

Kingston Parish & Church Magazine



September 2018

Village Diary

Saturday 1 st September	Village Pub Night – Village Hall, 6pm-10pm
Wednesday 5 th September	Village Coffee/Tea – Village Hall – 10.30am
Tuesdays 11 th , 18 th , & 25 th September	Core Fitness Class, 10.00am & 7.15pm
Tuesday 11 th September	Parish Council Meeting
Thursday 11 th October	Next Meeting of the Music Club, 8pm
Saturday 13 th October	Harvest Dinner
Saturday 20 th October	Village Work Day

Wheelie bin collection dates

Wednesday 5 th September	Black bin
Wednesday 12 th September	Blue and Green bins
Wednesday 19 th September	Black bin
Wednesday 26 th September	Blue and Green Bins

Editorial

Writing this in the hot and heady days of early August, one is beginning to wonder whether September's weather will break the spell. With schools back in session, maybe the same will happen as occurs in the USA and schools will have to close because of the extreme heat. Probably not, but who knows. Actually, September is one of my favourite months. Life is usually back to normal and summer is inclined to give way to the delights of autumn.

Since the last issue of the magazine the new Kingston Barns project was unveiled to villagers. Unfortunately the weather was not cooperative (one of the only times this summer), but those present unanimously agreed that the units are exactly as advertized: high-end, luxurious, impressively apportioned, and well furnished. Many thanks to the staff members who were perfect hosts, serving champagne, tea and biscuits, and ice creams. Thanks also to the Kingston Blues Band who served up their usual fare of blues and standards to accompany the visitation. Hopefully, this project will now go from strength to strength and will prove a feather in Kingston's cap.

Peter Holly pjholly45@gmail.com 01223 264 556

Vicar's Letter

As I write this, we've just returned from a holiday on Lake Como. It's a wonderful place: the lake, surrounded by mountains; villages and towns clinging to the steep sides; sumptuous villas, beautiful gardens and ancient churches; criss-crossed with a network of passenger boats.

There was just one small problem – very small, in fact – mosquitos! We both got bitten to shreds, and I shall never sing “all creatures great and small” again without remembering them.

But if we accept that God made “all things bright and beautiful” then we must accept that (as Monty Python sang) God also made “each little wasp that stings”. If we just assume that everything is the way it is because “that's how God made it” then we have not just one small problem, but lots of very big ones.

The Bible never asks the question “why are there mosquitos?” but it does wrestle often with the question “why do bad things happen, especially to good people?” Many of the Psalms, and the whole book of Job for example, explore the issue, but don't come up with any simple answers.

Many people have far worse things to deal with than a bunch of itchy bites: looking at the news we see wars, pollution, political turmoil and the growing effects of climate change.

In the face of those, a few bites are nothing, and the chance to visit the beauty of the Italian lakes is an undreamt of privilege for most of the world.

The conclusion the Bible writers **do** come to, over and over again, is that our only real response to beauty is to praise God. And our only real response to pain is exactly the same, because God didn't leave us to suffer alone. God came in the person of Jesus, to be one of us in all the messiness, to rejoice and to suffer just as we do. But through Jesus' suffering we can be certain that God will in the end make all things right, making good on Jesus' offer of forgiveness and eternal life.

Then we will have “eyes to see them, and lips that we might tell how great is God almighty who has made all things well.”

Rev. Steve Day

Church Services for September

Sunday 2nd September **Holy Communion 8.30am**

Sunday 9th September **Evening Prayer 6.00pm**

Sunday 16th September **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

2 nd September	Linda Smith
9 th September	Lee Steele
16 th September	Christine Stone
23 rd September	Christine Allison
30 th September	Janet Clear

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.

Cambridgeshire Historic Churches Trust Ride, Drive or Stride 2018

This year the event takes place on the 8th September. Besides parish churches, most of the Cambridge college chapels will be open. Sponsorship forms may be downloaded from the Trust's web site www.camhct.uk/ride or may be obtained from me. Sponsors may give a lump sum or a fixed amount per church visited. Kingston church will then receive half the money raised with the other half going to the Trust, which in turn gives grants and loans to Cambridgeshire churches and chapels for repairs and improvements. Cash donations preferred but any cheques should be made out to the Cambridgeshire Historic Churches Trust. Children of under-12 years of age should not participate. Kingston church will be manned on the day and refreshments will be available.

Joan Reynolds, Pincote,

Kingston Music Club – 11 October

The next evening of recorded music is on Thursday 11 October, starting at 8pm in the Village Hall. Everyone is welcome to come along and enjoy a relaxed programme of music together with a glass of wine or beer. Following Peter Holly's very successful opening programme in July, I have decided to split the evening into two halves. To give some continuity, the first part will link to Peter's presentation taking a look back at the African origins of the blues with some World music tracks followed by more familiar and popular songs that everyone will recognise. The second half will head off in a completely different direction with a more meditative session spanning works by John Taverner (1490 - 1545), John Cage and Ryuichi Sakamoto (b. 1952). Sakamoto's is a name that may be unfamiliar but as a composer of recent film scores including that for *The Revenant* (2015) his music resonates with today's world.

Simon Draper

Exchange and Mart

CAMBRIDGE BUFF PAN TILES

I currently have around 200 Cambridge Buff Pan tiles and 11 red/cream ridge tiles left over after the completion of building work on my house. I was wondering if anyone in the village or their friends would like these tiles for free if they could come and collect them.

As we are currently raising money in the village for the church roof repairs I was wondering if anyone interested in the tiles would perhaps consider making a little donation to the church roof repair fund.

Please contact Sue Dalgleish,
like further details.

if you would

Open Garden Afternoon + Local Food Fair

at Madingley Hall, Church Lane, Madingley, CB23 8AQ.

01223 746222

Sat 15 September 9.30am-4.00pm

Pop-up farmers' market with local artisan food & produce. Treats to try & goods for purchase, lunch on sale from 12.00. Enjoy a garden tour as part of Open Cambridge in the afternoon. Free admission, book on

<http://www.ice.cam.ac.uk/event/open-garden-afternoon-local-food-fair>

Kingston Village Hall AGM

27 September 2018

8.00 pm in the Hall

All are welcome to attend

Please come and get involved
with our new hall

Village Hall AGM

We have a splendid new Hall but we need ideas from you all as to what you would like to use it for. We have a thriving keep fit class, music club, pub nights, and a monthly coffee morning. We need more events that will raise funds. At the moment we have a winter quiz and chips and a summer barbecue. A real problem for us is the small size of the committee and we need more people, especially to help with the social side. We have an AGM on 27 September and most subsequent business is done effortlessly on line. Please do come along and join us and give us some ideas.

Sarah Wright (Sec)

Open Cambridge 4 – 15 September

Includes Open Observatory at The Observatory, Madingley Road, CB3 0HA
Cambridge Fire Station Open Day
Quiz a conservator at the Museum of Zoology
Cambridgeshire County Council: Inside the Cold War Bunker

Open Eddington (<https://www.opencambridge.cam.ac.uk/news/visit-open-eddington>)

with talks and tours
by the architects
and professionals
who have created
the scheme.
Subjects include
rainwater
harvesting,
renewable
technology, the
district heating
network and
underground waste
system, ecology at
Eddington and
Digging Eddington's
Roman past.

Events are booking
up fast but details
of all events
including drop in
events can be
found at
<https://www.opencambridge.cam.ac.uk/>

Training courses starting in Autumn 2018

Can you spare a *little* time to
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Home-Start offers a valuable and unique service for
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To talk about joining a course or for more
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01480 700242

office@homestartcambridgeshire.co.uk

Home-Start Cambridgeshire Registered Charity No: 1106007



Village Work Day

We are planning a work day from 10.00 – 12.00 on Saturday 20 October, to do various jobs around the village, including:

- Trim back low trees to allow grass-cutting access
- Remove willow tunnel at playground (this has not been successful despite many efforts and hours of maintenance work)
- Add play-bark to Jungle Climber at playground
- Treat seats at playground with preservative
- Clear back brambles on VH car park
- Cut back long grass in goals at playground

There has been a poor turnout for recent workdays and it may be that people are just too busy to spare the time. The alternative is that the Parish Council can engage contractors to do this sort of work, obviously at some cost which will find its way into our Council Tax. **I would be grateful therefore if anybody who is able to commit to a couple of hours on 20 October could let me know as soon as possible so that we know if we have enough volunteers.**

Peter Stokes, Parish Clerk



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Email gsl@bournscouts.org.uk for further information

bournscouts.org.uk
#SkillsForLife



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Scouts
1st Bourn (Cambridge)

Date	Title	Bourn	Kingston	Caxton	Longstowe
Sept 2	Trinity 14	10.30am FHC	8.30am HC	10.30 W4A	
Sept 9	Trinity 15	10.30am W4A	6.00pm EP	10.30am MP	8.30am HC
Sept 16	Trinity 16	8.30am HC	10.30am W4A		
Sept 23	Trinity 17	No service Bourn to Run		8.30am HC	10.30am Pet service
Sept 30	Trinity 18	10.30am Harvest			
Oct 7	Trinity 19	10.30am FHC	8.30am HC	10.30 W4A	10.30am Harvest
Oct 14	Trinity 20	10.30am W4A	6.00pm EP	10.30am MP	
Oct 21	Trinity 21	8.30am HC	10.30am MP		
Oct 28	Bible Sunday	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

REFRESH - With Jenni Rivett.

Hi ladies - I am new to the area and will be starting a new health and fitness concept in the Cambridge area, starting right here in Kingston at the beautiful Kingston Barns. Drawing on years of experience, my goal is to:

- Fast track you to a stronger, fitter, healthier YOU (no matter what your age or size).
- Teach you how to develop a positive and sustainable relationship with food.
- Teach you my unique exercise programme that's inspiring, seriously effective and does not require hours in the gym.
- Help you understand how to balance your hormones naturally through diet and exercise.

First meeting: Thursday 27th September

Venue: Kingston Barns, Bourn Rd, Kingston

Cost: £5.00

Please note: NO SCALES –if you want to weigh yourself you can do so in the privacy of your own home. I focus on healthy eating and any weight loss is a bonus (should you want to lose weight)!

Come on your own or bring a friend,
I look forward to meeting you.

For more info contact me on
enquiries@jennirivett.com
www.jennirivett.com

Out of the Blues

It's always great when an old-timer returns to form. This time around it's Texan Boz Scaggs and his new album "Out of the Blues", a superb mix of blues and R&B. Boz Scaggs first came to fame in the Steve Miller Band, but in 1969 he went his own way and, teaming up with the likes of Duane Allman, produced the classic eponymous album, containing the 12 and a half minute extravaganza "Loan me a Dime" on which the late, long-lamented guitar maestro, Duane Allman, pulls out all the stops. In the 1970s Scaggs lost his way and became a disco-friendly blue-eyed soul singer, ironically achieving his biggest hits during the period.

In the 1990s there were signs of a resurgence and, on his record "Some Change" (1994), he sang the lovely song "Sierra" to popular acclaim. Then, starting in 2011, Scaggs has issued a series of roots records culminating in the latest recording. This is a classy LP containing a mix of old and new songs, mainly with a blues bent. There are two kinds of blues records. One kind consists of what I call "gut-bucket" blues that are raspy, jarring and rough, sounding as though they were recorded in a back alley. The other kind I call "lounge" blues that are much smoother and kinder to the ear. The blues on this new album are definitely in the second category. His choice of covers is impeccable (songs by Bobby "Blue" Bland, Jimmy Reed, and Jimmy McCracklin are included, as is a gorgeous rendition of Neil Young's "On the Beach") and even the new songs sound as though we've heard them before. For instance, "Little Miss Night and Day" sounds like a classic Chuck Berry workout. The choice of sidemen is equally impressive with Willie Weeks, Ray Parker, Jim Keltner, Doyle Bramhall, and Charlie Sexton making sure that each song gets the treatment it deserves. Standout tracks are "Radiator 110", "I've Just Got to Know", and "The Feeling is Gone" but, in truth, every track is a gem. As one reviewer has commented,

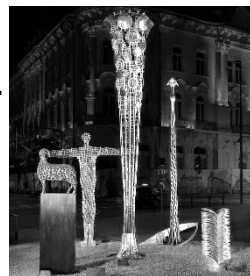
To my ears this is the best of Boz's comeback records, with a great overall sound and some great playing, a good mix of old and new songs and Boz's vocals being right on the button.

If you want to catch up on his earlier career, the best place to start is the double CD, "The Essential Boz Scaggs". You won't regret this investment.

Peter Holly

International Sculpture Exhibition at Great St. Mary's Cambridge. Until 31 December 9.00am-5.00pm daily

Entitled *Archetypes*, a free-to-view installation, includes five striking, contemporary works by renowned Romanian sculptor Liviu Mocan designed to spark a conversation about history, faith, art and technology
www.archetypes-sculpture.org.



Porter's Way and the discovery of the Cambridgeshire Flora

'Since I returned hither, I have made a ride as far as Kingston Wood in quest of plants. There I discovered, what I never before saw in its pride, growing wild, Herba Paris, in many places, and not in Kingston Wood only, but also in Eversden Wood, in great plenty.' John Ray to Peter Courthorpe, April 28th 1662

Readers will know The Red House on the A 1198, the Roman road, Ermine Street, south of Longstowe. This public house, listed Grade II, has recently reopened after two years of renovation, under new management (see www.the-redhouse.co.uk). It is said to date from 1799 and was built as a coaching inn. But why in this position, well outside any village? The answer is that this was an important crossroads, where Porter's Way (formerly Potter's Way and the parish boundary between Kingston and Bourn) running east-west, crosses what was once the most important road from London to York, before the A1 gained its modern pre-eminence.

Porter's Way was, in fact, a section of the main public carriageway – and is still classed as a public byway – from Cambridge to Oxford, via Bedford and Buckingham and, before the C20, would have been busy with traffic, although transit must always have been difficult over the boulder clay in wet winter months. Interestingly, the 1862 Cambridge – Bedford – Oxford railway line follows closely the route of Porter's Way, and the Old North Road station, actually in Bourn parish, is just to the north of The Red House. Porter's Way lost its importance when tarmacadam came in and the authorities of that time made the decision to metal what is now the B1046: I'm not sure exactly when this happened, but probably in the 1920s (?) Many of the minor roads of the area, including those through Kingston village, were not made up until the 1930s and 40s.

John Ogilvy, His Majesty Charles II's 'Cosmographer and Geographic Printer' published his magnum opus, *Brittania: Volume the First: or, an illustration of the Kingdom of England and Dominion of Wales* in 1675; this the first road atlas of England and Wales clearly includes Porter's Way on plate 80, *The Road From OXFORD TO CAMBRIDGE*. On the lower right-hand side of the map the route is delineated as continuing past the Red House cross roads to rejoin the present B1046 beyond Longstowe, just north of Hayley Wood, marked on the map as *A Copice*. There are drawings of Toft and Bourn windmills, and *Kingstone* (sic) church and *Kingstone wood house*.

John Ray

John Ray (1627 – 1705) is often cited as the founder of scientific natural history and he was the first of a succession of Cambridge University botanists who explored the county with a view to discovering, classifying and listing the native plants of the area.



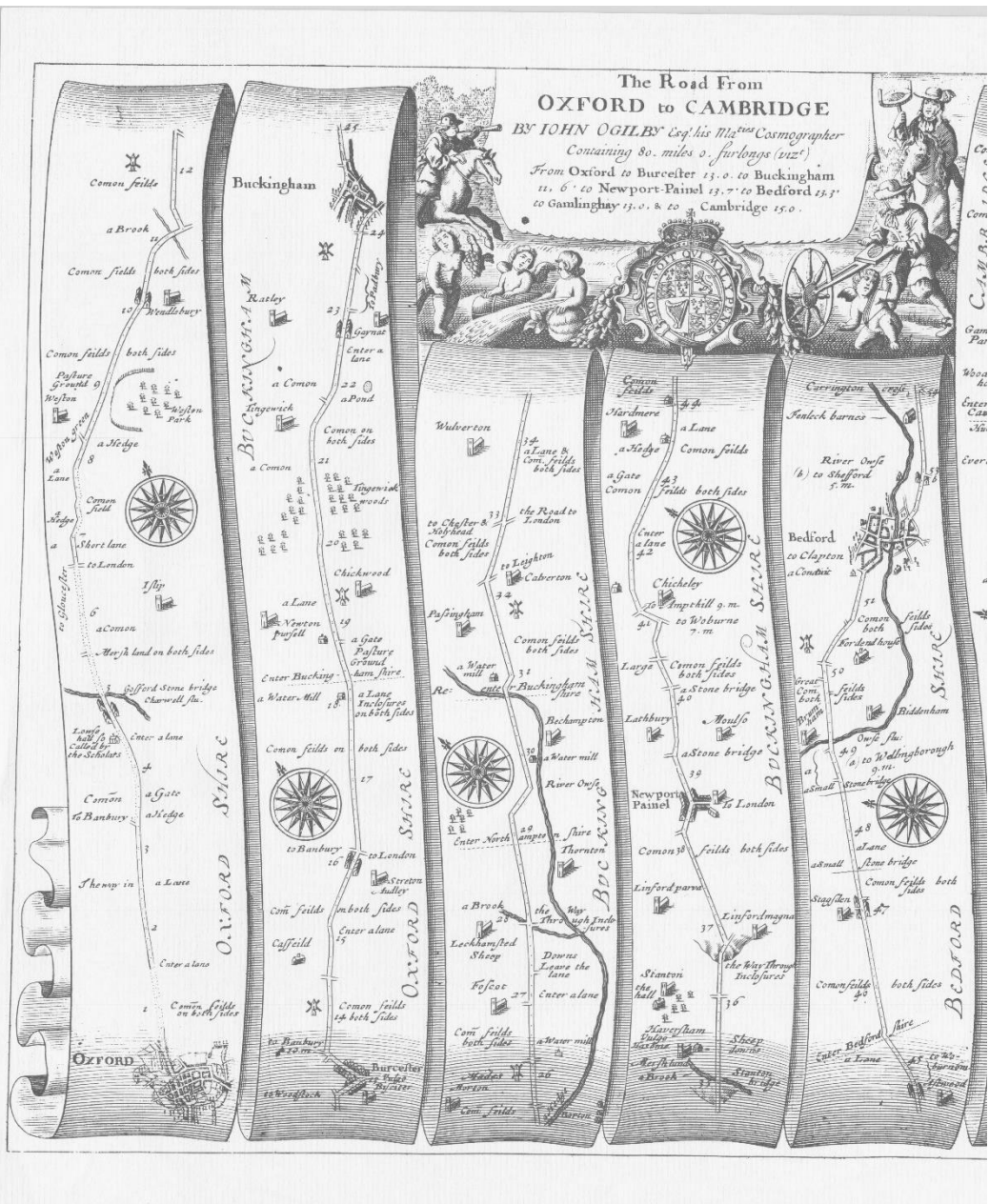
Naturalists were already becoming aware that different soil types supported differing plant communities. In particular the acid soils found over the greensand of Gamlingay Heath were known for species not found elsewhere in Cambridgeshire. Porter's Way was the route to Gamlingay and this took Ray past Kingston Wood. It was therefore inevitable that he should botanise here and in his *Catalogus Plantarum circa Cantabrigiam nascentium* (1660) he records 28 plants in or near Kingston Wood and, elsewhere in his later publications, a further 13 species, giving a total of 41 for our parish.

Ray's *Cambridge Catalogue* is an important publication, recently translated from the Latin in a new edition, edited by P H Oswald and C D Preston (The Ray Society, 2011). Representing 9 years of work, this was the first-ever published county Flora and one of the first attempts to reconcile and standardise botanical nomenclature by comparing the various accounts of continental and British authorities. Ray added a supplement to the work, the *Index Locorum*, or *Index of some places with the plants which grow in them that are not generally met with*: one of these 12 special places is Kingston Wood. The book includes two first records in English botanical literature with the locality given as 'at Kingston and Madingley Woods', namely *Primula elatior*, the Oxlip, and *Melampyrum cristatum*, Crested Cow-wheat. Both plants are, with Sulphur Clover, *Trifolium ochroleucron*, calcicoles local to the Cambridgeshire boulder clay. Oxlip is still to be found in Kingston and Eversden Woods (but not in Madingley) although much reduced in numbers by foraging deer; Sulphur Clover is rare but a good population survives on the verges of the Bourn Road, beyond Tinkersfield; while Crested Cow-wheat is now very uncommon and not recorded in Kingston since 1942. Herb Paris, *Paris quadrifolia*, still survives in both Kingston and Eversden Woods, but is no longer in 'great plenty' as Ray observed in 1662 (again, this plant is palatable to deer).

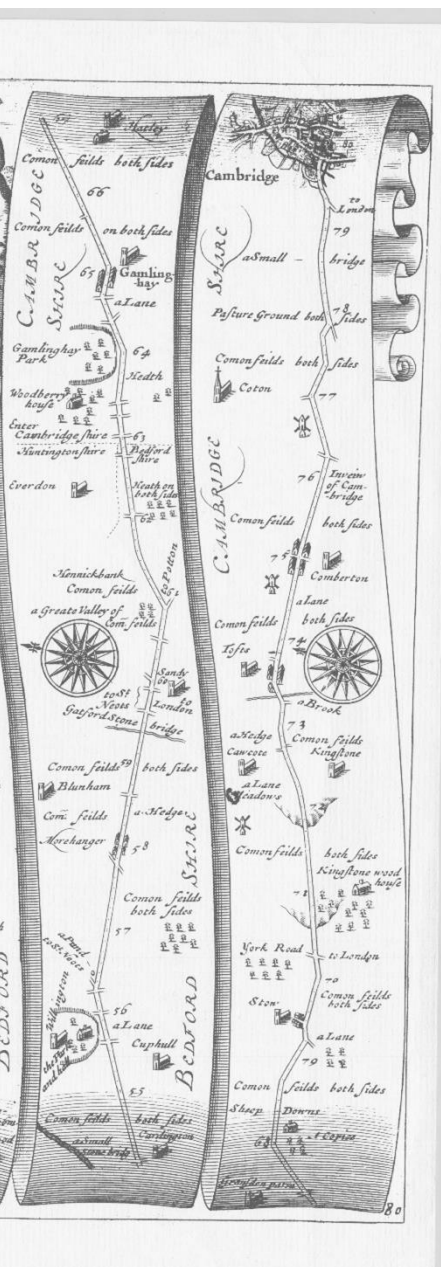
Thomas Martyn

In the C18 Ray's route along Porter's Way was taken in turn by father and son, John and Thomas Martyn, the 2nd and 3rd Professors of Botany at Cambridge, by Charles Cardale Babington, the 5th, and by many other professional and amateur





'herborizers'. John Martyn's *Methodus Plantarum circa Cantabrigiam nascentium* of



1727 added little to our knowledge, but was followed by Thomas Martyn's *Plantae Cantabrigienses* in 1763, the first Linnean Flora of the county, which included 13 *Herbationes Cantabrigienses* (botanical excursions around Cambridge): number XI gives 45 species to be seen at Kingston Wood. Records for the site are included in all the subsequent Cambridgeshire Floras: Israel Lyon's *Fasicuculus Plantarum circa Cantabrigiam nascentium* (1763); and the Floras of Relhan (3 editions, 1785, 1802 and 1820); Babington (1860); Evans (1939); and Perring et al. (1964). I have added to these and now have records for 275 flowering plants and ferns; there are almost certainly more to be discovered, quite apart from the mosses, lichens and fungi. A new *Flora of Cambridgeshire*, the work of Alan Leslie, now awaits publication.

Kingston Wood, a Site of Special Scientific Interest, has then an important status in the annals of British botany, with a sequence of records made over more than three hundred and fifty years, all of this beginning with John Ray's excursions on horseback along Porter's Way. '...studies of this kind do not greatly contribute to the accumulation of wealth or the procurement of the favour of other men, but yet we know of no occupation either worthier or more delightful for an honourable man than to contemplate the most glorious works of *nature* and so honour both the infinite wisdom & the goodness of the Divine creator' (Ray, Preface to the Reader, *Cambridge Catalogue*, 1660).

Peter Reynolds

A reminder about Kingston Oil Club

This is an opportunity to get the best price for your heating oil with someone else doing all the hard work. The scheme is already operating in other villages near here. By operating as a club, each year we receive a small commission (£5 per member) which is used to support village projects.

How does it work? To order your next oil delivery at the best price, contact:

Jeremy Cole
Agricole Ltd
29 The Maltings
Cambourne
Cambridge
CB23 5FR

Tel: 01954 719452 or 07860 904045, email: jeremy@agricole.co.uk

Website: www.heating-oil-prices.co.uk or www.agricole.co.uk

Be sure to say that you belong to Kingston Oil Club. You won't have a contract with Kingston Oil Club or with Agricole. Agricole is a broker only, and will pass your order on to the cheapest supplier that day and confirm the details via letter/email/fax, to avoid any confusion/misunderstandings before delivery. You will pay the supplier direct, pre-delivery for the first order, but the supplier will reduce your bill to reflect the fact that you are being given the volume discount. You can stop using Agricole at any time.

Why is it cheaper? It is not always better to have a long-term contract with one supplier. Oil prices fluctuate daily, and daily 'spot' prices are generally cheaper. It pays to shop around each time you place an order. Agricole does this for you!

Can I have an arrangement where a supplier gives me an automatic regular top-up? Again this means one supplier, and so this is not the cheapest option.

How many members are needed to make this viable? No minimum. The whole point is that Kingston members' orders will be bundled in with those of other Agricole clients.

Charitable aspect: Agricole is paid by the suppliers who give it a small commission on each order (the commission is small enough that the householder still keeps practically all of the savings). Out of its commission, Agricole makes a donation to Kingston Oil Club of £5 per active member per year ('active' means the member has placed at least two orders over 500 litres). Kingston Oil Club passes this money on to the Parish Council, which uses it to support village projects – this is a way of passing a small bit of the savings back into our community.

What are the catches? There don't seem to be any! Membership is free and you can leave at any time without penalty. This is a community club designed to save its members money, and take the hassle out of ordering oil. That's all.

Any questions? If you have any questions, please in the first instance contact Jeremy Cole, details above, or Kingston Parish Council at kingstonpc.cambridge@gmail.com.

Disclaimer: Your Parish Councillors think this is a good idea and recommend it to you, but cannot accept any personal or other liability for the operation of the scheme.

Peter Stokes



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hannah@thedoghousecaxton.co.uk
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Book of the Month:

“Italian Neighbours. An Englishman in Verona” (Vintage)

Italian Ways

Tim Parks, the British novelist, translator, author and professor, has written four books about his adopted homeland: *Italian Neighbours: An Englishman in Verona*; *A Season with Verona* (subtitled *Travels around Italy in Search of Illusion, National Character and Goals*); *Italian Ways: On and Off the Rails from Milan to Palermo*; and *An Italian Education*. They are all illuminating reads but the first book – his first dip into Italian culture – is my favourite, mainly because it describes how Parks experiences his immersion into Italian living.

Parks moved to Italy with his new (Italian) wife in 1980 and has lived there ever since. Combining the objectivity of an outsider with the subjective experience of an insider has allowed him to capture “Italian Ways” from both perspectives. What he reveals is often fascinating reading. He manages to unpeel important aspects of Italian culture without being judgmental or superficial.

For instance, we learn from his books that family and localism are vital social constructs in Italy. Few people stray far from home and if they do they normally return where they were brought up later in life. Family life is a close-knit affair; family members live close-by each other and, even in death, the dead are in well-tended, well-organized neighbourhood cemeteries and are visited frequently, especially on special holidays (usually saints’ days). This closeness of family life has important knock-on effects. One is that there is always a lack of properties to buy as families hang on to their family homes for good. Even if it means parents living in a smaller home, families expect to pay for their offspring’s university education and first marriage home. So families snap up houses that become available, with these homes not even coming on the real estate market. Availability is communicated by word of mouth. Another effect, because of all this expense, is that couples have fewer children, one child being the norm. This means that children are the recipients of a great deal of family attention and are generally fussed over. Christmas is for the children and begins early on December 13th (Santa Lucia Day) when gifts are given out.

Another effect is that, in order to live locally, workers are far more used to commuting to work, whether that be by the day or the week.

Italians like to live where they live – where they were born, that is with Mamma and Papa. Then they commute. Even when it offers no work, your home town is always the best town; a thick web of family ties and bureaucracy anchors you there.

This partly explains why Italians are so much in love with their railways. Italians use their trains to access work while staying rooted at home. This also allows for upward social and economic mobility without having to experience geographical mobility. Tim Parks, for instance, commuted from Verona to Milan where he was professor of literature in a university there for over thirty years, often on a daily basis.

Parks claims that there is a “magical duplicity about Italians”. This is exhibited in a “profound schizophrenia, which is also the charm, of all matters Italian”. The Pope, he says, is adored but ignored, the law admired and flouted, politicians despised and re-elected. Avoiding taxes is a national pastime in Italy. The government is seen as the enemy and people are glad when elections (as they so often do) lead to stale-mate – as happened earlier this year. When there is no government there can’t be any new laws or any new taxes to collect. Socially and economically, Italy is divided into three kinds of workers: Statati (state officials, civil servants and government workers), Dipendenti (employees) and Autonomi (self-employed professionals and managers). The first two categories have taxes deducted at source (not popular) but, especially Statati, receive many privileges and benefits (popular), so much so that people fight for these jobs. Indeed, a friend of Parks seeks out a job on the railways (as opposed to his previous better paid job) because of the benefits and stability the new job brings. Indeed, railway workers have the right to be transferred home after ten years of service working elsewhere and an excellent early retirement package is another major incentive. No wonder, says Parks, that a railway job is seen as a meal-ticket for life. Meanwhile, the self-employed Autonomi practice widespread tax evasion and justify it in their minds by reminding everyone else of the privileges and benefits enjoyed by the Statati. People, it seems, want to be bureaucrats while hating bureaucracy. Laws are to be evaded and anti-bureaucratic feelings predominate. There are countless bureaucrats and countless government regulations (thus justifying their jobs) but most of these rules and regulations are not necessarily enforced or enforceable.

In this context Parks describes a favourite Italian tri-partite method of analysis, “discreto”, “valido, and “relativo”. The first term means that something is needed, necessary and therefore justifiable; the second means that the same thing works and is sound and functional; and the third refers to relativity (everything is qualified by circumstance). Laws, for example, are seen as discreto (justifiable), valido (sound in principle), but relativo (nobody has any intention of abiding by them). A friend of Parks provides the example of *autostrada*. They were a great idea, well-constructed, but used sparingly as the tolls had to be levied at such a high rate in order to pay for the original road building. In other words, anything that is purposeful and well put together is negated by the harsh application of situational reality. And this

bifurcation goes to the heart of Italian attitudes and value systems. In Italy, says Parks, pride exists side-by-side with cynicism and resignation; image is always tempered by reality. As the saying goes, everything is relative.

As Parks concludes,

In every aspect of Italian life, one of the key characteristics...is that this is a nation at ease with the distance between ideal and real...Quite simply they do not register the contradiction between rhetoric and behaviour.

Italians, he says, like an easy life and feel superior to those fretful nations who put punctuality before style and comfortable digestion. But the key, underneath the surface fluidity, is the social stability caused by the ties that bind. Given the anchoring created by localism, family life, distrust of government, and lack of mobility, no wonder that Italy is experiencing the rise of political populism. Under the threat of social upheaval caused by the recent influx of refugees and the resulting economic pressures, Italians are reverting to what they do best: being Italian.

Peter Holly

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Memorable Theme Tunes

Haunting and memorable theme tunes add to the lustre of many a long-running TV series. Two recent examples are the songs played over the opening and closing credits of “Versailles” (BBC2) and “The Bridge” (available on catch-up on Prime Video).

Each episode of Versailles is book-ended by the soaring, pulsing and almost operatic rendition of “Outro” by M83, a track taken from the 2011 album “Hurry Up, We’re Dreaming”. Formed in Antibes in 2001, M83 is a French electronic music project spearheaded by vocalist, songwriter, multi-instrumentalist and record producer, Anthony Gonzalez. M83’s music employs extensive use of reverb effects with lyrics sung over loud and soaring instrumentation and is heavily influenced by such ‘80s bands as Pink Floyd and Tangerine Dream. The point here, however, is that the theme tune (“Outro”), while being haunting and eerie in its own right, perfectly sets the mood for the drama (of which there is plenty) of the TV series, which is a Franco-British-Canadian collaboration. Set in the early reign of Louis XIV, prior to him becoming “The Sun King”, each of the three series follows his building of the palace of Versailles in the 1660s and all the scheming and intrigue that ensues amidst the king’s political and military machinations and those of his courtiers. While this TV drama may not be to everyone’s taste, it is the theme title music that sets the programme apart and remains long in your mind, long after the visual histrionics have faded.

“The Bridge” is a different kettle of fish. In its case, brilliant television deserves – and gets – brilliant music to open and close each of the thirty-eight episodes spread over four series. I am indebted to local friends who recommended watching this Scandinavian noir crime TV series, every episode of which is an absolute gem. A joint venture between Danish and Swedish television, “The Bridge” refers to the Oresund Bridge that links Malmo and Copenhagen. Aided by two Danish side-kicks, Martin (Series 1 and 2) and Henrik (Series 3 and 4), the main protagonist is Saga Noren (played superbly by Sofia Helin). She is a Swedish police detective who lives alone and rather than have serious relationships, she prefers to pick up men in bars for casual sex. Her poor social skills, her difficulties in empathizing with others and her inability to show emotion, make her appear cold, insensitive and blunt, but she is completely honest and forthright – sometimes to her own detriment. She is a wonderfully multi-faceted character brought alive by the brilliant acting of Sofia Helin. Indeed, all thirty-eight episodes hang on her portrayal of a deeply-scarred, deeply-flawed, and deeply-nuanced central character. It is Saga Noren that makes this brilliant television. And, of course, the theme music fits the bill.

The song that begins and ends each episode is called “Hollow Talk” and is taken from the album “This is for the White in Your Eyes” by the Choir of Young Believers, a musical project set up by singer, writer and guitarist, Jannis Noya Makrigiannis. Based in Copenhagen and joined by a rotating set of supporting players, he combines sparse folk melodies, orchestral instrumentation and dark lyrics, just the kind of music to set the mood for what “The Bridge” has to offer. “Hollow Talk” has a certain off-kilter, Dylanesque ring to it and the words which are sung softly and sorrowfully echo the fact that “everything goes back to the beginning”, ushering in another set of anti-social, criminal and utterly brutal activities.

Each of the theme tunes mentioned here is a perfect match with the programme it represents: each is genuinely a *theme* tune. “Outro” is baroque and majestic in feel and sets the tone for the palace intrigues highlighted in Versailles. “Hollow Talk” has a sinister, plaintive edge and sets the scene for the mystery and murder stories to come. And each tune stays with you after the television has been switched off. Both tracks are available on Spotify. Listen (and view) at your peril.

Peter Holly

LONGSTOWE HISTORY SOCIETY

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Papworth Team Ministry (C of E)

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Papworth Everard
CB23 3UY

Email: papworthteamministryoffice@gmail.com

Web: www.papworthteamchurches.org

Our Team Administrator, Chris Westgarth, works in the office normally on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday mornings; serving the parishes of Bourn, Boxworth, Caxton, Conington, Croxton, Elsworth, Eltisley, Graveley with Papworth St Agnes, Kingston, Knapwell, Lolworth, Longstowe, Papworth Everard, Toseland and Yelling.

For enquiries about weddings, baptisms, funerals and general parish matters, please contact Chris (as above), visit the website or speak to one of our clergy...

> The Revd Nigel di Castiglione, Team Rector – 07770 697240 - 01954 267241

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