

# *Kingston Parish & Church Magazine*



**December 2019**

## Village Diary

Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> December	Village Coffee/Tea – Village Hall – 10.30am
Saturday 7 <sup>th</sup> December	Pub Night at the Village Hall, 6pm-10pm
Tuesdays 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 10 <sup>th</sup> , & 17 <sup>th</sup> December	Wellness Workouts, 10.00am & 6.30pm
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> December	Kingston Music Club, 7.30pm
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	Village Carol Singing, Village Hall, 6.30pm
Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December	Nativity at South Sea House Barn, 4pm

## Wheelie bin collection dates

Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> December	Blue and Green bins
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> December	Black bin
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	Blue and Green bins
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> December	Black bin
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> January 2020	Blue bin only

## Editorial

### Friends and Neighbours

Christmas is coming! Church services, Nativity plays, gift buying and giving, and, oh, a General Election to look forward to. One thing is for sure, however; Kingston will be at its best again this Christmas. With the Christmas Fair already behind us (for details see below), we can now look forward to all the other events that make a Kingston Christmas so special. One thing I would ask, however, is that all of us make a special effort to ensure that no villagers spend the holidays alone. Yes, Christmas is a family affair but it's also the time for friends and neighbours. Please make every effort to include others in your festivities. And see you at the Carol Singing, the Nativity Play and Christmas services!

On December 7<sup>th</sup> let's also celebrate the tenth anniversary of Pub Night in Kingston. Ten years of conviviality and jollification: that's quite an achievement. Cheers!

Peter Holly   [pjholly45@gmail.com](mailto:pjholly45@gmail.com)   01223 264 556

## Vicar's Letter

Christmas is coming – and so is a General Election.

Back in February, I wrote about the new parliamentary grouping which Heidi Allen had launched. As events unfolded, that came to nothing, and politics has once again reverted to the two main parties slinging mud at each other, and the minor parties almost entirely without effect.

It all seems a long way from the angels' message to the shepherds of "peace on earth, goodwill to all people." But let's not forget that those shepherds were social outcasts, in a country under the occupying force of a huge military empire, governed by a front man who was both insecure, and murderously violent.

So the angels' song was "aspirational" then, and still is now, but that doesn't mean we should write it off as a ridiculous dream. Just because the dream doesn't look like becoming real any time soon, we can still work towards it, and we can still see Christmas as a sign pointing us in the right direction.

Christmas is not a reason to withdraw from the world into a pretty bubble of tinsel and mince pies (nice though they are) but a stimulus to engage with reality, however hard it might be.

The Archbishops of Canterbury and York recently released a video about how to approach the election in the light of Christmas and the teachings of the adult Jesus. They said "each of us is called to honour the gift of truth ... to speak accurately, to challenge falsehoods when we hear them and to be careful to separate facts from opinion".

Christmas points us to the ultimate truth of God who came to be one of us, who sought out the vulnerable and marginalised to welcome them into God's kingdom, and who gave his own life to make eternal life possible for us. These values of truth, compassion, and sacrifice must be our guiding principles as we consider which candidate to vote for.

I wouldn't dream of telling anyone which way to vote, but I will say, along with the Archbishops, that it is our democratic duty to vote. We have a privilege that Mary, Joseph and the shepherds couldn't have dreamt of – the privilege of a say in who will govern us, and the privilege to disagree with them. Even in our faulty political and electoral system, the more people who vote, the more representative the outcome will be.

Have a blessed Christmas, and please vote!

**Rev. Steve Day**

## Church Services for December

**Sunday 1st December Holy Communion 8.30am**

**Sunday 15th December CAROL SERVICE 6.00pm**

**Sunday 22nd December NATIVITY at South Sea House 4pm**

**Tuesday 24th December CHRISTMAS EVE Family Communion 11.30pm**

## Church cleaning

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

## Church flowers and brasses

1st December	Christine Stone
8th December	Christine Allison
15th December	Janet Clear
22nd December	Miki Ellar
29th December	Henrietta Burbridge

## 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.

## Christmas services

As always, **everyone** is warmly invited to attend any or all of our Christmas services.

## Holy Communion on Wednesdays in Advent

4th, 11th and 18th December - 12 Noon at Bourn Church

A time to pause, reflect, remember and pray.

## Tuesdays in Advent

3rd, 10th and 17th December - 7.30pm at Eltisley Church

A time to pause, reflect and pray.

## Back to Basics Flower Arranging Workshop

Otherwise known as Oasis, floristry foam is an unsustainable product. There is work being done to find a compostable replacement, but in the meantime, it's time to go "old school".

This work shop is designed to demonstrate traditional methods of flower arranging, without floristry foam.

Please bring your own container/vase, flowers and foliage.

£5.00 per person.

Kingston Village Hall

Wednesday 11th December at 7.00pm

Everybody welcome

**Lee Steele**

Longstowe Church  
invite you to  
celebrate with them  
at their

## CHRISTINGLE SERVICE



1<sup>st</sup> December  
at 3.00pm



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## Autumn in Kingston

Two photos included in this issue capture “Autumn in Kingston”. The wonderful cover photo was taken by David Heath’s niece and captures everything that is great about this time of year. The photo below of Kingston Green is included to show that on at least one day this autumn the rain stopped and the sun came out during one of the wettest seasons on record.



Dear All

Femke Cole in Crane's Lane has asked that we circulate this message. It is primarily aimed at the residents of Crane's Lane, but it might be as well if we all took notice of it.

#### To the residents of Cranes Lane

The sewage drains on Cranes Lane had to be unblocked for the second time recently. The blockage was caused by wet wipes/make up wipes/baby wipes being flushed down the toilet. Even if it says "flushable" on the packaging, these are NOT biodegradable. The council has paid for these last two incidents, but it has been said that if it keeps happening the cost will have to be charged to the residents.

Could you please refrain from flushing wipes down the toilet so we can prevent this from happening again? Check this link for more information:

<https://www.lanesfordrains.co.uk/domestic/help-advice/using-drains-and-sewers/wipes/>

***Peter Stokes***

## Parish Council News

**Parish Council meetings for 2020:** dates of meetings for next year are Tue 14 Jan, Tue 10 Mar, Tue 12 May, Tue 14 Jul, Tue 8 Sep and Tue 10 Nov. Extraordinary meetings may be held in addition.

**Annual Parish Meeting 2020:** this will be held on Thu 21 May.

**Climate Change:** with the current concern in mind, the Woodland Trust is encouraging us all to plant trees. Peter Reynolds has kindly written an excellent and thorough guide on choosing trees and how to plant them which can be downloaded from <https://www.dropbox.com/s/gf0spvmyelmwfqo/Trees%20-%20parish%20mag.docx?dl=0>  
**(see note at the end about these website addresses)**

Alternatively, you can take cuttings from your own garden. See this website for advice on how to do this:

<https://www.gardeningknowhow.com/ornamental/trees/tgen/how-to-root-cuttings-from-various-shrubs-bushes-and-trees.htm>

**Scams:** Every year hundreds of thousands of people fall victim to a scam. A scam is fraud, it is a crime, it persuades people to part with their money or personal details, by intimidation, or by promising cash, prizes, services or fictitious returns for investments. The people successfully targeted are frequently elderly, living alone / lonely, socially isolated, vulnerable, and simply not equipped to spot what might be

obvious to others. Many scams go unreported, the victim suffers in silence. This is either because the victim doesn't realise what's happening, or because of a sense of shame and embarrassment. In many documented cases the victim continues to pay out money, unable to accept what is happening, believing that somehow everything will turn out OK and they will eventually get all their money back. Even with mounting disquiet, the bitter truth is too hard to accept.

You might be too smart to fall for one, but what about the people around you? It is important to be aware of the signs that a loved one, or vulnerable neighbour, is a scam victim, so that you can help them. Cambridgeshire County Council is launching a 'scam awareness' initiative, and offer an online 'awareness training' to help us all be more aware of the working methods of the fraudsters, and to spot the signs that somebody, perhaps unaware or too frightened to speak, has become a victim. Go to: <https://www.friendsagainstscams.org.uk/training/friends-elearning?xPage=59>

To find out more about the latest scams and frauds, or to report a scam, go to <https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/>

### **Planning**

- S/2782/19/FL Storage building and carport at Greenacres, Old Wimpole Road: this has been granted by SCDC.
- S3691/19/TP Walnut Cottage, Church Lane: an application has been made to carry out work on a Walnut tree. KPC has no objections.
- S/3512/19/TC Southcote, Church Lane: an application has been made to carry out work on 5 Leylandii trees. KPC has no objections.
- S/3250/19/TC The Barn, Paynes Farm, Field Road: an application has been made to carry out work on 3 Norway Spruce trees. KPC has no objections.
- S/3207/19/PN Prior Notification for an agricultural building at Armshold Farm, Tinkers Lane: SCDC has determined that planning permission is not required.

Details of these and all planning applications can be viewed or commented on at the South Cambs website: <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/planning/view-or-comment-on-a-planning-application/>.

\* I apologise that there are several rather cumbersome and long website addresses in this article. If you are having trouble with any of them, let me know and I can email the information to you directly.

**Peter Stokes, Parish Clerk**



Date	Title	Bourn	Kingston	Caxton	Longstowe
Dec 1	Advent	10.30am FHC	8.30am HC	10.30am W4A	3pm Christingle
Dec 8	Advent 2	10.30am WfA		10.30am MP	
Dec 15	Advent 3	6pm Carol Service	6pm Carol Service		10.30am Carol Service
Dec 22	Advent 4	3pm Crib Service	4pm Nativity	5pm Carol Service	
Dec 24	Christmas Eve	11.30 pm HC	11.30pm HC		
Dec 25	Christmas Day	10.30am FS		11am HC	9.15am HC
Dec 29	Christmas 1	8.30am Whole Team HC at Caxton			
Jan 5	Epiphany	10.30am FHC	8.30am HC	10.30am MP	
Jan 12	Baptism of Christ	10.30am WfA		10.30am W4A	8.30am HC
Jan 19	Epiphany 2	8.30am HC	10.30am FW		
Jan 26	Epiphany 3	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

P&P=Prayer & Praise



The Doghouse Caxton

## Dog Walking and Home Boarding

We provide a flexible home/day boarding service for dogs in our family home and they are cared for in a warm and friendly environment.

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](mailto:hannah@thedoghousecaxton.co.uk)

## QUIZ AND CHIPS - 25 JANUARY

All eight tables have now been booked. If you are not on a table and would still like to come, let me know and I will circulate your name among the team leaders in case they have vacancies.

**Paul Wright**

[Paulwright8@btinternet.com](mailto:Paulwright8@btinternet.com) Mob 07803 237751

## Beware!!

Recently, I sent an email round about fraudulent opening of bank accounts, and asked if anybody else had had a similar experience. Four people responded, making six people in all in the village, who have recently had bank accounts fraudulently opened in their name.

Although I couldn't get an official answer to this question, I do not believe there is anything sinister in the fact that a number of Kingston people have been targeted – I think it just reflects the way that the fraudsters harvest the information, through postcodes, electoral rolls or other localised sources.

I also tried to find out what if anything victims should do and was advised as follows:

- For victims, report the fraud on the Action Fraud website, <https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/>
- For anybody, you can obtain a free report on your credit rating at [www.clearscore.com](http://www.clearscore.com). I have not investigated fully, but I think you can receive some kind of warning of activity in your name.

Hope this is helpful.

**Peter Stokes**





## Village Carol Singing

The Village Carol Singing will take place on  
**Wednesday 18th December 2019.**

Meeting at the **Village Hall at 6.30pm**

Carol Sheets are provided but please **bring a Torch.**

Refreshments afterwards by kind invitation of Torrie and Linda Smith at  
Willow Tree House, Church Lane.

If you would like to join us,  
or would like us to come and sing to you,  
please contact James or Janet at  
South Sea House, Bourn Road,

The Church is very grateful for all contributions received  
and can be delivered to the above address.

Please make Cheques payable to Kingston Parish Church

*Taxpayers – please consider the “value added” factor of gift aiding  
your contribution*

## **Comberton Ramblers**

If you like walking and enjoy the countryside we are the walking group for you.  
Comberton Ramblers walk an average of 5-6 miles every fortnight on a Sunday.  
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<https://www.combertonramblers.org.uk>

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companionship of a group of like-minded people.

For more information please contact the Secretary Stella.

Tel. 01954 210049 Email. [stella.ramblers@hotmail.com](mailto:stella.ramblers@hotmail.com)



All welcome.

All children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews  
welcome to take part.

Mulled wine & mince pies after the service and a  
visit from someone special... Ho Ho Ho!

Please let Katherine Stalham,  
know if your children,  
grandchildren, nieces and/or nephews will be  
taking part, plus whether they will be staying for  
Father Christmas' visit.

## Book of the Month

“The Lost Boys” by Catherine Bailey (Penguin/Viking)

If you enjoyed “Beneath a Scarlet Sky” by Mark Sullivan, this best-seller is definitely a book for you. Sharing time and space (northern Italy during the Second World War), the only small difference is that, whereas “Beneath a Scarlet Sky” is a non-fictional novel, this new book, as Kate Atkinson claims, is non-fiction that reads like a thriller novel. It is certainly hard to put down.

The story centres on “Fey”, the beloved daughter of Ulrich von Hassell, the former German ambassador to Italy who, as a staunch opponent of Nazism, became deeply involved in attempts to remove Adolf Hitler. Implicated in the Valkerie assassination plot in 1944, von Hassell is rounded up with all the other protagonists and eventually executed. Not content with this level of retribution, Hitler then ordered his colleague, Heinrich Himmler, to find and incarcerate all the family members of the would-be assassins, with the hope of digging out the disease of disloyalty at the roots.

With her husband away in Rome helping to rebuild Italy from the ruins of war, Fey and her two young boys are tracked down to her home in northern Italy (lying still within the German-occupied zone), arrested and taken to Innsbruck in Austria where they are savagely separated. The two boys are wrenched away from their distraught mother and taken to a nearby orphanage and Fey starts a long journey from concentration camp to concentration camp. As the Russians advanced from the east, however, it became abundantly clear that her SS warders were under strict orders from Himmler to not only evade capture by the advancing Russians but also to keep Fey (and other fellow siblings and family members of former conspirators) very much alive, eventually becoming clear that Himmler, fearing that the war was nearing the end-game, was intending to use this group of over 100 internees as pawns in his last-ditch attempts to save himself from certain retribution.

The title of the book is something of a misnomer. The boys themselves hardly feature in the narrative (except for being desperately missed). The power of the book lies in the way the author skilfully interweaves the personal (Fey’s travails) with the general (the flow of the war in its last months). As Fey is dragged from pillar to post, the fighting is never far away, giving the reader a keen sense of the death throes of Hitler’s Germany. Suffice to say that by the end of hostilities Fey is just across the Tyrolean alps from her Italian homestead. Again, as Kate Atkinson observes, this is history at its best: thoroughly researched, well-written, absorbing, and a real page-turner. This book comes highly recommended.

**Peter Holly**

## Christmas in Kingston

Christmas in Kingston has started early this year with the Christmas Fair being held on Sunday November 24th in the Village Hall. Those that attended were treated to a cornucopia of festive fare. Preserves, baked goods, tea, coffee, mulled wine and mince pies were all to be purchased and/or consumed with gusto. Other attractions included artisan craftwork from the village, a chocolate tombola and a raffle. All those present clearly had a great time (see the photos below) and proceeds will go to the Village Hall funds. Rich praise goes to Suzy Stokes and her helpers for their unstinting efforts in ensuring that this year's event was a roaring success, raising the impressive sum of £650 for Village Hall funds.

### Looking Forward

Now we can look forward to Christmas itself. Activities in Kingston (details of which can be found elsewhere in this magazine) include the following:

KINGSTON CAROL SERVICE (Sunday December 15th)

KINGSTON CAROL SINGING (Wednesday December 18th)

KINGSTON NATIVITY (Sunday December 22nd)

KINGSTON CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY COMMUNION (Tuesday December 24th)

Have a great Christmas everyone!







**The Parish Church  
of Kingston  
warmly invites you  
to the Christmas  
Services**



15<sup>th</sup> December ~ 6.00pm ~ Carol Service  
22<sup>nd</sup> December ~ 4.00pm ~ Nativity in the Barn  
(South Sea House)  
24<sup>th</sup> December ~ 11.30pm ~ Holy Communion



# 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





## A Big Thank You

To Jill Coleman for donating this beautiful bench to be used at the Village Hall. Her donation is in memory of Dusty Coleman. The bench will be available for the use of all those using the Village Hall facilities for years to come. As a consequence, it will be much appreciated!



## Open Arms – Making connections

There's thought to be 50,000 people at risk of loneliness in Cambridgeshire, so chances are some of them live near you. With winter approaching, life may get lonelier; we all tend to stay indoors for longer. For some people, ill health and bad weather may confine a greater number to their homes, the fear of falling in icy weather and darker nights mean they're too nervous to go out. Working neighbours may be out all day, so they'll see few people during the week.

Villages are great at keeping the community connected, though it's easy to overlook the impact of seasons. In winter, timing events or meetings in daytime, or providing door to door transport, can help to prevent isolation. Helping with shopping, especially bulkier items, gives an opportunity for a chat, or sharing a treat.

So, making connections, however small, can mean so much, whether it's smiling, chatting at the checkout, catching up with friends by picking up the phone or contacting them through social media. Keeping connected by knowing what is happening in your community gives a sense of belonging which improves wellbeing.

The Open Arms project supports action against loneliness so if you have an idea that could help build connections in your community we can help you to make it happen.

Please contact us on:

**01954 211919** [sarah.b@care-network.org.uk](mailto:sarah.b@care-network.org.uk)



## Kingston Music Club News

Another successful meeting was held on Thursday, November 7th. The presenter this time around was Kay Forsythe and her theme was "Music Night at the Movies". Playing her favourite tracks from her favourite movies, she included such songs as "Do You Love Me?" by the Contours (from Dirty Dancing), "To Make You Feel My Love" (from Hope Floats), an instrumental version of "Shallow" (A Star is Born), "Everything I Do I Do It For You" by Bryan Adams (Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves), "That'll Be The Day" (The Buddy Holly Story), "You Never Can Tell" by Chuck Berry (Pulp Fiction), "Walk the Line" by Johnny Cash (from the movie of the same name), John Barry's "The John Dunbar Theme" (Dances with Wolves), and "The Tracks of My Tears" (The Big Chill). Everyone present appreciated her varied musical selection and her personal observations regarding both the music and the respective movies – and the popcorn helped!

### Upcoming Music Club Nights

Thursday December 5th: Jill Coleman

Thursday January 16th: Simon Draper

Thursday February 13th: Colin Whitworth

Thursday March 19th: Suzy Stokes

### Coffee, Cake and Conversation!

Wrights Farm House

High Street,

Longstowe,

CB23 2UN,

Wednesday 18th December

10.30am to 2pm

Some bits, bobs & pretty things for sale.

In support of

VIP Companionship for Older People

Reg. charity no. 1140646

Entrance Free

Cash or cheques only






## CAMBOURNE VEHICLE SERVICES

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## Trees for small and medium-sized gardens

The winter months are good for tree planting: any time from December to March is suitable, providing that the ground is not frozen. You may find self-sown seedlings, which can easily be transplanted, although the commonest of these is likely to be ash, a rather large tree for smaller gardens. When buying trees, bare-root or root-balled specimens are cheaper than container-grown stock and, although usually smaller, will grow away more quickly: growers lift these straight from the field from November. Plants from garden centres are often pot-bound: before planting the roots should be teased out or cut with a sharp knife or secateurs. In general, it is not a good idea to plant any trees within 10 metres of a house, nor too near boundaries, and you should always think about the size of the tree at maturity. If planting groups of trees, sufficient space should be allowed for each to develop its natural habit.

Trees are best planted in square rather than circular pits (roots have a tendency to go round and round in the latter). These don't need to be too big: 450 wide x 300mm deep (18 x 12 inches) is usually adequate. The bottom and sides of the pit may be broken up to facilitate root penetration. In past times the conventional wisdom was to backfill with compost or peat, but it is better to select trees suitable for your own soil: for most of us in Kingston, of course, this is heavy alkaline clay. Creating a pocket of 'good soil' in impervious clay can create a sump which fills with water during the winter months. The two commonest causes of failure in tree planting are waterlogging or drying out. Our summers are usually and increasingly hot and dry in this part of the world, and nearly all young trees will need watering during their first year of growth: a good soak once a week will usually suffice. Above all, the ground around the base of a newly planted tree should be kept free of grass or other vegetation. Young trees are usually staked, especially if they are in exposed situations. Stakes shouldn't be needed for more than two or three years, however.

There are hundreds if not thousands of trees available from the trade: what should determine our selection? When planting woodlands or hedges, native species will normally be preferred, but in gardens, exotics are often more ornamental but, at the same time, of equal wildlife value: many non-natives in any case belong to the same genera. For our clay soils, trees and shrubs of the *Rosaceae*, or rose family, will be the first choice: these include crab apples, hawthorns, cherries, pears, rowans, plums, whitebeams, the quince and the medlar. They are all bone hardy, of modest size, flower and fruit profusely – good for insects and birds – and, in many cases, have good autumn colour.

*Malus sylvestris* is the native crab: good ornamental varieties include 'John Downie', 'Golden Hornet' (both suitable for jam making) and 'Red Sentinel', which has particularly

long-lasting fruit. *Malus floribunda* is noted for its profuse spring flowering; *Malus hupehensis*, *Malus sieboldii* and *Malus sargentii* are also excellent. There are forms with red or purple foliage, such as 'Cardinal' and 'Royalty'. *Malus transitoria* is one of my favourites, with cut leaves, a graceful habit and tiny yellow fruits.

Of the hawthorns, besides our own *Crataegus monogyna*, the following are highly recommended: *Crataegus orientalis* (also known as *C. laciniata*) with deeply cut silver leaves and large orange fruits; and *Crataegus prunifolia*, with persistent fruit and brilliant red and orange autumn colour.

The wild cherry or gean, *Prunus avium*, grows very well in Kingston, as may be seen on the village green. The plums include *Prunus cerasifera*, the cherry plum, and its form *Prunus cerasifera* 'Nigra', both grown in several Kingston gardens: the latter is noted for its very dark red foliage and contrasting pale pink flowers: it is perhaps rather dull the rest of the year. The wild damson, *Prunus domestica* subspecies *institia* is common in the village hedgerows and fruits abundantly: it makes good jam or jelly. In Japan cherries are revered and have been bred for more than a thousand years: from there come *Prunus subhirtella*, *P. sargentii* and *P. yedoensis*, besides innumerable hybrids which are perhaps the most floriferous trees of all those we can grow. Captain Collingwood 'Cherry' Ingram was responsible for bringing these to the UK in the early C20; he is famous for saving what is regarded by many as the finest of them all, 'Tai Haku', the so-called Great White Cherry, by taking cuttings and reintroducing it back to Japan. (A new biography of Ingram by Naoko Abe was published this year.) *Prunus serrula* is outstanding not for its flowers but rather for its stunning polished, mahogany-like bark, and a multi-stemmed form of this species is one of the best specimen trees for a focal point in any small garden.

There used to be a wild pear, *Pyrus communis*, in Crane's Lane, about halfway up towards New Farm: it is now a rare tree in the wild. *Pyrus calleryana* 'Chanticleer' is a large, fastigate tree with conspicuous white flowers and good autumn colour; *Pyrus salicifolia* 'Pendula' is a weeping form with narrow, willow-like silver leaves; *Pyrus nivalis*, the Snow Pear, is another excellent silverling, but with ascending branches.

The genus *Sorbus*, includes the Rowan, *Sorbus aucuparia* and the Whitebeam, *Sorbus aria*, good small trees, with various forms available. *Sorbus vilmorinii* has pale pink fruits and *S. cashmiriana* white ones: both desirable. *Sorbus hybrida* is from Scandinavia and a very good columnar tree: my father planted one in our garden more than 50 years ago and it still thrives; there is a variety of this known as 'Gibbsii' with oak-like leaves and more conspicuous red fruits.

We have both the quince, *Cydonia oblonga*, and the medlar, *Mespilus germanica*, in our Village Orchard: highly ornamental as well as fruitful. A very nice small tree, with

prolific white flowers and excellent autumn colour, also in the rose family, is *Amelanchier* (as may be seen in Martin and Fanny Apperley's front garden), known as June Berry, Service Berry, or Snowy Mespilus. The species commonly available are the north American *A. lamarkii* and *A. canadensis*. *Amelanchier ovalis* is a smaller shrubby tree from Europe and less often seen: we grow it at Docwra's Manor. Two more rose genera, *Cotoneasters* and *Pyrancanthas*, are usually classed as shrubs but include species that attain the dimensions of small trees, and they are excellent for wildlife.

Besides these rosaceous species, good trees for small gardens include birches, maples and spindle trees. There are two native birches: *Betula pendula* and *B. pubescens* (both abundant in Eversden Wood). Many are seduced by the brilliant white stems of *Betula utilis* var. *jacquemontii*, as seen in the spectacular groves at Anglesey Abbey, but I prefer the pink barked *B. albo-sinensis* and the shaggy *B. nigra* or River Birch, suitable for wetter soils. *Acer campestre*, the field maple, is a conspicuous feature of our woodlands and hedgerows in autumn with its bright yellow and orange leaves. Others worth consideration include the 'snake-barks', such as *Acer capilles*, *A. goserii* and *A. rufinerve*. *Acer griseum*, the Paperbark Maple, is one of the most desirable of all trees and grows well in many of the Cambridge colleges and in the University Botanic Garden. The many forms of the Japanese maple, *Acer palmatum*, are fine garden plants, but need some shelter and moisture throughout the year. The spindle tree, *Euonymus europaeus* is common in our hedgerows and a good garden plant with vivid colour late in the year: the variety 'Red Cascade' is commonly available. There are many others, less often seen: *Euonymus alatus*, *E. latifolius*, *E. oxyphyllus* and *E. planipes*, for example.

So far all these recommendations have been deciduous. We have few native evergreens suitable for our gardens: holly, privet, box and yew. Most conifers are too big and perhaps look out of place in this part of the world (although the Austrian pines at The Old Rectory must be amongst Kingston's finest trees). There are many hollies: most are dioecious, that is separate individuals are male or female. *Ilex aquifolium* 'J C van Toll' is a good one as it is self-fertile. *Arbutus unedo*, the strawberry tree, and *Azara microphylla*, are evergreens well worth trying in more sheltered gardens.

Finally, four more, slightly unusual trees which thrive at Docwra's Manor; the Judas tree, *Cercis siliquastrum*, of the pea family (there is one in front of the late Jim and Kay Burnell's house in Church Lane), *Koelreuteria paniculata*, the Indian Rain Tree, with vast panicles of yellow flowers; *Rhus potaninii*, a cogener of the familiar Sumach, with exceptional autumn hues; and *Eleagnus angustifolia*, usually sold as *Eleagnus* 'Quicksilver', one of the most fragrant of all trees, with white flowers and silver leaves.

**Peter Reynolds**

## Farewell from Heidi Allen

Heidi Allen is no longer an MP but has written a final farewell to residents for our newsletter. Heidi is not seeking re-election and is not currently an MP, so cannot be represented as such. Therefore we hope that the below is clear that she is the former MP and is writing as herself. She wants to say many thanks for all your assistance over the years, it's been a pleasure to work with you all.

Dear all,

I wanted to write and extend a fond farewell and a heartfelt thank you for four and a half wonderful years as your Member of Parliament.

I have been so proud of the vibrant, open, welcoming local communities who have shared a myriad of local successes and events with me and my husband Phil. We really do live in one of the best places in the world and it has been a privilege to create so many wonderful memories with you. I could never have dreamt that being sawn in half at the Cambourne Christmas Lights Switch On or being put in the medieval stocks at Hinxton could be so much fun! And who knew I could be so successful at village fetes – I literally cleaned up at the Eltisley tombola; opened with a rock band at Bar Hill; won the Tug of War with the ladies team at Meldreth and arrived at Whaddon in a vintage Bentley. I can't claim quite so much success at Thriplow Daffodil Festival, where I managed to confuse the category of Best Puppy with Dog that Looks Most Like its Owner! You are a very forgiving bunch.

Race starting became something of a hobby and I was lucky enough to be invited to wave the flag at Cambourne, Caldecote, Great Chishill and the brilliant Duxford Soap Box Derby twice. A definite highlight was helping to "top out" the new Royal Papworth hospital, while a low was probably during the Steeple Morden Steam Engine Rally when I innocently told the crowd that my husband 'likes to get on something hot and dirty at the weekend' – I'm not sure I ever lived that one down!

I've been privileged to see first-hand the exceptional efforts of our public service workers as they go about their duties with dedication and brilliance. I've loved spending a night on duty with the bed team at Addenbrookes; going out on shift with our exceptional police, fire and ambulance crews; cutting open a car with the Duxford fire crew to test new equipment and I was extremely proud to welcome the Prime Minister to the Genome Campus to showcase the ground-breaking work that takes place here.

I've laughed out loud at the contributions made by primary and secondary school pupils during my dozens of school visits and have been humbled and inspired by the pupils and teachers within our schools. On my final day, I was especially proud to hand GCSE certificates out to Cottenham Village College's latest cohort; celebrated like I'd won the lottery when Guilden Morden Primary turned itself around for Ofsted and probably enjoyed Elsworth Pre-School's cocktail night a little too much...hic!

South Cambs certainly knows how to party and I was lucky enough to watch the Hare and Hounds in Harlton coming back to life; Fen Drayton's Call my Wine Bluff and Queen Edith's RNLI superb Brass Band Concert. I dusted off my landlady skills at the Shelford Feast, pulling pints but my team and I failed miserably at Caxton's Village Hall Quiz Night...perhaps the cheese and wine may have distracted us somewhat! I loved giving Litlington residents a taste of my Desert Island Disc selections and who could forget me being beaten by Simon Sagers, the Green candidate in a hustings at Comberton VC!

I have so many special memories and it's just not possible to document them all here. Truly, it has been the greatest privilege to serve the people and communities of South Cambridgeshire. Thank you to everyone who shared a kind word, a thoughtful comment or a grey cell stretching learning. It has been a huge honour. To all the brilliant people of South Cambs – thank you for a wonderful four and a half years and for allowing Phil and I to build our life here.

All our love, Heidi and Phil x

## Mill Road Winter Fair

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Web: [www.papworthteamchurches.org](http://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...

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## Record Corner

Mr. Tambourine Man by the Byrds

At a recent Music Club evening, Peter Stokes played this hit record of the '60s and recounted how, when it was played at a party he was attending, he leapt to his feet and told everyone present to stop what they were doing and listen to this great record. Of course, he was right: it's a great record, almost revolutionary in its own way.

Like all revolutions, the seeds of change lie in the past. In this case, as far back as 1929. In that year, Gus Cannon and his Jug Stompers recorded the song "Walk Right In" which was then re-released during the folk/blues boom in the USA of the late '50s and early '60s. At this point, doyen of the folk movement, Erik Darling, stepped in and thought that the song would sound great using the newly-invented 12-string guitar. With a deeper, more resonant sound, his version of "Walk Right In" (recorded by his group The Rooftop Singers) soared to the top of the pop charts – an unlikely hit but a major one at that. This successful foray into the pop market made people sit up and think. And record producer, Terry Melcher (Doris Day's son and friend of members of the Beach Boys), got in touch with folkie Roger McGuinn and their conversation led to them using the 12-string guitar sound linked to the new music coming from Bob Dylan. What if, they said, we can use the same guitar sound, more harmony in the vocals (a la The Beatles) and make rough-at-the-edges Dylan vocals more appealing to a mass audience – and the rest, as they say, is history.

The single "Mr. Tambourine Man" was recorded in April 1965 and featured band members of the Byrds, Roger McGuinn, Gene Clark and David Crosby, all of whom worked as folk singers in the early sixties. McGuinn, however, was the only member of the Byrds to actually play on the record as Melcher drafted in The Wrecking Crew (hit session musicians Jerry Cole, Larry Knechtel, Leon Russell and Hal Blaine) to fill out the sound. But it was McGuinn, playing his 12-string Rickenbacker 360 guitar, who gave the record its distinctive "jingly-jangly" sound. And Bob Dylan's reaction when he heard the record? "Wow, you can dance to that!" he exclaimed. Crucially, what started as a 5 and a half minute song, was cut down in length to 2 and a half minutes of danceable rock music, in the process spawning a whole new musical genre, folk-rock, and a number one hit on both sides of the Atlantic. The record proved hugely influential (inspiring the Beatles to re-up their efforts) and the Byrds themselves went on to produce many hit records, in the process creating another musical genre, country-rock, with their 1968 classic LP, "Sweetheart of the Rodeo". So Peter Stokes was absolutely right: stop and listen, it's a classic!

**Peter Holly**

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