

Kingston Parish & Church Magazine



February 2019

Village Diary

Saturday 2 nd February	Village Pub Night – Village Hall, 6pm-10pm
Wednesday 6 th February	Village Coffee/Tea – Village Hall – 10.30am
Tuesdays 5 th , 12 th , 19 th & 26 th February	Wellness Workout, 10.00am & 7.15pm
Saturday 16 th March	Beetle Drive in the Village Hall
Saturday 23 rd March	Village Litterpick (am)

Wheelie bin collection dates

Wednesday 6 th February	Black bin
Wednesday 13 th February	Blue and Green bins
Wednesday 20 th February	Black bin
Wednesday 27 th February	Blue bin only

Editorial

February is upon us as a new year gets into its stride. Before long we'll be talking about Spring and the emerging delights of nature's annual rebirth. Now we just have to get through February - which can't be the most popular month given its normal weather patterns – but at least it's the shortest month! Think of the countries, however, where winter snow and ice clog up life for over half the year. We just have the occasional "beast from the east" to deal with. And on a walk up Crane's Lane this morning (January 20th), I noticed that some daffodils are almost flowering – despite below freezing temperatures overnight. Definitely a sign of good things to come.

In the meantime, you can be impressed by Chris Reid's cover photo – apparently a very rare sighting of deer within the Kingston environs.

Peter Holly pjholly45@gmail.com 01223 264 556

Vicar's Letter

The Collins Dictionary word of the year for 2018 was “single-use”. The term came to prominence to do with the amount of plastic we use, and has quadrupled in use since 2013.

It's quite right that we should be concerned with plastic use - most plastic is made from oil, so it's not renewable, and it is almost indestructible by natural processes. Waste plastic has been found in the deepest parts of the ocean, and microscopic fragments of plastic are found in our food, with so far unknown effects on our health.

But the “single-use” question goes far beyond just plastic bags and bottles. The clothes we wear, the furniture in our homes, and the devices we use, are increasingly designed to be discarded rather than repaired. And as we become used to throwaway items, so that affects our relationship with people, too.

What is someone on a zero-hours contract, other than a “single-use person” - someone whose services we use, without caring how they survive when they are not working for us just at that moment?

“Single-use” is a spiritual issue, striking at the quality of our relationship with the world around us and with each other.

On the material side, there are encouraging signs: the plastic bag charge, introduced in 2015, has been successful, and is set to be extended. Initiatives such as the Restart Project are helping people repair rather than replace their devices and appliances, and putting pressure on governments and manufacturers to ensure goods are repairable.

But what about spiritually? The driver for single-use goods is economic, of course – it suits the manufacturers to have us buy new, rather than repair. Similarly, it suits some employers to only pay for the exact time their workers contribute, and to pay as little as possible for that time.

But throughout the Bible, economic justice is one of God's key commands: people are not to be treated as disposable, but as valuable, because we are creatures made in God's image. God repeatedly condemns those who use their economic power to abuse the poor. Jesus himself began his public ministry by quoting from the Old Testament to say he had come “to bring good news to the poor”.

As we look to reduce our consumption of single-use plastics, let's look far wider than that, and look for ways to re-value the people around us, and re-discover Jesus' greatest command “Do to others as you would have them do to you.”

Revd. Steve Day

Church Services for February

Sunday 3rd February	Holy Communion 8.30am
Sunday 10th February	Evening Prayer 6.00pm
Sunday 17th February	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

3 rd February	Janet Clear
10 th February	Miki Ellar
17 th February	Henrietta Burbridge
24 th February	Joan Reynolds

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.

Kingston Parish Church - renewal of the Electoral Roll

Every six years, the Church Electoral Roll has to be renewed.

The existing members have already been issued with the relevant forms but if you wish to join, please contact me.

Janet Clear (PCC Secretary)

Practical Art Workshops & Gallery Research for those taking exams

at The Fitzwilliam Museum Education Studio (36), Cambridge

on Sat 16, Tues 19, Wed 20, Thurs 21, Fri 22 & Sat 23 February from 11.00-16.00.

There will be practical art workshops & gallery research for students (15–19yrs) preparing for art exams eg GCSE, A Level, BTEC with free one-to-one advice, gallery tours & space in the Studio with guest artists & arts specialists. Free, Drop-in.

Forthcoming Event – Sausages, Baked Tatty and Beetle Drive

There will be a Beetle Drive in the village hall on Saturday 16 March. Before starting the Beetle Drive, Sausages and Baked Potatoes will be served together with various dishes to put on the potato! Tickets will be available from Jill (see below) at a cost of £8 per adult and £4 per child (under 16 years old). All materials for the drive will be provided as will an outline of the rules and process. There will be prizes!! Look out for posters going up nearer the date. *(Participation in the Beetle Drive session is not compulsory but it will be fun!)*

Jill Coleman,



Litterpick 23 March

We will have our regular litterpick around the village on the morning of Saturday 23 March. Volunteers needed! Children welcome with parent. All kit provided. More details in next month's magazine – just cancel all holidays, family visits and anything else exciting and make sure you're there.

Peter Stokes, Parish Clerk



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Update from Bourn Primary

The school said goodbye to Mrs Christine Page at the last assembly at the end of December.

The school gave Mrs Page a plate created by Bourn Pottery incorporating the fingerprints of all the children in the form of a tree, reminiscent of the school logo.



Music Corner

Art and Music – Notes From an Evening with the Kingston Music Club

The second meeting of the Kingston Music Club focussed on links between art and music – seen through songs and musical genre that inspired artists and through art that inspired musicians. A selection of music (listen via Spotify) from the evening is listed below (musical references in italics).

Rene Magritte - Paul Simon (2018) - (*Rene and Georgette Magritte and Their Dog After the War*)

This song is about the surrealist artist René Magritte and his wife Georgette. In his early days as an artist Magritte earned his living designing art deco sheet music covers. Paul Simon tells a story about being at Joan Baez's home, waiting for her to complete a 'phone call. From a shelf he pulled a book of Magritte's artwork and found a picture, the title of which he took as the name for a song.

Wassily Kandinsky (1866-1944) - Arnold Schoenberg (3 *Klavierstücke Opus 11*)

Kandinsky was one of the small number of people in any population with synaesthesia - the linking of colour and musical chords and notes. His appreciation of Schoenberg's work is said to have led to his move into abstraction. Paul Klee, a concert level violinist, also experienced synaesthesia.

Jean-Michel Basquiat (1960 – 1988) - Miles Davis (*Round Midnight and Blue in Green*)

Basquiat an American artist of Haitian and Puerto Rican descent had a collection of 3000 jazz albums. He was an avid fan of Miles Davis and Charlie 'Bird' Parker. He first achieved fame as part of SAMO, an informal graffiti duo who wrote enigmatic epigrams in the cultural hotbed of the Lower East Side of Manhattan. Gifted a copy of Gray's Anatomy when hospitalised as a child aged 7, his work often featured stark anatomical imagery. By the 1980s, he was exhibiting paintings in galleries and museums internationally. The Barbican held a ground-breaking exhibition last year with queues for entry up to 100 yards long. The highest sale price for a Basquiat is \$110 million. Incredibly no British gallery owns a single example of his work. Basquiat died aged 27 of a drug overdose.

Jackson Pollock (1912 – 1956) - Louis Armstrong (*St James Infirmary*) and Coleman Hawkins (*Sweet Loraine*)

Jackson Pollock was a major figure in the abstract expressionist movement. The highest price for a work by Pollock is \$200 million (2015). In 1945, he married the artist Lee Krasner who became an important influence on his career and on his legacy. After his death Lee Krasner released details of the collection of jazz albums which had inspired his life and art.

Peter Blake (1932-) – the Beatles (*Being for the Benefit of Mr Kite and How Do You Sleep?*).

Peter Blake is an English pop artist, best known for the collaged sleeve design for the Beatles' album *Sergeant Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band*. He also designed the cover of the Band Aid single 'Do They Know It's Christmas'. More recently he updated the *Sergeant Pepper's* cover to include other public figures and musicians.

Simon Draper

HALF-TERM FAMILY WORKSHOPS 19, 20 AND 21 FEBRUARY

at Wying Arts Centre, Fox Road, Bourn, CB23 2TX

Led by artists from Ravioli Me Away and inspired by their new exhibition and opera, experiment with analogue and digital technologies and explore performance by creating characters, sounds and visuals contributing to a unique music video. The workshops are suitable for 6 to 12 year olds and their families and cost £8.50 per child per workshop or £21 for 3 workshops. Workshops must be booked in advance on

www.wyingartscentre.org/whats_on/families/february_half_term_workshops2

In the fourth meeting of the Kingston Music Club (17/1/19), Jill Coleman explored the theme of WAR and handed out these notes.

WAR by Jill Coleman

Napoleonic War 1812

1812 Overture – Tchaikovsky (1880)

In 1812 Napoleon's Army advanced on Moscow and the battle of Borodino was fought. Although the NA was victorious it actually became the beginning of the end. Supply lines were far too stretched and eventually a large proportion of the army was wounded or died in the frozen wastes.

Spanish Bride – John Tams

The Traditional opening to this track will be familiar to viewers of the *Sharpe* on television. The remainder of the song relates to the many Spanish ladies who met with soldiers of Wellesley's army during the Peninsular War. This war was also the beginning of the end. Wellesley's successful campaign through Spain and up through France led to the capture of Napoleon.

World War 1

The Lark Ascending – Ralph Vaughan Williams

Inspired by George Meredith's poem, Vaughan Williams wrote this composition in 1914 at a time when the war was in its infancy. Voted high in Classic FM's annual vote of the most loved music, it remains a magical piece.

Jupiter – The Planets – Gustav Holst

This piece became the music for *I Vow to Thee My Country*, a hymn to stir feelings of patriotism and honour for which we should always remember the sacrifices of the soldiers, seamen and airmen who served in this war.

World War II

In The Mood – Glen Miller

On 15 December 1944 Glenn Miller was flying from the Clapham Bedford to Paris during the flight his plane disappeared over the Channel. His remains have never been found.

Before and during the war Glenn Miller was one of premier band leaders and composers whose swing music became one of the music soundtracks to the "downtime" of the war.

D-Day Dodgers – Lily Marlene – Lance Sergeant Harry Pinn

Lady Astor, during a debate in Parliament, referred to the British Army in Italy as the D-Day Dodgers for not being involved in the Normandy Landings. Allied personnel

in Italy were bitter that material support was focused on the landings. They felt they had survived their own D-Days while fighting their way through Southern Italy to Rome, including the hellish Monte Casino campaign.

The Vietnam War

The Ride of the Valkyrie – Richard Wagner

Used as the main theme tune to Apocalypse Now, the Francis Ford Coppola film of the 1970s.

Readjustment Blues – John Denver

Released in 1971, this song refers to the confusion of service men returning from Vietnam to find their world turned upside down by the anti war demonstrations and feelings amongst the population who remained safe at home.

The Birthday Boy

Previously the same evening, David Heath, on the occasion of his 94th birthday, played some of his favourite music, including tracks by Cantaloube (Bailéro from Songs of the Auvergne), Dvorak (Symphony No. 8), Eric Coates (excerpts from the Four Centuries Suite) and the Kingston Trio (including One More Town and Greenback Dollar). After his presentation, all those present sang “Happy Birthday” and Suzy Stokes surprised David with a lovely birthday cake. As he commented afterwards, it was just like having a birthday party!



Kingston Remembered – Second Edition

People seem to have enjoyed the republishing of Louis Jacklin's Kingston Remembered. It has occurred to me that we need to capture the memories of Kingston in the '70s and '80s, and perhaps even the late '60s, to be published first in the magazine and then on the village website for perpetuity. David Heath, Michael Black and Terry Osborne have already written up some of their memories and we now need more from our other long established residents.

If people can send me snippets of their memories, Peter Holly and I will edit them. We might classify them into headings such as church, Neighbours Group (including entertainments like pantomimes), other social activities, village characters, schools, farming and the countryside, natural history and whatever you think of. We can sort things out at the editing stage so don't feel constrained by headings. We will add David's, Michael's and Terry's to the collection.

I will kick things off with this. If people want make corrections or additions, please do so and they will go into the final edited version.

Email me your contributions –

Fruit farming in Kingston

Newcomers to the village will be surprised to learn that until the mid-1990s there was a commercial orchard in Kingston beside the lane that leads eastwards out of the village to Toft. Louis Jacklin described how Kingston even had its own railway siding for the transport of fruit. This was on the south west side of the hump-backed bridge on the road to Toft.

Mrs Miller's family of Paynes Farm, with her son-in-law Terry Osborne as manager, took over the orchards and also grew strawberries and other soft fruit in the first field on the left. The Google Earth image, overlain with detail from the 1982 OS map, shows the extent of fruit growing, which at that time was just over 20 hectares (50 acres).

The fruit trees were apples, pears, plums and greengages. The strawberries were both pick-your-own and sold in punnets and there were also some gooseberries and raspberries. Mrs Miller had a wooden fruit stall by the bus stop on St Neots Road in Caldecote which she would open up in the late summer and autumn. Paynes Farm also grew potatoes, mainly reds, and these were sold to the public from one of her barns.

Paynes Farm also grew Christmas trees on the western edge of the strawberry field and we could go there and choose one. Many remain and have grown tall.

Most of Paynes Farm's land was purchased in 1986 by the Clears (South Sea Farm), by which time the orchards had shrunk to 4 ha (10 acres). The Clears built the green metal shed beside the lane to Toft as an apple grading and packing facility. James tells me they continued to run the orchard until 1995 when fruit prices collapsed and they could not devote sufficient time to the enterprise following his father's (Sam Clear's) death in December 1995. They grubbed up the trees during 1996, leaving one row of plums behind the grading shed which they removed in January 2019 as they were old and diseased.

Charlie Richmond bought the greengage orchard on which he built barns and created a paddock, as well as small market garden.

All that now remains of Kingston's fruit farm is a row of poplars planted as a windbreak.

Paul Wright



O What a Beautiful Evening! Opera & Comedy with The Opera Dudes

at Cambourne Library * Fri 8 Feb 7pm (doors 6.45pm)

Songs from Broadway, the West End, the movies & opera plus silly sketches, audience participation & the odd impression.

Tickets: £7, conc £4/£5 from The Library Presents www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/arts.

1½ hr plus interval. Suitable for Adults & age 12+ yrs. Licensed bar.

Views sought on County Council business planning

Cambridgeshire County Council is gathering views about local communities, council services and proposed changes to council tax. The views of parish councils and parish councillors matter. Sharing your views will help us better understand what is important to your community and what we should take into consideration when setting council tax rates.

To support this initiative, please respond to the County Council's online survey, which will be available until the end of January 2019.

Click here to complete the survey - <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/CCCBP2018parish/>

Why are we asking for your views?

As the fastest growing county in the UK, demand for council services is growing and we are having to continually adapt what we do.

More people need improved roads and public transport services, new schools (or increased places in them), opportunities for lifelong learning; increasing amounts of waste needs to be dealt with, more need to register births or deaths or get married; more children need help to stay safe or live fulfilling lives, and as people age they need support to remain independent and have the support they need.

As a Council, we continually look to transform what we do and be innovative to meet this growing demand. We also want to support places in most need and improve people's lives; making sure people get the services they need as close to home as possible. What we do know is that government funding for councils is reducing and Cambridgeshire doesn't get a fair funding deal from Government - this is the message we are giving the county's MPs so they can take our concerns to Government through our FairDeal4Cambridgeshire campaign.

For enquiries, please email Cambridgeshire County Council's Research Group - research.group@cambridgeshire.gov.uk.

Celebrating Snowdrops

Anglesey Abbey at Lode (CB25 9EJ) has one of the finest snowdrop collections in the country with over 300 varieties, including 20 varieties that have been discovered at Anglesey Abbey. This year the Snowdrops Season runs until 28 February. The Visitor Centre, Redwoods Restaurant and the gardens are open from 9.30am-4.30pm. The welcome leaflet in the Visitor Centre suggests routes and the best places to spot snowdrops and **the** Snowdrops Viewing Theatre in the Plant Centre is a good introduction to a selection of different varieties that can be enjoyed in the gardens. The Plant Centre has a range of different snowdrops for sale. They are easy to grow and rapidly spread.

Chippenham Park Gardens, CB7 5PT are historic gardens with snowdrops and aconites followed by a superb show of daffodils, hellebores, spring bulbs and blossoms in a setting of canals, lakes and parkland. The Potting Shed Tearooms are fully licensed and serve delicious home-made hot food, teas, coffee and cakes. Open 9 Feb – 31 March from 10.00am-4pm. Adults £5. 01638 721416 (Turn off the A11 towards Chippenham B1085. At the end of the slip road, turn left. After approx two miles and a sharp bend the gates to Chippenham Park are on the left.)

Date	Title	Bourn	Kingston	Caxton	Longstowe
Feb 3	5 before Lent	10.30am FHC	8.30am HC	10.30am FS	
Feb 10	4 before Lent	10.30 W4A	6.00pm EP	10.30am MP	8.30am HC
Feb 17	3 before Lent	8.30am HC	10.30am W4A	TBC pm Baptism	
Feb 24	2 before Lent	10.30am FW		8.30am HC	10.30am MP
Mar 3	Sun before Lent	10.30am FHC	8.30am HC	10.30am FS	
Mar 10	Lent 1	10.30am P&P	6.00pm EP	10.30am MP	8.30am HC
Mar 17	Lent 2	8.30am HC	10.30am W4A		
Mar 24	Lent 3	10.30am FW		8.30am HC	10.30am MP
Mar 31	Mothering Sunday	10.30am W4A	10.30am FS	10.30am FS	

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

Christmas in Kingston

Thank you to Torrie Smith and Tony Smart for the photos.



Nativity Service





Village Carol Singing

The Village Carol Singing Fundraiser for the Church raised an amazing £824.25: there will also be Gift Aid added to this.

Thank you once again to everybody who supported this event.

The PCC are truly grateful.

Janet Clear



Our MP Heidi Allen's Newsletter

Happy New Year! As we embark on 2019, I am certain it promises to be another very full year, both in Parliament and here in South Cambridgeshire.

My first meeting of 2019 was with Highways England (HE) to discuss the A14 and the A428 and was joined by Councillors Lynda Harford and Ruth Betson.

I asked for the meeting not only to be updated on the progress of the A14 but also to make HE aware of the concerns which residents and businesses have raised with me about the inconvenience created by the work.

When delivered, the A14 improvement scheme will provide significantly better infrastructure, but throughout the construction period, I am maintaining regular contact with HE to ensure inconvenience is kept to an absolute minimum and that all possible mitigation is put in place. A detailed summary of the meeting is on my website - <https://www.heidisouthcambcs.co.uk/news/heidi-allen-mp-puts-residents-concerns-a14-project-team>

In relation to the A428, this Spring will (finally!) see a preferred route announcement for the new route between the Black Cat roundabout and Caxton Gibbet. HE confirmed to me that the project will cost significantly more than originally envisaged, so Treasury sign off has been the cause of the delayed announcement. I will of course provide you with details as soon as I have them.

As my newsletter can only ever be a snapshot (limited by a word count!) of my work, I keep my website updated with details of what I am doing on your behalf. If you have not looked recently, why not take a look at <https://www.heidisouthcambcs.co.uk/>. At the beginning of January for example, I posted a video on the dedicated Brexit page in which I set out my views on the looming vote in the House of Commons on the Withdrawal Agreement. (By the time you read this, I'm hoping it will have been and gone!)

At the end of 2018, South Cambridgeshire received some fantastic news - Addenbrooke's is to get a new children's hospital. The need for a dedicated children's hospital in our region has been talked about for longer than I have been on the scene, so it is wonderful that it will now be delivered. The Health Secretary, Matt Hancock, confirmed that up to £100 million will be contributed by Government. We all know Addenbrooke's is a centre of excellence and this new children's hospital will enable them not only to continue to provide first class care in a new purpose built hospital but will also free up valuable space in the existing building.

Looking ahead, 2019 promises to be a big year for Addenbrooke's as the Royal Papworth Hospital moves to the site and plans for a train station pick up pace!

Bringing improved infrastructure and increased funding to South Cambridgeshire are key priorities for me so I am pleased to share with you a number of recent announcements about the next financial year.

Cambridgeshire County Council received a funding boost, with an increase in core spending power of 5.7%, taking the Council's funding allocation to £386.5 million. This increase in core spending power is more than double the average increase in England. This is a very welcome boost to spending on services in South Cambridgeshire.

The Autumn Budget also announced £6,294,319 for Cambridgeshire for adult and children's social care to help alleviate winter pressures on the NHS.

I continue to press for improved funding for our schools, and am working on a new campaign to drive the message home hard to Ministers, ahead of this year's major Government spending review.

Cambridgeshire Police have seen an increase in their funding from central Government and in addition, the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) has launched a consultation on the Police's share of Council Tax for 2019/20. Last year, the PCC introduced a new structure for local policing which brought an additional 50 officers to the front line. As a result of last year's increase in the policing part of the council tax, a further 55 officers were also recruited and are now in training.

The PCC is proposing an increase to the Police's share of the Council Tax of £2 per month per household (based on a Band D property). Please have your say -

<http://www.cambridgeshire-pcc.gov.uk/say-police-funding-cambridgeshire-2/>

On the 24th January, I will be joining the Commissioner and the Chief Constable for a public meeting on policing at Swavesey Village College. Details are here -

<https://www.heidisouthcambs.co.uk/news/heidi-allen-mp-attend-policing-public-meeting-24th-january-2019>

Finally, after a long and hard fought campaign, I was thrilled to learn that The Three Tuns in Guilden Morden had been saved for the community! Guilden Morden Community Pub Ltd completed the purchase of The Three Tuns on the 21st November 2018. With investment from 267 shareholders, the pub has now been saved. I want to pay tribute to everybody who has been involved in this impressive campaign – well done!

They are now advertising for a pub tenant – are you interested or know somebody who might be? If so, please email thethreetunsguildenmorden@gmail.com. Although I'm a former landlady, I can't apply but I will definitely be paying a visit and am happy to pull the odd pint!

If there is anything you would like to talk to me about, my next "drop in" surgery where no appointment is necessary is on Saturday 9th February between 10.30 and 12.30pm at Caxton Village Hall, Gransden Road, Caxton, CB23 3PL. My next "by appointment" surgery will be between 3 and 5pm on Friday 1st March at Melbourn Community Hub, 30 High Street, Melbourn, SG8 6DZ. If you would like an appointment, please do call my office.

In the meantime, if you would like to contact me, please email heidi.allen.mp@parliament.uk or call my office on 01223 830037.

Comberton
Twinning
Association



20th
Anniversary

Help us celebrate the 20th Anniversary of Comberton Twinning Association and ensure we have more anniversaries to come.

Comberton is twinned with the village of Le Vaudreuil in Normandy - near the River Seine about 10 miles from Rouen. For two decades, we have made regular visits each year to and from Le Vaudreuil, and many friendships have been formed. The aim of the group is for families, couples and individuals to experience the way of life in each other's communities, staying in homes.

In this 20th anniversary year, the French are coming to Comberton 5-7 April 2019, and we plan to go there 20-22 September 2019, by subsidised coach and Eurotunnel. We have social and cultural events planned for the April weekend, including a Bring and Share supper at the Village Hall, and a college visit with celebration lunch at Girton College.

We are seeking new families, couples or singles to help host the visitors in April. In return, you will have the opportunity to be hosted in France in September and experience the French way of life. Speaking French is NOT a requirement, although it is a great opportunity for young and not-so-young to improve their language skills.

CTA is run for members by members. For more information, see www.CombertonTwinning.org.uk. To join, contact Glynis Ellis, tel 262214, email secretary@combertontwinning.org.uk.

Don't dither - give us a call. Take part in the 'Entente Cordiale' and overcome the Brexit blues!

Illuminating Cambridge Libraries Exhibition

at Heong Gallery, Downing College, Regent Street, Cambridge, CB2 1DQ
Mon 11 – Sun 17 Feb daily 10.30am-6.00pm free entry

Photographer Sara Rawlinson captures the environment in which books and documents are displayed and preserved, the tangible materials, textures, and ephemeral light that all work together to create the contemplative spaces in which knowledge circulates and thrives. The 'Illuminating Cambridge Libraries' series aims to photograph one library from each of the 31 Colleges of the University of Cambridge. This exhibition shows images from 25 Colleges. The exhibition includes several historic lecterns designed in the late 17th century by Christopher Wren, on loan from the Wren Library at Trinity College.

A Dog's Life (2)

Since I last reported in, I've not had such a great time. I lost an eye (it was not mislaid, it was infected and was taken out) and my ears have been bothering me. Every time I go to the humans called "vets" they say that my ailments are typical of cocker spaniels. That doesn't stop me being proud of being a cocker spaniel, however, as humans seem to like my good looks. My humans at home think I'm handsome and call me "bonzo" (I think that's a compliment) and a "good boy" and the human next door calls me her "little man".

Life in the village is still good. Sometimes, along with Flora from next door, I get to go to things called "pub nights" at the village hall which seem to happen on a fairly regular basis. On these occasions, a lot of drinks are consumed, everyone gets very happy and, if I play my cards right, I might get a corner of a piece of yummy pizza. One of my humans always takes a pocketful of treats so, if there's no pizza, I still get more than a mouthful. I'm not allowed to go to the "keep fit" mornings (although it would probably be good for me), but I am angling to join the Music Club evenings. Hopefully, they'll play my favourites, such as "How Much is that Doggie in the Window?" and that real tear jerker, Elvis Presley's "Old Shep". Even though I've only got one eye to cry through, that song always makes me well up. Other great tracks are "Bird Dog" by the Everly Brothers (if I had a longer tail I would swish it to that one) and Elvis's version of "Hound Dog". Anything by my name-sake is also good by me. Thinking about it, after the Music Club is well established, maybe it will be the time to organize a Dogs Club. Just a thought, especially if it takes humans' minds off that thing called Brexit that they keep banging on about.

There are two things that I don't like about the village. One are those great lumbering, long-legged beasts that occasionally walk through the village. Those animals scare me and, if I can get away with it, I bark at them. When I do that one of my humans rather uncharitably calls me "brave but stupid". I think these animals are called "horses" which is peculiar as one of my other favourite songs is "Champion the Wonder Horse" (partly because there was a dog called Rebel in the TV series). The fact that the series was aired some fifty years before my birth date raises all kinds of eschatological questions which I'm not prepared to enter into now. Suffice to say that cocker spaniels might have irritating health issues but are dab hands when it comes to reincarnation. Normally, I have to say, scatological concerns are more my thing. The other thing I don't like occurs on most Sundays when, on my morning walk towards Crane's Lane, packs of humans in skin-tight, luminous suits come roaring through the village on contraptions that are called "bicycles". They shout orders to each other and generally take over the place for a

while. My natural instinct is to bark at them but, again, I'm told not to. Life's tough when you can't be a dog.

I have to admit, however, that these two nuisances take up very little of my time and my usual daily round is hardly affected. In fact, it's now time for my morning nap, so I'll finish writing now – until next time!

Buddy Holly

Book of the Month

“East West Street” by Philippe Sands (Orionbooks)

I am continually perplexed by the huge gaps in my knowledge in my preferred specialist area – modern history. The problem with history learning at school and university is that it tends to repeat itself: for instance, I “did” the Tudors and Stuarts three times during my education. After formal education, you tend to study what takes your fancy and what takes your fancy is governed by numerous factors, including availability of information, fashion trends, personal taste and personal interest, etc. What I hadn't realized until recently is that personal choice of learning material is severely curtailed by these factors. Take the Second World War, for instance. Most of the books available to us tend to describe how Britain (and America) won the war; it is much rarer to find books from the point of view of our main ally, Russia, and our main protagonist, Germany. Politics, of course, comes into this equation, as, for instance, during the Cold War, access to anything about Russia's huge role in WW2 was severely curtailed for political (and ideological) reasons.



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This lack of coverage is why the book of the month is such a revelation. The assumption has been that at the end of the First World War, when the Austro-Hungarian Empire (one of the defeated Axis partners) was dismembered, only good things happened. Poland, for instance, was expanded as a nation state, the intention being to drive a territorial wedge between Germany and Russia. As in all such arrangements, however, there are unintended consequences – as becomes manifestly clear on reading “East West Street” by Phillippe Sands, heralded as non-fiction book of the year for 2017. Sands explores his family roots in Lemberg (later called Lvov or Lviv) which was part of Galicia, the eastern-most territory within Austria-Hungary, until 1918, that is, at which point it became part of the new Poland. In exploring his family’s – and their city’s – development thereafter, Sands unearths a fascinating story that is both personal and political at one and the same time. As many reviewers have noted, the book reads like a thriller while laying bare the fate of Lemberg’s Jewish population. Prior to the First World War, the various ethnic sub-groups living in the city – including Jews, Ukrainians, Galicians and Poles - lived in relative harmony. Despite occasional flare-ups, life was good for Jews like the author’s ancestors. After 1918, however, life was never the same again, as Jews were squeezed between the nascent nationalism of Poles and Ukrainians, so much so that members of the Jewish population dispersed across the globe, first in many cases to Vienna (which, in the 1930s turned out to be a bad choice with the rise of Hitlerism and its extreme anti-Semitic ramifications), and then to more far-flung places such as Paris and London. Two former members of Lemberg’s Jewish population, Hersch Lauterpacht and Josef Lemkin, in one of those supremely ironical twists of history, both became experts in international law, the former taking up residence in Cambridge, England, and the latter in the United States, but came together at the Nuremberg trials of Nazi leaders in 1945 where they were able to contribute to the prosecution of, among others, Hans Frank, Hitler’s henchman as Governor-General of Poland and the purveyor of the Final Solution in his territories. Both men, it transpires, lost family members during Frank’s reign of terror. Lauterpacht came up with his theory of “crimes against humanity” (viewed as crimes against individuals and still used in international law cases today) and Lemkin popularized the notion of genocide (crimes against ethnic groups), both arguments being used against the Nazi leaders on trial at Nuremberg. This is a brief summary of a long and twisted tale which is a must read for all those who want to fill in the gaps in their historical knowledge and deepen their understanding of twentieth century international politics.

Peter Holly

Looking Back on TV in 2018

I can't help feeling that 2018 was a great year for us TV watchers. Just finished on Sky Atlantic is the wonderful 6-part adaptation of Elena Ferrante's "My Brilliant Friend". Starting slowly, you soon get sucked into this Neapolitan drama set in the 1950s, which follows the developing relationship between two local girls who live side-by-side in one of the city's more down-at-heel neighbourhoods. It tells you something that the girls live in a seaside city but have never seen the sea; even when they play truant from school to visit the sea, they end up turning back. One of the girls is brilliant at school but (given the local situation) is fated not to use her natural gifts; the other has to apply herself harder but – against all odds – makes it to the equivalent of grammar school. And then boyfriends enter the fray to further complicate the social dynamics. Wonderfully acted, wonderfully set in Naples and its environs, wonderfully evocative of the time period, this is must-see TV.

Also just finished is the intriguing 3-part BBC drama, "Mrs. Wilson", which follows the lives of an ex-MI5 spy and his various (simultaneous) wives and families. He was a real World War Two Walter Mitty and, to the end, the viewer is uncertain where his trade-craft ends and his personal lies and fantasies begin. Everything comes to light after his death and the drama unfolds through the eyes of his third wife and her two sons. In a nice piece of irony, Mrs. Wilson – the wife in the 1940s and '50s - is played on TV by her real-life grand-daughter.

Our expectations were that "The Little Drummer Girl" (another BBC adaptation of a John Le Carre novel) was going to be a real blockbuster. While it never reached these dizzy heights (truthfully it isn't one of his best novels to start with) and despite being a slow-burner, the faithful viewer was rewarded with another period drama (set in the late 1970s) that builds to a fascinating climax.

Already mentioned in this magazine has been a slew of American dramas set in the Missouri back-country of the Ozarks. First came the appropriately named "Ozark", which smacked of the Coen brothers at their best, and this was followed by "Sharp Objects", both series capturing the menace, intrigue and violence of dysfunctional family life in a dysfunctional social setting. In terms of other US TV series, "Billions" and "Homeland" are always worth sticking with.

Back in the UK, the excellent drama "Bodyguard", a political thriller, was captivating from the start but tended to run out of steam towards the end.

Perhaps a surprising addition to this list is ITV's "Geno's Italian Adriatic Escape". Geno D'Acampo's multi-part travelogue down the Adriatic coast of Italy, starting in Venice and ending in Lecce on the southern heel of the country and containing resplendent views of the coastal areas and some fine cooking along the way, is a

treat for the senses. He is a much more affable version of Gordon Ramsey and his winning personality adds to the show's watchability.

Reruns are always a good bet. In 2018, both "Band of Brothers" and "The Pacific" enjoyed another run and some of us caught up on the equally brilliant "The Bridge" and "The Crown". My own favourite are reruns of Henning Mankell's "Wallander" series with Kenneth Branagh in the lead role and "Scandi-noir" at its absolute best.

Saving the best to last, two BBC series are heading for end-of-year prizes and deserve all the accolades coming their way. "A Very English Scandal" (the black comedy about Jeremy Thorpe's botched attempts to cover up his criminal escapades) and "Killing Eve" (the international mystery psycho-drama focusing on a young female psychopathic assassin brilliantly played by Jodie Comer) were very different dramas but were both the best of television in 2018.

Peter Holly

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