services for April

Sunday 1st April EASTER SUNDAY Holy Communion 10.30am

Sunday 8th April

Evening Prayer 6.00pm

Sunday 15th April

Family Service 10.30am

Church cleaning

1st Sunday	Peter and Suzy Stokes
2nd Sunday	Donal and Monica O'Donnell
3rd Sunday	Peter Reynolds
4th Sunday	Janet Clear
5th Sunday	Linda Rimmer

Church flowers and brasses

1 st April	Miki Ellar
8 th April	Henrietta Burbidge
15 th April	Joan Reynolds
22 nd April	Kay Forsythe

Home Communion

If you cannot get out and would like to receive Holy Communion at home please let the office know and we will arrange for the sacrament to be brought to you on a regular basis. If you are having difficulty getting to church, but a lift would make that possible please contact the team office on 01480 839933 and we will be able to help.

EASTER SUNDAY

Everyone is warmly invited to our Easter Day service. You do not need to be a member of any church and you are not required to take communion. This year the service will be taken by the Revd Dr Rodney Holder, an astrophysicist who worked for the Ministry of Defence before his ordination. He was the Director of the Faraday Institute and has written extensively about the relationship between cosmology and religion. The Easter Collection will be given to 'Cambridge Sleep Easy 2018', a local project run by the YMCA Trinity Group to prevent youth homelessness.



Annual PCC Meetings

At the Church's Annual Meetings on the 20th March, the existing churchwardens, Parochial Church Council members and officers were all re-elected. The Annual Report and audited Annual Accounts are available to anyone who wishes to see them. Our Treasurer was able to report that the church's finances are on a sound footing, partly as a result of an outstanding Gift Day last year, which raised more than £5,000, and also due to the Endowment Fund, which yielded over £2,200. The Endowment Fund now stands at £56,500, an increase of £20,500 from the initial investment of £36,000 in 2016. Kingston PCC is very grateful to all those who continue to support the church, near and far, and in so many different ways.

At the time of writing we anticipate that a 'crash deck' of scaffold boards will be erected in the church roof to form a temporary ceiling: this thanks to a timely and most generous donation from a parishioner. The church should therefore be open in time for Easter and will thereafter be open every day. We are in the process of applying to the Heritage Lottery Fund for a substantial grant to fund the replacement of the ceiling and the re-roofing of the south aisle and other associated works. The total cost is estimated at £100,000.

P.R.

Mandy Ray 17th December 1963 – 6th March 2018 R. I. P.

Most parishioners will know that Mandy died on the 6th March. Although she lived at Shingled Cottage for only four years she made a huge contribution to the life of the village and church and made many friends here. Her funeral is to be on the 31st March. A full appreciation will appear in next month's magazine.

Upcoming Pub Nights

There are two special Pub Nights to add to your calendars:

- Saturday 5th May will be a curry evening;
- Saturday 2nd June will be an Easy-made pizza night and will also feature the Village Hall Phase Two Grand Opening.

Charles Peacey 1928 – 2017

Charles Peacey died on the 31st December, aged 89. A Service of Thanksgiving was held on the 19th January at the church of St Helena and St Mary, Bourn, conducted by the Revd Nigel Pearson. Charles was a faithful and much loved member of the congregation in Kingston: he was brought up to worship according to the rites of the Prayer Book and was devoted especially to Evening Prayer which, with Jean, he attended here without fail over many years.

Peter Reynolds

Charles was born near Norwich in 1928 and christened John Capel Peacey. The name Charles was a nickname given to him when he was called up in 1949; there were apparently too many “Johns” in the Mess in that year, and the name Charles sprang to mind, entirely inappropriately, following a macabre film which came out that year about a character called Charles Peace; but the name Charles stuck. He was one of four children whose father was a country vicar in Norfolk. He met Jean when he was two on a beach in Bexhill, wrote to her when at preparatory school, but didn’t make contact until some years later.

After Marlborough, he joined the Army on a Short Service Commission at a time when the forces were active on many fronts. He was posted to Singapore travelling 6 weeks on a troopship and thence to Penang armed with a revolver and 12 rounds of ammunition, for which he received no training and which he never fired. Charles transferred from a Short Service Commission to a Regular Commission in 1952, was sent to London, staying with Jean’s parents at a time she was studying to be a doctor at Barts. They married in 1954, their daughters Susan and Diana being born a few years later. The most effective form of communication then was by telegram, but the Army didn’t countenance the use of them for incidental purposes, so the message he received that “Peggy died; funeral at 3.00pm” meant that Jean was now fully qualified and had passed all 3 sections of her MB. There is no record of the Corporal Dispatch rider’s thoughts at seeing such jubilation on receipt of such apparently sad news.

Charles’ life in the Royal Engineers was anything but tedious, often being the ‘Advanced Party’ into some fairly hostile areas to prepare landing strips, basic accommodation and facilities for the forces which followed. Charles was involved in many such moves including postings to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, Malta, Singapore (again) and Mons in Belgium. In 1965, Charles was part of the Guard of Honour at the lying-in-state of Sir Winston Churchill, which he regarded as an enormous honour, the likes of which are unlikely to be repeated. Following

Charles' retirement as Colonel in 1983, he joined the ACE (Association of Consulting Engineers) as assistant and then Deputy Secretary where he worked for some 10 years.

Charles and Jean moved to Bourn in 1996 where Charles was hugely appreciated. He was Treasurer of Bourn PCC for several years, unlocking the church each morning on his regular route to fetch the morning paper. The church meant a great deal to him. He was a man of faith; he loved history and was also Treasurer of the Caxton Historical Society. Having been called up after the war, staying his full term to 55, and no doubt knowing the fate of so many who were called up a little earlier than him, Remembrance Day meant a great deal to him. And he was a keen gardener, and could regularly be seen tending the front of his and Jean's house opposite the entrance to Bourn Hall. But perhaps more important than all that background, so many in the community around him found him such a delightful person, upright, straightforward, with a high level of integrity, a great sense of humour, and a friend to so many, a brave man and a true gentleman. He was very much a family man, adored his grandchildren. He will be much missed.

Nigel Pearson

LOTS OF LOTS: AUCTION OF PROMISES

7.00PM FRIDAY 27TH APRIL IN THE VILLAGE HALL

CHARITY AUCTION

IN AID OF

ALL SAINT'S AND ST ANDREW'S CHURCH, KINGSTON

PROGRAMMES AT £2 AVAILABLE FROM

TORRIE SMITH, WILLOW TREE HOUSE 264054

LEE STEELE, ORCHARD END 264710

ALSO AVAILABLE ON THE NIGHT,

BUT YOU MAY NEED TIME TO CONTEMPLATE YOUR PURCHASES

LOTS INCLUDE

WEEK END ACCOMMODATION IN A COACH HOUSE APARTMENT IN TEWKSBURY

PRIVATE TOURS OF DOCWRA MANOR, THE FITZWILLIAM MUSEUM AND PEMBROKE COLLEGE.

BAR AND COMPLIMENTARY LIGHT SUPPER SNACKS AVAILABLE

Lee Steele

Date	Title	Bourn	Kingston	Caxton	Longstowe
Apr 1	Easter Sunday	10.30am FHC	10.30am HC	11.00am FHC	9.30am HC
Apr 8	2nd Sunday of Easter		6.00pm EP		8.30am HC
Apr 15	3rd Sunday of Easter	8.30am HC	10.30am W4A	10.30am MP	
Apr 22	4th Sunday of Easter	10.30am FW		8.30am HC	10.30am MP
Apr 29	5th Sun of Easter	10.30am Team Service at Eltisley			
May 6	Easter 6	10.30am FHC	8.30am HC	10.30am W4A	
May 13	Easter 7	10.30am W4A	6.00pm EP	10.30am MP	8.30am HC
May 20	Pentecost	8.30am HC	10.30am W4A		
May 27	Trinity	10.30am FW		8.30am HC	10.30am MP

HC = traditional Holy Communion (BCP)

MP= traditional Morning Prayer (BCP)

EP = traditional Evening Prayer (BCP)

FHC= Common Worship/All Age Holy Communion

W4A/FS = Family Service

FW = All Age Worship/Morning Prayer/Prayer & Praise/Morning Worship



The Doghouse Caxton

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We provide a flexible home/day boarding service for dogs in our family home. Dogs are cared for as they would be in their own house. A dog walking service is offered providing regular or one off walks. We hold an animal boarding licence with South Cambridgeshire District Council and have public liability insurance.

For further information contact

Hannah Hope

hannah@thedoghousecaxton.co.uk

01954 719057 07522 964975

District Councillor News

Please note that I provide a full report to your Parish Council at its monthly meeting, so please check out the meeting minutes or my blog for more details on the items discussed below.



Planning This is one issue that has been dominant in the Ward this year, in one way or another. Notably Bennell Farm for Toft for up to 90 houses, CALA Homes, Welbeck and Gladmans sites in Caldecote for total of 269 houses, and the now notorious Bourn Airfield proposed development of 3,500 houses as part of the draft Local Development Plan

Draft Local Development Plan Update The plan is still not adopted, nearly 4 years on from when the Council submitted it to the Planning Inspectors to be examined. The opposition from all communities around it has not abated, and was reinforced in the recently concluded Main Modifications consultation. You can see the full text of my response at <http://tumihawkins.org.uk/south-cambs-main-modifications-submission/>. The Council received 950 responses from across the District, and is hoping to submit the responses to the Inspectors soon, and expect to have some response later this year.

Bourn Airfield and Countryside Exhibitions Countryside properties are the proposers of Bourn Airfield Development (BAD). They recently held an exhibition of their plans for the airfield, inviting residents of nearby villages to view them. I attended and saw that their masterplan is misleading in what it shows and in particular development in areas of land that have not been allocated for it in the draft local plan. This, they say, is their vision. Seems a bit clouded to me!

I continue to be very vocal in opposition to BAD, working with StopBAD to present a united view to the Council, especially for Caldecote & Bourn residents who will be affected most.

Cambourne to Cambridge Busway – the solution that both District and County are proposing to solve the transport challenge of developing nearly 6000 new homes along the A428 corridor continues to be a farce. When will the councils listen?

Housing – Please don't forget that if you or anyone you know with links to Toft requires affordable housing, for the first time or need a bigger property, now is the time to register with the Council on the housing needs register. Go to the council website at <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/content/apply-housing>. The sites already given planning have 50% of the affordable housing allocation specifically for those with local connections.

Community Chest Grants These grants for up to £1000 are still available for voluntary, community groups and parish councils to apply for. For more information or to make an application, contact Liz Davy on 01954 713111 or on elizabeth.davy@scambs.gov.uk. If you do apply, please let me know so that I can support the application.

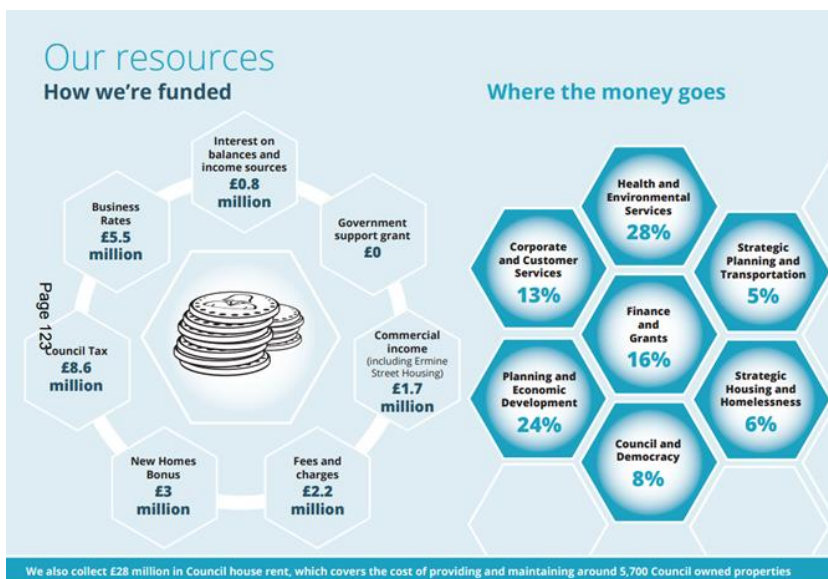
Council Finance The Council no longer gets any grant funding from central government so now has to generate its own funding in full. Most of this funding will be coming from its operation of Ermine Street as a private landlord business, New Homes Bonuses, income from other sources such as planning, building control etc. and a new Green Energy Loan fund

The Council's budget for 2018/19 municipal year has now been approved. It sees the Council increasing its element of the council tax by 4%, equivalent to £5 for an average Band D property.

This is what the council tax rates will look like for all properties, so don't be surprised when you get your notification from the council.

Table 1	Band A £	Band B £	Band C £	Band D £	Band E £	Band F £	Band G £	Band H £
County Council	833.22	972.09	1,110.96	1,249.83	1,527.57	1,805.31	2,083.05	2,499.66
Police & Crime Commissioner	132.48	154.56	176.64	198.72	242.88	287.04	331.20	397.44
District Council	93.54	109.13	124.72	140.31	171.49	202.67	233.85	280.62
Fire Authority	45.84	53.48	61.12	68.76	84.04	99.32	114.60	137.52
Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

The picture below shows where the funding for services comes from and where it goes.



Green Energy Loan Fund This is a new loan fund to be created by July 2018, with a £200,000 pot, to help small businesses and individual householders to install green energy schemes. Each applicant can borrow between £1,000 and £10,000, paying back over 3 years. Free for householders, businesses charged at 6% per annum. More details will follow soon after it is all thrashed out.

Superfast Broadband – continues to be an issue for residents of Kingston and Caldecote and I have spent a lot of time and effort helping householders get through the Openreach and BT combined nightmare systems, to get fibre broadband installed. I will continue to assist residents of the Ward to ensure everyone who wants fibre broadband gets it.

Ward Boundary changes As you know, from 3rd May 2018, new ward boundaries will become effective. Toft is moving to the new Hardwick Ward. The new Caldecote Ward will comprise Caldecote, Childerley, Bourn, Longstowe and Little Gransden. The number of district councillors reduces from 57 to 45.

This is my last article as District Councillor for the old ward. I want to say a very big thank you to the Kingston community for your support over the last 8 years, and to say it has been an honour and a privilege to serve you all. I am standing for the new Caldecote Ward of which this community will remain a part, and keep my fingers crossed! You can continue to contact me in the usual ways, by phone 01954 210840, email

tumi@tumihawkins.org.uk,
@CouncillorTumi on Twitter,
Facebook Page
<https://www.facebook.com/itsCouncillorTumi/>, and on my website at
www.tumihawkins.org.uk.

KINGSTON VILLAGE HALL FOR HIRE

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- Both newly refurbished
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Kingston residents: Before 7pm - £5. After 7pm - £7

Non residents: Before 7pm - £10. After 7pm - £13

Enquiries: Sarah Wright (secretary)

01223 263500 or 0787 999 1068

kingstonvillagehall@gmail.com

Parish Council News

Kissing gate near Toft: we have been advised that this has at last been repaired.

Grass cutting: we have renewed the contract with Buchan's Landscapes for the coming season as we believe they continue to provide a satisfactory service at a fair price. There is an agreed specification detailing what is to be cut and at what frequency. Briefly this includes greens in the parish including the playground and the Sweards (near Toft bridge), grass verges within the village boundary, and hedges at the playground, the allotments, the orchard and the Sweards. There is also a twice-yearly clearing of brambles etc on the permissive path alongside the old railway bridge. Please contact me if you believe there is any shortcoming in the service provided by Buchans or if you have any questions as to what is covered by the contract.


Parish Council elections: a last-minute reminder that if you wish to be nominated as a parish councillor for Kingston, you must complete a nomination form (available from me) and deliver it to the South Cambs District Council offices in Cambourne no later than 4pm on Friday 6 April.

Minutes of meetings: the full minutes of the last meeting and all meetings are on the village website. Go to www.kingstonvillage.org.uk and click on the *Parish Council* tab at the top. Note that the minutes of each meeting are not a legally valid record of the business of the meeting until signed by the Chair at the subsequent meeting.

Planning

- **S/3833/17/LB single story extension and basement at** Thatches, Rectory Lane: this has been refused by SCDC.
- **S/3832/17/FL new studio to replace redundant garage at** Thatches, Rectory Lane: this has been refused by SCDC.
- **S/0810/18/TC tree work at** Thatches, Rectory Lane: an application has been made to fell a mulberry tree.

Peter Stokes, Parish Clerk



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& PODIATRISTS



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Kingston Church Fete – South Sea House 14th July 2018.

Dear All,

If you are having a Spring clean, whether it's inside the home or out in the garden, please can you hold on to any items that could be sold on the Bric-a Brac, Books, Toys, Plant or Jewellery and Beauty stalls. Broken, chipped crockery would also be welcomed for the Plate Smashing game.

More details will follow in the next couple of Magazines as to whom you can pass these items onto or we can arrange collection.

Please keep the date free and join us for an afternoon of browsing, having a go at some of the games or relaxing with Tea and Cake.

Janet Clear

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Kingston Village Hall Phase 2 Renovation Progress Report.

We finally have a fully-functional large hall following the completion of the internal work in Phase 2! The improvements to aesthetics, sound and heat insulation are massive. The new solid wood floor has had a major effect on overall appearance and reducing drafts and damp, whilst the ivory-coloured new paint contrasts with the more utilitarian white in the small hall. We have soft-white, dimmable LED lighting globes and curtains which off-set the paint and help considerably in deadening the acoustics of the large space. Along with the sound-absorbing west wall and double-glazed east window, we have gained thermal and sound insulation and the new radiators mean both halls now warm up quickly. We have tried to be sympathetic to the original building in terms of painting the north, east and south walls, retaining the natural brick texture and installing galvanised conduit for electrical cables. We have also purchased 60 new padded banqueting chairs to replace the hard plastic ones, along with 17 new small café tables to add to the ambiance.



The mural has, disappointingly for some villagers, been sealed and painted over. This was an emotive issue, right until the day before the wall was painted, but the Committee relied on the village consultation in 2012, when two-thirds of the people



who completed the form voted for Option 4: make a photographic copy of the mural, reproduce and add some text and then board or paint over. We have recently commissioned a larger A1 copy reproduced from the

high-quality original, as it was felt that the current framed copy of the mural should be enlarged. I made an interesting discovery when inspecting the deteriorating surface of the mural: that it was painted on thick paper and then pasted onto the north wall. I always wondered how the children could have contributed to the painting unless they climbed a ladder. It was sad to see it go as it was part of the history of the school hall, but the deterioration over the past few years in the damp environment had rendered it beyond recovery.

The south window still needs to be repaired, prepped and painted externally and the fence re-erected, but we are waiting for better weather. Owing to the long time lapse between applying for the WREN grant and original quotes, we have incurred a 5 % over-spend, mainly as a consequence of increased material costs. We originally requested 7.5 % contingencies from the sponsor based on the over-spend in Phase 1, but they would not permit contingencies. Therefore, we must be happy that we have managed to keep the over-spend within estimate. The entire project cost c. £32,700, of which £31,000 was funded by WREN. There was a compulsory “third-party” payment of £3,500 which was made by the Parish Council at the start of the project, and I would like to thank this Committee for their generous support in pump-priming. Therefore, we have managed to produce a much-improved, safe and warm facility with reduced maintenance costs for the village community for only £5,000. There have been several new groups using the hall during the Phase 2 renovation, and I thank them for coping with the building and renovation works that sometimes disrupted their events. We are raising the costs of hire for non-village residents, but we will be maintaining the costs for residents throughout at least 2018. It is now a great, cheap facility to hire for parties, meetings, social events etc., so please utilize it.

I hope that many of you will come and inspect the hall at some stage in the near future. We are intending to have a Grand Opening of Phase 2 on 2 June, where we will be inviting the sponsors, local craftsmen who worked on the job and all villagers to help us celebrate and thank the people involved. Save the date please.

I would like to thank all the Village Hall Committee for their sterling help in completing this project and the village for your support and comments over the past six years. I think we can now be proud of our Village Hall again.

Mark Stalham,

Chairman, Kingston Village Hall Management Committee, 19 March 2018

Swaffham Bulbeck Summer Theatre

The Summer Theatre is proud to present a double bill of entertainment in 2018 - Gilbert & Sullivan's enduring operetta 'H.M.S. Pinafore' together with 'Cox and Box', a one-act comic opera with libretto by F. C. Burnand and music by Sir Arthur Sullivan. This was Sullivan's first successful comic opera.

As in previous years the productions will be staged in the wonderful 'Theatre in a Barn', Downing Farm, Swaffham Bulbeck, Cambridge CB25 0NW; dates as follows:

- Wednesday 13th June 2018 at 7.30pm - £8
- Thursday 14th June 2018 at 7.30pm - £9
- Friday 15th June 2018 at 7.30pm - £10
- Saturday 16th June 2018 at 2.30pm - £7 and 7.30pm - £10.

Tickets are available via our website, www.sbsummertheatre.com or by e-mailing sbst.tickets@gmail.com or telephoning 07541 554845. For further information about the show please contact Ruth Dennis on 01638 730659.

Gilbert and Sullivan's 'H.M.S. Pinafore' will be set in 1918, to mark the centenary of the end of the Great War. Sailors and Wrens keep H.M.S. Pinafore ship-shape while their Captain seeks to marry his daughter Josephine to the ruler of the King's Navy. She would rather marry the common sailor of her dreams. In true G&S fashion no one is quite who they seem but in the end all are happy with their lot.

'Cox and Box' is pure Victorian farce/melodrama, telling the tale of two gentlemen who both rent what turns out to be the same room from Mr. Bouncer, an ex-military man. One sleeps during the day, the other at night, but they occasionally meet on the stairs. All goes wrong when one of them is forced to take a holiday! This delightful short piece ends with the discovery that Cox and Box are long-lost brothers.



For more info – please email
papworthteamministryoffice@gmail.com
or phone 01480 83 99 33 to reserve your ticket



Papworth Team Ministry
www.papworthteamchurches.org

A STING IN THE TALE

**ISH'S ASTONISHING LIFE TALES
LINKED WITH HIS CRAZIEST SONG TALES!**

This will be one of the most entertaining, yet thought provoking Church evenings ever!

Come and sing-a-long to his fun stories and parables and hear him talk about his family & farming years. Breaking the law & discovering grace. Punk & Glories & facing chemo and finding a Cathedral!
Plus a whole lot more!

This will be 'an audience with Ish' that promises to bring a smile back into the Church.

DATE	TIME	VENUE
25 April	7pm	Papworth Village Hall

Entry ticket price £6 + pay bar and light refreshments

This is a concert for youth & adults not children

Important Upcoming Village Events

Charity Auction in aid of The Church of All Saints and St Andrew

Friday 27th April 7.00pm

Lots will be auctioned after drinks and a light snack supper; a bar will be available.

Our dear little church is in dire need of roof repairs and updated facilities. We are blessed not only with a picturesque building, in the heart of the community, but some pretty remarkable historic wall art, which currently needs our protection and preservation. The expense will be considerable; we are seeking grants from all quarters but your support will be crucial and much valued.

Please join us for a fun evening, with the opportunity to bid for unusual and interesting lots.

If you have lots to offer, and we hope that you will, please speak to Lee or Torrie . We are especially keen to offer some lots which 'money cannot normally buy' so if you have debenture seats for Wimbledon, Twickenham, for example or access to exclusive events, venues, activities, etc do please consider offering them for sale

Lee Steele

Kingston Wood Open Garden and Afternoon Tea

Sunday 1st July

By Kind permission of Julian and Sara Metherell

In aid of

All Saints and Saint Andrew Church Kingston.

Lee Steele and Peter Reynolds.

Kingston Church Fete – South Sea Farm

Saturday 14th July

MARK STEELE

ALL FORMS OF GENERAL BUILDING RENOVATION
AND DECORATING WORK CARRIED OUT

07831 550189

or

01223 264710

Orchard End Church Lane
Kingston Cambridge CB23 2NG



Update from Bourn Primary



Many of us are very pleased that spring has arrived, with the promise of lighter evenings and warmer weather.

In January four pupils represented the School in a public speaking competition held at Peterhouse College in Cambridge.

We were very pleased that Bourn Primary won the prize for the best school, for a consistently high performance across every age group.

In the first half of the term the entire school took part in a sponsored 'Dancethon' to raise money for the NSPCC. This culminated in a conga around the playground. The children raised just over £1,100 for the charity.

International Week, held at the end of February, was very successful. Each class researched a different festival from around the world and a number of visitors came into the School to talk to the children about different national traditions and cultures. On the Thursday evening parents and children came back to school to take part in classroom activities and to bring and share food from around the world. The choice and quality of the fare was amazing and, despite the snow, we had a tremendous turnout.

Two year-groups have been away on visits this term. Year 2 (Class Hazel) went to Cambridge University's School of Clinical Medicine to attend a Teddy Bear hospital event: part of their Health and Wellbeing topic. Year 3 (Class Cedar) visited Flag Fen to enhance their understanding of Bronze Age life and culture.

Year 5 (Class Cherry) completed the 'Bikeability' cycle training programme in the middle of March and we hope to see more pupils cycling to school during the summer months.

The 60th Anniversary celebration of Bourn Primary being located on its current site is now well underway. A ball was held at Childerley Hall on 24th March and this was followed by a children's disco on 26th March; both of these were organised by the BSA, and I'm hugely grateful to all of those parents who made them so successful. Next term will see an entire week of activities, starting with a whole-school service in the Church on Monday 11th June. A variety of other events will take place during and after school, and the celebrations will end with a musical concert on Friday evening. Please look at our website for further details nearer the time.

Christine Page (Head Teacher)



Our MP Heidi Allen's Newsletter

Well, the Beast from the East certainly visited us in South Cambs at the end of February. I'm ashamed to say I couldn't actually get my car off the drive one particularly icy day....no lady driver comments please!

Back to work and the Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP) is consulting on another important transport initiative. They are seeking your views on a number of options for improvements along the A11 and A1307. One option would potentially include a "Mass Rapid Transport" route from the A11 via Sawston to the Cambridge Biomedical Campus. This could include the Cambridgeshire Autonomous Metro which you may have read about. Another option being considered is a new dedicated public transport link between the existing Babraham Road Park and Ride and the Biomedical Campus and an inbound bus lane from Babraham Research Campus to the Park and Ride site.

All options under consideration would involve a new Park and Ride near the A11/A505 junction. Please do have a look and feed in your views before 9th April at

<https://www.greatercambridge.org.uk/>

I am aware that any transport project will generate questions from residents so I am keen for the GCP to hear from as many local residents as possible. Part of the challenge with these sorts of initiatives is to ensure infrastructure improvements are made whilst also retaining the uniqueness of South Cambridgeshire as such a special place to live.

I continue to focus on promoting all the infrastructure improvements we need. This includes the new railway station at Addenbrooke's, the A428 expressway (Highways England must include the Girton interchange as part of this project) and the East West Rail link. I am determined to ensure these improvements are brought about as quickly as possible so I talk regularly to both local stakeholders and those National bodies and Ministers ultimately responsible for delivery.

As we know from the A14 improvements now underway, these major projects take time to deliver but they are vital to ensure South Cambridgeshire continues to thrive and cope with our growth. I am aware for example that residents may be wondering what is happening with the A428 upgrade. Please be assured this project is still very alive and well, just delayed by a few months due to engineering design complexities at the A1 Black Cat end. Please keep an eye on my website for updates as I know more -

<https://www.heidisouthcambs.co.uk/a428-black-cat-caxton-gibbet>

In other news, I was pleased to be able to present a petition to the House of Commons which had been signed by 610 residents who are concerned about the removal of the post box from Cottenham High Street.

I would like to pay tribute to Audrey Brownlow and Councillor Frank Morris for their campaign to bring back the post box. I hope the Department for Housing, Communities and Local Government and Royal Mail will show they are listening.

Also in Parliament, I have recently introduced a Bill which aims to improve the way in which the Child Maintenance Service (CMS) works, so on 20th February, I met the responsible Minister Kit Malthouse MP.

The CMS took over from the Child Support Agency a few years ago and following meetings with constituents, it became clear that improvements needed to be made to the new CMS. At my request, the Work and Pensions Select Committee, of which I am a member, conducted an investigation into the way the CMS was working for children and their parents.

My Bill seeks to close the legislative loopholes that allow a minority of parents to avoid paying their child maintenance and to provide the CMS with stronger enforcement powers. If you'd like to read more, please see the headline page on my website.

The Bill will have its Second Reading on the 27th April and I am encouraged by the Minister's willingness to work with me.

Sadly, the bad weather meant my last surgery in Caldecote was cancelled. The next one will take place at my Sawston constituency office on 29th March between 3 and 5pm. In a different format to my usual drop in surgeries, this one will be an "appointment only" surgery to allow for more sensitive, private matters to be discussed. If you would like an appointment, please give my office a call on 01223 830087.

I will also be holding a normal "drop in" surgery at Caldecote Primary School, Highfields Rd, Highfields Caldecote, CB23 7NX on the 21st April between 10am and 12pm where no appointment will be necessary. Details of all upcoming surgeries can be found on my website - www.heidisouthcambs.co.uk.

To contact me, please email heidi.allen.mp@parliament.uk You can also phone my Westminster office on 020 7219 5091 about national issues or my constituency office on 01223 830037 for local concerns.

See you next month!

Gardens Open for National Garden Scheme (Free admission for children)

Trinity College Fellows' Garden, CB3 9AQ - **Sun 8** 13.00-16.00 Admission £3.50.

Barton Gardens, CB23 7BG - **Sun 8** 14.00-17.00 Combined admission £5.

Home-made teas in Barton Church.

Alswick Hall, Buntingford, SG9 0AA - **Sun 15** 12.00-16.00 Admission £5.

Home-made teas, Bar & Hog Roast. <http://www.alswickhall.com/>

Churchill College, CB3 0DS & **Fitzwilliam College**, CB3 0DG - **Sun 15** 14.00-17.00

Combined admission £5.

Docwra's Manor, SG8 6PS - **Sun 22** 14.00-16.30 Admission £5.

Newnham Croft Primary School, CB3 9JF - **Sun 29** 13.00-17.00 Admission £3

Lucy Cavendish College, CB3 0BU - **Sun 29** 14.00-17.00 Admission £3.50.

Chernobyl: An Eye-Witness Account

25th April is the 32nd anniversary of the Chernobyl disaster in northern Ukraine. I was working for the consulting company WS Atkins in neighbouring Belarus in the early 1990s which was one of the most affected countries. There was an official map showing residual radiation levels throughout the country and it seemed that miraculously (!) the radioactive cloud had parted as it approached Minsk, leaving the city uncontaminated. Seeing that, and knowing a thing or two about governmental deception in what used to be the USSR, I did not have much faith in the map but I know it was used by people fishing and gathering wild mushrooms and berries. We were advised by the Atkins' nuclear specialists that the health risks were low for visitors but in the hotels some foreign guests, particularly Americans, had little Geiger counters to scan their food. The main risk was from local dairy products and mushrooms and we avoided these.

Radiation was, however, a serious issue for those who had lived near the reactor and one of our interpreters had come from Gomel, one hundred miles downwind from Chernobyl, where the fall-out was intense.

I learnt this one hot Sunday when the interpreters invited me to a picnic on a river island near Minsk. It was lightly wooded and shaded by birch trees and they dug a pit, gathered wood and roasted shashlik they had prepared on the previous day and soaked overnight in a bucket of yoghurt. One girl, Valentina, was drinking a lot of red wine and another interpreter, Yuri, teased her about it, to which she replied she drank it for her health's sake because she come from Gomel. What she said next was so interesting that I later tried to write it down word for word.

'I was 17 when Chernobyl happened. In the weeks that followed, when the authorities finally admitted what had happened, we were told to take iodine. When supplies ran out the newspapers published advice on beneficial foods to counter radioactive poisoning. In particular, we were told that red wine was effective and for weeks there were long queues outside alcohol shops until supplies ran out.'

I asked her where she was when the accident happened.

'It was a sunny day and I was sitting with my mother on the balcony of our apartment when the sky went black as if there was going to be a storm, except no rain came. Then yellowish dust began to fall and people went into the street and looked up to see what the weather was doing.

'We all thought it was strange, but that evening there was a news bulletin to say that the yellow dust was a type of pollen and nothing to worry about. However,



Valentina (right) recounting the days after Chernobyl

'By the first of May we all knew something serious had happened and my mother wanted me to stay indoors and not take part in the Labour Day Parade. Many other children also tried to stay away but the head teacher called a school assembly and said those who failed to attend would not be awarded their grades that year. I remember we paraded in the square for hours in rain. The next weekend I was supposed to go on a Komsomol camp but my mother refused to let me go, writing a letter to say I had flu.

'Because I was in Gomel I now have free check-ups and I have been told I have level two damage to my thyroid gland. I don't know what that means but I don't think I want to have children.'

Paul Wright

rumours began to be spread at school the next day about Chernobyl by students who had listened to the BBC World Service and Voice of America. Also, about two days later the children of senior party officials stopped coming to school and someone who knew one of them heard they were being sent for a vacation to the Urals.




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Find the full programme at
<http://www.cambridgeliteraryfestival.com/>



Bourn Primary Academy

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to celebrate its 60th Anniversary
at a fundraising



"60th Celebration Concert"

on

Friday 15th June



7:30pm (doors open 7pm)

(approx. finish 9pm)

Entry by ticket only

(limited availability and allocated on a first-come-first-served basis)

Adult £10 / Concession £5 (16 and under/OAP)

Tickets include a free drink and nibbles

Book a table of up to 8, or individual seats

To book tickets please call the school office on

01954 719282 before 18th May

Tickets will be available for collection, with payment,
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We look forward to celebrating with you!



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Web: www.papworthteamchurches.org

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Book of the Month

“Beneath a Scarlet Sky” by Mark Sullivan (Publisher: Lake Union)

I have previously mentioned in this magazine that I like to go on reading journeys, with one book leading to the next in terms of serial connectedness. Well, I’ve been at it again. Last Christmas one of my gifts was a novel by Martin Cruz Smith titled “The Girl From Venice”. Having just visited Venice twice in quick succession, the title got my interest. Set in the waning months of World War Two but with Venice still occupied and the people in fear of the Third Reich, a local fisherman named Cenzo comes across a young woman’s body floating in the lagoon and discovers she’s still alive and in grave trouble. Born to a wealthy Jewish family, Guilia is on the run from the Wehrmacht SS. Cenzo is presented with a dilemma: does he give her up or hide her, thus endangering himself. In choosing the latter, he enters a dark world of intrigue, brutality, and internecine warfare (involving partisans, Italian fascists still led by Italy’s dictator, Benito Mussolini, and German occupying forces), with everyone manoeuvring for position in the final days of the Nazi occupation in northern Italy. This is where the book’s title belies the events depicted; the mystery story starts and ends in Venice but largely takes place in and around Salò, the small town on Lake Garda and the base for Mussolini’s short-lived regime. And this is what piqued my interest. I had never heard of Salò and the goings-on there. So more reading about events in Italy from 1943 to 1945 was required!

Five books helped me initially. Rick Atkinson’s “The Day of Battle. The War in Sicily and Italy, 1943-1944” (volume two of his Liberation Trilogy), “1945: The War that Never Ended” by Gregor Dallas, and Christopher Hibbert’s biography “Mussolini”. The first two helped with an overview and the third gave me the kind of detail I was looking for. What I learned was that, when the Allies were victorious in north Africa and invaded Sicily (July 1943), Benito Mussolini, leader of the National Fascist Party and prime minister since 1922, was dismissed as head of government and placed in custody, with the new leaders secretly negotiating an armistice with the advancing Allies. This is when the Germans invaded from the north, taking over the northern half of Italy, while, at the same time, freeing Mussolini from captivity. Following a meeting with Hitler, Mussolini was put in charge of a puppet regime in North Italy – called the Italian Social Republic – based at the small town of Salò on the banks of Lake Garda, equidistant between Milan and Venice. His time there was in virtual house-arrest. This remained the case while the Allied forces slogged their way up the Italian peninsula (becoming involved in fighting a seemingly never-ending process of having to take one mountain ridge after another), only overtaking northern Italy at the very tail-end of the war. And that’s when events in Milan and Salò got really interesting, with all opposing forces vying for supremacy. Mussolini’s Blackshirts were desperately trying to hang on to power, with the Germans rapidly leaving the scene and the local partisan forces launching their own insurrection. At this point it was Italian Fascists versus Italian partisans, many of whom were Communists, fighting in what was tantamount to a civil war. In the ensuing chaos,

Mussolini attempted to flee to Switzerland but was captured by partisans, summarily executed by firing squad (28 April, 1945) on the banks of Lake Como, and his body taken to Milan where it was hung upside down in an Esso service station.

Two further books recently came to my attention: “At War on the Gothic Line” by Christian Jennings and “Italy’s Sorrow” by James Holland. Both are very enjoyable reads but neither succeeds in filling in the detail of what really happened on the ground in northern Italy during the waning weeks of the war. Without getting into much detail, James Holland sums up the situation with some precision.

Everyone sensed that both the German occupation and the age of fascism were now inextricably coming to an end, and this gave the young men of northern Italy an increasingly brazen confidence. The General Insurrection was about to catch like wild fire, and retribution was in the air.

Some of these facts I already knew but another book serendipitously appeared to flesh out my understanding. After a recommendation by my sister-in-law (who thought I’d like it because of its similarity to “Unbroken” by Laura Hildebrand), I came across “Beneath a Scarlet Sky” by Mark Sullivan, not realizing that it would add hugely to my knowledge of Italy during the latter stages of World War Two. This book pretends to be a novel but is actually a biographical account of the exploits of Pino Lella, a teenager who becomes embroiled in all the intrigue and conflict in and around Milan in 1943-1945. He’s a normal teenager – obsessed with music, food and girls – but finds himself pulled into the war. When his family home is destroyed by Allied bombs, Pino joins an underground railroad helping Jews escape over the Alps. Jews being taken to concentration camps around Europe was a comparatively new development in Italy. Indeed, according to Rick Atkinson, Berlin had always considered Mussolini to be weak-kneed on the Jewish question and even though the Gestapo now cracked down on Jews living in Italy (decreed in September 1943), because of protective rear-guard actions by the Catholic church and the valiant efforts of individuals like Pino, forty thousand Jews living in Italy would survive the war, although eight thousand would still perish.

Next, in an attempt to protect him, Pino’s parents persuaded him to enlist as a German soldier – a move they think will keep him out of combat. A series of events leads him to become personal driver for Hitler’s left-hand man in Italy, General Hans Leyers, one of the Third Reich’s most mysterious and powerful commanders. With the opportunity to spy on the Germans from the inside of the High Command, Lella enters a world of danger, intrigue and potential horror. One false move could betray him to his employers while still earning the enmity of the local partisans for working for the Germans and plying his spy-craft in secret. As the allies break across the Gothic Line and advance on Milan, Pino arrests Leyers and turns him over to the partisans, thus earning himself some insurance. Yet his situation is far from safe. There are several twists in the tail of this tale which I will leave the reader to discover.

What is significant about “Beneath a Scarlet Sky” is that it fills in a lot of the detail about what actually happened in northern Italy at the end of the war. Because of mass destruction of documentation by the retreating Germans (witnessed by Pino) and what the author calls a kind of collective amnesia concerning Italy and Italians after the war, Sullivan did not find it easy to piece the story together. As he says in his preface, legions of books have been written about D-Day, the Allied campaigns across western Europe, and the efforts of brave souls who risked their own lives to save Jews in other European countries. But the Nazi occupation of Italy and the Catholic underground railway, which was formed to save the Italian Jews, have received scant attention. Indeed, so little has been written about the later stages of the battle for Italy, historians have taken to calling it the “Forgotten Front”. There would seem to be two contributory levels to this phenomenon. On the micro-level, what with all the reprisals and dirtiness that accompanied the very end of hostilities, with the Germans in head-long retreat and Italian Fascists fighting Italian Partisans and no quarter given, there was much sordidness to brush under the carpet of history. On this personal level, Pino Lella witnessed so much that would stay with him for many years to come, memories that were best buried. This is why, as Mark Sullivan explains, Lella was still reluctant to tell his story some sixty-five years later. No one individual came out of this situation clean. On the larger level, as Gregor Dallas explains, Italy was the forgotten war for strategic and political reasons. As he says, future books would tend to follow the main campaigns – and Italy had ceased to be a major centre of operations, largely because the Americans had decided to play their chips further afield. Churchill had long championed a strategy that would lay bare the Germans’ soft underbelly, by advancing through Italy and taking a north-easterly turn into Istria and the “Ljubljana Gap” into Austria and beyond. The whole point of this strategy, from Churchill’s point of view, was not only to defeat Nazis but also to cut off Russian armies before they reached Hungary, Austria and the Balkans. The Americans never bought into this strategy (suspecting Churchill of some imperialist designs) and went their own way, pulling out 7 Divisions from the Italian campaign (in the summer of 1944) and launching an assault on the French Riviera northwards (“Operation Dragoon”). Harold Macmillan, a big supporter of Churchill’s plan, in his memoirs called this “one of the sad turning-points of history”. It was at this point that the Italian war became peripheral and the “forgotten war”. Churchill was bitterly disappointed and held the Americans responsible. Indeed, as Gregor Dallas argues, it was also at this point, that the three main allies (Britain, America and Russia) ceased to be real partners and pursued their own agendas, a phenomenon that determined how the war never actually ended but transmogrified into the Cold War of the 1950s and beyond. And, somewhat ironically, the larger and micro levels played into each other. If no one was interested enough to ask what happened, no one was going to tell (until Pino Lella was persuaded to, that is).

Peter Holly

1916: His Plan of Attack

Mon 16 – Wed 18 April

7.30-9.30pm

at Mumford Theatre,
Anglia Ruskin University, East Road,
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Tel: 01223 352932

This production tells the story of Sir Douglas Haig and his plan to launch a major offensive in 1916 on the Somme.

The disastrous opening of the battle, on 1st July, proved the worst day in the entire history of the British army, with nearly sixty thousand casualties for negligible gains. But this is a much more intimate and human portrait of Haig. This Haig is a deeply reflective man, conscious of the weight of his responsibilities and of his close relationship with his wife and with God. His flawed plan of attack is the result of political commitments and compromises over which he has little control.

Based on research in Haig's papers and on the latest historical research into this complex and often misunderstood man, this play shows how the commander too can be a victim of the war.

Tickets: £12.00 (£10.00 concessions) from <https://www.anglia.ac.uk/arts-law-and-social-sciences/mumford-theatre>

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illustrated talk by

Kenneth Lewis OBE

Tuesday 24th April 2018, 7.30 for 8pm

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Refreshments included

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