

Kingston Parish & Church Magazine



January 2019

Village Diary

Wednesday 2 nd January	Village Coffee/Tea – Village Hall – 10.30am
Saturday 5 th January	Village Pub Night – Village Hall, 6pm-10pm
Tuesdays 8 th , 15 th , 22 nd & 29 th January	Core Fitness Class, 10.00am & 7.15pm
Tuesday 8 th January	Parish Council Meeting
Thursday, 17 th January	Music Club Meeting – Village Hall, 8pm
Saturday 26 th January	Quiz and Chips, Village Hall, 7.30pm

Wheelie bin collection dates

Thursday 3 rd January	Blue bin only
Wednesday 9 th January	Black bin
Wednesday 16 th January	Blue and Green bins
Wednesday 23 rd January	Black bin
Wednesday 30 th January	Blue bin only

Editorial

Happy New Year!

With 2018 coming to a close, a big thank you to everyone who has contributed to this magazine over the past year. Whether you wrote an article, provided a news item or a photograph, or volunteered to help with distribution, every contribution is much appreciated. Included below is a summary of the main events of 2018 that were described in these pages.

Entering the New Year, appropriately so, we have the introduction of the new Community Lift Scheme, as is explained in this issue of the magazine. This excellent initiative is typical of a village that cares and tries to look after its own. Congratulations to all those who came up with and are implementing this fine idea. Long may it flourish! Let's hope this is typical of things to come in 2019!

Peter Holly pjholly45@gmail.com 01223 264 556

Vicar's Letter

Christmas is over. The trees are down, the decorations are packed away, and the baby in the manger is safely behind us for another year.

But the church's celebration has hardly begun. In the next few weeks we have another go at the Wise Men, and we celebrate Jesus turning water into wine – dry January notwithstanding. We skip forward briefly to think about Jesus' baptism when he was 30 years old, before returning to him as a baby as his parents bring him to the Temple.

Then there's the briefest of pauses before we plunge into Lent at the other end of Jesus' earthly life.

Despite the big difference that Christmas makes to our everyday routines, and the way so many things get put 'on hold' for the season, our everyday lives don't stop any more than the church's story.

So now we look at the scales and resolve to join a gym; the grass will soon start to grow again and need cutting; those decisions at work which were delayed because of Christmas will need attention.

This year especially, with the spectre of leaving the EU looming very large, decisions at a national level may have major impacts on all our lives which we will need to deal with.

Many people find January the most difficult time of year for all those reasons, as well as the dark and cold, so how are we to find the direction and resources to pick up the reins again, and get on with ordinary life?

One way is to remember that Christmas and Easter are not two stories, but one: the baby in the manger and the man rising from the dead are the same person – the one who was born for us is the one who died for us. God came to be with us in all the pain and messiness of this life so that our sins can be forgiven and we have Emmanuel, God with us, not just at Christmas but all the time.

Whatever this new year might bring, we can all be sure that God's love and presence are here to steady, to illuminate, to encourage, to inspire, and to give life.

Rev. Steve Day

Church Services for January

Sunday 6 th January	EPIPHANY Holy Communion 8.30am
Sunday 13 th January	Evening Prayer 6.00pm
Sunday 20 th January	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

6 th January	Linda Smith
13 th January	Lee Steele
20 th January	Christine Stone
27 th January	Christine Allison

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.

Good News

Joan Reynolds recently received the following communication from the Cambridgeshire Historic Churches Trust.

Regarding All Saints' and St. Andrew's Church, Kingston

On behalf of the Cambridgeshire Historic Churches Trust I have pleasure in advising I have made a bank transfer of £163.05 representing half the proceeds raised by the people who nominated your church on our annual sponsored Ride, Drive and Stride; thus it is a donation to your church funds. The other half has been given to the Trust itself.

The Trustees and the Executive Committee wish to thank all the organisers, helpers, sponsors, walkers and riders for making such a success of this year's Ride, Drive and Stride. Could you please convey these wishes to all concerned.

Yours sincerely,

Nick Pallister, *Hon. Treasurer.*

Festive Bins

Please note the information below on changes to bin collection dates over the festive period (also in the magazine diary).

Date of usual collection

Wednesday 26 December

Wednesday 2 January

Wednesday 9 January

Revised collection date

Thursday 27 December

Thursday 3 January


Back to normal collections

South Cambs also offers the following information to encourage recycling:










“Any cardboard boxes that presents have been delivered in can be broken-up and put in the blue bin. Christmas cards and wrapping paper can also go in there, as long as they don’t have any metallic bits or glitter on. After all the festivities, remember to put all your used but empty and clean food and drinks cans, aerosols, tins, plastic bottles, tubs and pots and glass jars and bottles in the blue bin. These are all resources and can be re-processed and turned into new materials. It uses far less energy, and creates much less pollution, to recycle items than create entirely new objects from scratch. If you’re not sure if something can be recycled, use our “what goes in which bin” feature on our website. It’s important to avoid putting things in your blue bin that shouldn’t be there as they contaminate other items inside.


Remember that we are approaching our winter green bin collections schedule, so we’ll collect green bins once a month from Christmas. We return to fortnightly green bin collections from the beginning of March.”


Peter Stokes





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Parish Council News

Community Lift Scheme: As announced last month, we are setting up a Community Lift Scheme to help those of our neighbours who are non-drivers or temporarily car-less to get into Cambridge or to Tesco, Addenbrooke's etc. We already have 11 volunteers after last month's appeal, but a few more would be very welcome. It works like this:

1. Anybody requiring a lift emails me with the requirement.
2. I relay the requirement to the volunteers who have joined the scheme as lift-offers.
3. Anybody who is in a position to help contacts the lift-requirer directly (copied to me as coordinator) to agree the details.

There is no commitment or pressure. Having volunteered, you only need to respond if you are in a position to help and are willing to do so. It might be that you can drop the person off where required, perhaps with a slight detour, perhaps pick up as well, or if you are feeling particularly neighbourly you might provide the complete taxi service. Or if you can't help, just keep quiet!

PLEASE LET ME KNOW IF YOU ARE WILLING by emailing me (see below). Even if you would only be available at certain times of the day, or on certain days, it is still worth putting your name up. You can ask to be removed from the list at any time.

Speeding in Kingston: our request for funding for a mini-roundabout has been turned down because it would not comply with Highways Department's guidelines. They pointed out a lack of up-to-date objective data on vehicle speeds though the village, so the Parish Council has decided to delay any further applications until this has been addressed.

Just a comment to hopefully explain a misconception: some residents felt the application was made with undue haste. As already explained this was because the deadline for applications was almost upon us. It was always recognised that firstly, there would be input from the Highways engineers, so whatever we ended up with would be following their recommendation, and secondly, there would be no commitment until the parish council signed to accept the final proposal (which it could decline to do), so there would be plenty of time for consultation in parallel with the application.

Peter Stokes, Parish Clerk kingstonpc.cambridge@gmail.com.

*Do you need a lift somewhere? Then
you need...*

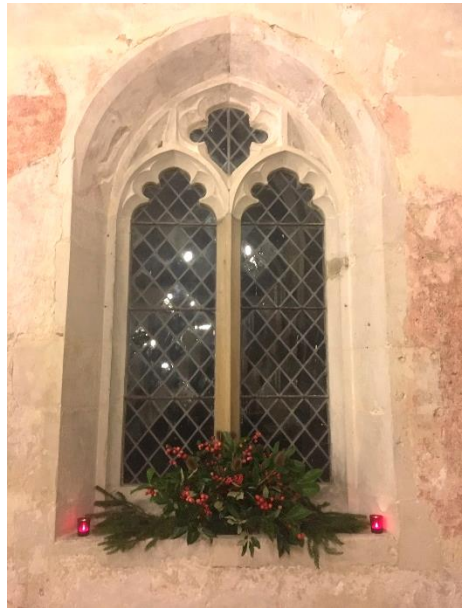
KINGSTON COMMUNITY LIFT SCHEME

- Email details to coordinator Peter Stokes at kingstonpc.cambridge@gmail.com
- Your details will be passed to volunteers on the scheme
- You should hopefully receive one or two offers - agree final details with offerers, copying emails to the coordinator

Cut this out and keep in case needed



*On the cover and below are examples of the wonderful flower arrangements
adorning the church for this year's Carol Service held on December 16th*



Christmas Fair

The Christmas Fair, held in the village hall on Sunday 9 December was a great success by any measure. Over £600 was raised for the Village Hall. There was a happy buzz while customers browsed the usual favourites of the Cake and Edible Goodies stall, chocolate tombola, bric-a-brac, gifts and raffle. There was also guess the weight of the butternut squash and gingerbread house. Tracy Robertson really excelled herself this time with her fantastic gingerbread house, with a penguin in the doorway!

New this year were a number of stalls in the small hall exhibiting artwork by various talented village residents: hand-made sewn goods by Kay Forsythe, photography by Pat Draper, fine art by Simon Draper, photography and jewellery by Torrie Smith, and book art paper sculptures by Justin Rowe. They all kindly made contributions from their sales to the event.

Mince pies, biscuits, mulled wine and tea/coffee were available from the refreshments bar.

Our grateful thanks go to the Kingstonians who generously made and provided goods to sell, the people who helped to set up and 'man' the stalls, and to clear up at the end, and last but not least the customers who dug deep into their pockets and contributed to the excellent financial result, a record for this annual event.

Miki Ellar and Suzy Stokes

As the accompanying photos show, business was brisk at the Christmas Fair.





Marie Jopson – 24 December 1926 – 6 December 2018

The Annexe, House on the Green, Kingston

Marie passed away on 6th December and her funeral was held on 19th December at the Cambridge City Crematorium. She certainly led a fascinating life and her eulogy, provided by Anne Jopson, is as follows.

Marie was born on 24 December 1926 in Kowloon, Hong Kong to Victor and Bertha D'Azevedo. Her father was the company accountant for Canadian Pacific Railways and her mother was a housewife. They were of Portuguese descent and Marie was the fourth of nine children. The family lived in Kowloon, however were evacuated to Macau during the Second World War, where Marie went to school and studied at Northcote Teachers Training College to become a primary school teacher.

After the war, Marie moved back to Kowloon and taught at St Rose of Lima's Roman Catholic School and then as a private secretary for Jardine Matheson. She met Geoffrey Jopson, her husband-to-be on a blind date with her sister Helen in 1958. Marie returned to the UK with Geoff where they married in Crosby in May 1960. Soon after Marie and Geoff were posted, through Geoff's work for the Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank, to Sri Lanka then Burma and on to Singapore where her daughter Anne was born in 1964 and her son Robert in 1966.

The family moved to the Philippines for five years before returning to Hong Kong once again.

In the early seventies, Marie and Geoff decided to relocate the family to the UK where they bought a Post Office and General Stores in Longbridge Deverill, Wiltshire.

They ran the village shop successfully for 5 years before deciding to sell the business and take some time out to decide where to go next!

During this time the family went to San Francisco to visit Marie's brother and sisters and considered emigrating from the UK to the USA. However the family moved to Tunbridge Wells where Geoff and Marie joined Forbuoys Post Office Division working with Frank and Valerie Newman.

The family moved to Hardwick in Cambridgeshire when Geoff was given responsibility for the East Midlands Region. They both worked for Forbuoys until they retired and then bought a house in Highfields Caldecote. It was Marie's wish to have a brand new house for her retirement and she spent much time in the garden keeping it growing beautifully.

Marie didn't slow down during retirement and she was always finding things to keep her busy. She spent time volunteering at Addenbrookes Hospital with her friend Brenda, and supporting the Church in Cambridge and more recently at St John Fisher Church in Cambourne. She continued to travel with Geoff visiting their children who seem to have inherited a liking for living abroad - being based in Hong Kong, Singapore, Tokyo, USA, France and Italy during this time!

In 2003, Marie's granddaughter, Natasha, was born. Marie was very proud of Tasha as family was of the utmost importance to her. She was so pleased that the Jopson family name would continue through another generation.

Geoff passed away in 2009 and Marie spent a lot of her time with Anne in Hong Kong, reminiscing with old school friends and relations there. She also visited Robert, who was now living in New Zealand, spending Christmas and New Year with the family down under.

Marie's final move was to the Annexe in Kingston with Anne and Noel in 2016. Marian her niece often visited and she would find Marie passing her time cooking, gardening and watching the birds or maybe on her iPad talking to her sister Sheila in California!

Marie was so happy to be close to her family in her final years, spending her time with Anne and Noel day to day and visiting Robert, Liz and Natasha in Kent.

She had boundless energy, incredible focus and unwavering determination once she had made her mind up. A true family matriarch, eccentric at times, but always striving to do what she thought was right for her family.

Marie had so much energy that we often said she would outlive us all!

Sadly we were wrong about that, but I know we are right when I say we all loved her and she will be missed by all who knew her.

Anne Jopson

Next Meeting: Kingston Music Club

The next meeting of the Kingston Music Club will be on Thursday, January 17th at 8pm.

David Heath and Jill Coleman will be joint presenters and will feature an eclectic selection of their favourite music including folk, pop/rock and light classical.

Abandon your mince pies and Christmas pudding and pander to your musical tastes instead.

All are welcome!

Simon Draper

KINGSTON REMEMBERED

PART THREE

**This is the third and final instalment of memories of circa the 1920s unearthed
by Paul Wright and Peter Reynolds**

Exceptional happenings. Fires. The farm buildings on Town Close Farm were at one time much closer than their brick and tile counterparts of today; furthermore they were of wood and had thatched roofs. Before my time and according to my father these caught fire and were completely burned out when a spark from a traction engine pounding up the small incline at the foot of Tinker's Lane fell on to the thatch and set the whole lot alight.

Church Farm was burned out following a similar incident about 1932. I know it was the month of May and that year was a particularly dry one. A moderately strong easterly wind was blowing at the time and the spark from another engine fell on to a thatched roof which was soon blazing. The farmhouse, having a similar roof, was burned out too. All that remains of this is the end wall of what is now called North Farm (Miss Piggott's bungalow). Before the fire brigade from Cambridge could get hoses to the ponds in the Rectory meadow, it was all burned down in about an hour.

Allgood's Bungalow, Claypit Hill (waterworks site). It was, I suppose, 1920 or 1921. I was with my father on his allotment (see later) when a messenger hurrying along came and asked my father to take a horse drawn wagon on to the *Allgood's* place to bring away as many household goods as possible as their house was on fire; indeed from his plot on the allotment the fire could be seen. The Kingston Eversden district at this time was a much used area for army manoeuvres (probably OTC personnel from Cambridge University) and on this occasion one or more airplanes were being used. The flare or "very" light was dropped from a plane and unfortunately fell on to the thatched roof of the Allgood house. The pilot, realising what had happened, wrote a note, attached it some object and dropped it in *Hagger's* farm yard. The message was picked up more or less immediately. A low flying airplane in those days caused quite a stir and was a somewhat unusual sight. What furniture was salvaged was stored in Mr Hagger's barn until the homeless couple moved into the small bungalow opposite The Green.

Lightning caused the death of *Miss Alice Lindsay* one Saturday morning when she was walking back to her cottage (Brook Cottage) at the foot of Eversden Hill. It was

pouring with rain and the poor woman had her umbrella up to give shelter from the downpour. At this spot there was not then, nor is there now, a tree which might otherwise have carried this flash safely to earth. Instead it was the umbrella which formed the conductor for this fatal flash. This incident happened about the mid 1920s.

Snow. One winter probably about 1928 came a blizzard. It was 26 December. Heavy snow driven by a northerly gale caused considerable drifting, the low lying road between Caldecote railway-bridge and the Kingston turning was full of snow. Eversden Road was similarly affected. Kingston was cut off and all farm hands spent several days digging a single track through these drifts.

Festivities. I believe the end of the first world war was celebrated by a big party with high tea held in *Mr P Haggard's* barn (Town Farm). I vaguely remember this plus the fact that there was a flag flying from the tower of the church (and there never has been since that time). Certainly the Silver Jubilee of the late King George V took a similar line. On this occasion it was a meat tea in the same barn for everyone in the village. This took place about 5 to 6 pm. Previously there had been sports for all ages including special events for senior citizens: a cricket match, some football plus other forms of home-made amusement. I believe the day concluded with a dance in the school room. All schoolchildren were presented with a Jubilee commemorative mug.

Charities and Charity. There used to be and I suppose still is a charity fund for the poor of the village administered by elected trustees. The *Banton Family* who lived in The Old Rectory in the 1920s and the early 1930s did something for the poor of the village, especially the late *Reverend P Banton MA* who every Christmas paid for a hundredweight of coal to be delivered to the old-aged pensioners. Soup was also sent to sick people together with milk. The *Rayner Family* were always generous to the villagers. Anyone who asked them for help was never refused.

Allotments. These covered about seven acres, the site of which was just past Kroken, at the top of Crane's Lane on the other side of the road. The land was part of Town Close Farm and was let out in $\frac{1}{4}$ or $\frac{1}{8}$ acre plots.

Some Old Village Houses. The late *Mrs Wilkinson's* house, *The Green*, is all that remains of a much larger row and formed in my time two dwellings. It was and probably is the oldest of the row. An interesting feature, apart from the much beamed interior, is the remains of a fresco or wall-painting in one of the upper rooms.

Orchard Cottage and Dove Cottage, Crane's Lane. I have always understood that these two dwellings are all that remain of an old farm complex on this site. I can certainly remember very old apple and other fruit trees in the adjacent gardens behind both cottages. The *Dove Cottage* (one of two in the village) being used years ago for the purpose the name infers. *Orchard Cottage* was a store house of

some kind. I have heard that it was the barn (of the old farm) but surely it is too small for such a purpose. The other **Dove Cottage** (*Mr Heath's*) is probably of the same vintage.

New Houses. The first new houses for many years were built by the local council just over 50 years ago. *Mr J Lindsay* lives in one as did his father before him. This pair of houses was built by *A G Worboys* of Comberton (deceased and no longer in business). A further pair were built a few years later on the north side of the first pair. The ground at the time was an old orchard owned by *Mr Rayner* and previously by *Mr William Webb*. Another pair was added again at the north side and still in the same orchard; then followed three pairs of houses to the south side of the first pair. The local council still owns land behind these three pairs of houses which was at one time earmarked for another pair of dwellings. The last pair of council houses to be built were the ones in red brick, nearer to the centre of the village and roughly on the site of previous houses.

Farms. Town Farm, farmed by the late *Mr Philip Hagger*, employed about twelve men and boys; this number being supplemented according to the workload.

Payne's Farm at this time was joined with New Barn's Farm and farmed by the owner, the late *Mr Robert Ingle*, who also farmed over a hundred acres on the ridge of high land well up Crane's Lane, there being some outbuildings but no dwelling house about three quarters of a mile beyond Orchard Cottage. *Mr Ingle* was, I believe the man who put Kingston on the map as a fruit growing area. Women found regular seasonal employment picking fruit, with children helping out after school hours. A foreman would check-weigh the fruit, which was mostly done at piece-work rate; another man would be engaged in setting ladders when top fruit was being gathered.

Mr William Webb owned several small orchards in the village. One is now occupied by council houses. Another was adjacent to Walker's, with further trees near his residence Dove Cottage.

Library Farm, now Moat House Farm, was, I first remember it, farmed by a *Mr Green* who was succeeded by a *Mr William Rayner* who moved from Church Farm, Kingston (now North Farm). Besides his farming interests at Kingston and Barton, *Mr Rayner* ran a coal merchant business and did haulage work for the local council. He was also Churchwarden for many years.

Kingston Wood Farm was farmed by the late *Mr Richard Hagger* (brother of Philip at Town Farm). Several men used to walk across the fields (there is a public footpath) to work at this farm. They had a useful sideline setting up snares in the evening on their way home and removing caught rabbits in the morning. For a dietary change

one could always buy a full grown rabbit from this family for a shilling (being charged 9d or 10d if not fully grown!).

Church Farm. After the *Rayners* left it was farmed, if not owned, by a *Mr Israel Custerson* who used to employ not more than two or three regulars and casual labour at peak periods.

Southsea House has farm buildings and land which belong to it, all of which was let to *Mr Charles Marritt*. He employed one man regularly who, together with himself, used to muddle through. *Mr Marritt* also, at a later time in the early thirties, kept the post office and delivered the village mail every morning.

Farming was what was called mixed, apart from the fruit orchards, mainly arable and a few cows for the village milk supply, with two farms carrying flocks of sheep.

General Amenities. Water. Before the last War residents of the village drew their water from farm pumps, by permission of the owner, and the Communal Well which is over 80 feet deep and situated beneath the bus shelter at the crossroads! It was the approaching war which caused a trial borehole to be sunk and tested on the site of the present pumping station at Claypit Hill. From this site a main was taken through the village and up through Caldecote to supply water to the new airbase built at Bourn, adjacent to the A45 road. Standpipes were connected to this main at various points on its way through the village.

Electricity. I cannot remember when this became generally available but it was after the war.

Kingston Post Office. In a directory of Cambridgeshire of 1879 *Mr Bennet Clear* is shown as sub-postmaster. (He rode round on a pony and blew his horn when he had a letter for you.) By 1908 *Mrs Alberta Thompson (nee Chapman)* had taken over the post; presumably at the present premises. In 1925 *Mrs Kate Marritt*, wife of *Charles Marritt*, had taken over. Business was carried on in the small room of *Prior's Cottage* next to the old *Chequers Inn*. Since then it has been with *Mrs Chapman*, back to where it was in the days of the *Thompson's* bakery.

Note from Mr Everitt. Kingston ran a cricket club until about 1946; Captain, *Mr Custance*, who lived at Crossways, *Mr D Wayman* was principal bowler and *Mr J Lindsay* was the umpire. During that time the green was cleared of thorn bushes by men of the Parish and ploughed and seeded by *Mr Cyril Hagger* of Town Farm. The collection of rubbish was commenced once a month. Buses came to the village instead of going direct from Toft to Bourn. The bus shelter was built over an old well, mainly from money which was collected during the war for a village hall. The billiard table, which was housed in a barn belonging to *Mr Rayner* at Walker's Field, was disposed of.

Another Year to Remember

Looking back through the pages of the monthly issues of the magazine in 2018, we find the following reminders.

In January we mourned the loss of our much loved neighbours Fay Black and Dusty Coleman. Managing to rouse ourselves from our mid-winter torpor, the Quiz and Chips night proved as uproarious and popular as ever – even if the winning team didn't deserve to win (by definition, the winning team never deserves to win!)

In February tree felling and pruning continued in readiness for the electricity works that lasted until October. We tried to dislike the process of updating our electricity supply, but the workers were generally so nice about it!

In March Jacqui Smith began her keep-fit classes. No one knows what goes on (except, of course, the enthusiastic participants) but we do know it involves dumbbells, music and a modicum of panting.

In April we mourned the loss of former village stalwarts Mandy Ray and Bill Lovell. The Charity Auction on behalf of church funds ended the month on a high note.

In May, a record number of contributors (19) helped to produce the magazine and the Annual Parish Meeting took place.

In June, at the monthly Pub Night, the Village Hall Phase 2 Grand Opening occurred with David Heath reminding us that this wasn't a bad feat for a village that was said to be dead and gone in the 1970s. Another high-light was the Crawshaw/Fridell wedding in the Village Church.

In July, the Kingston Wood Open Gardens and Afternoon Tea and the Kingston Church Fete meant that supplies of yummy cake were well to the fore. Kingston's very own Music Club made its first appearance.

In August, following an open afternoon at which participants were serenaded by the Kingston Blues Band (and more cake was provided!), the Kingston Barns project was officially launched.

In September, the Village Hall AGM confirmed various appointments of new officers and, in case you missed it, the electricity workers continued to rampage (nicely) through the village.

In October, the Harvest Supper – as in other years – was much enjoyed by attendees. The Village Work Day meant that our village was tidied for the winter to come and the second meeting of the Music Club ensured that our aural facilities were replenished. Simon Draper played his kind of music and drew links between musical and art forms.

In November, we remembered the end of the First World War, with an Exhibition, a Night of Remembrance and a Remembrance Day Service in the Church. The Kingston

Blues Band played at a Live Cabaret Evening in the Village Hall and the Music Club met for a third time with Ron Leslie reminding us of the delights of Canadian folk and rock music.

In December, the Kingston Christmas Fair got the Christmas period off to a flying start and the Carol Singing, Nativity Play and Christmas Church Services pitched in to make it the perfect Kingston Christmas.

Peter Holly

Music Corner

Remembering Chris Rea

I've always had a soft-spot for Chris Rea and his music and, at the recent packed-out Music Cabaret Night in the Village Hall, the Kingston Blues Band played an atmospheric and rousing version of his song "The Road to Hell" which, to the amusement of the packed house, they likened to the road we all love to hate, our very own A14.

Listening to this number, I remembered how much I've enjoyed Rea's music over the years. Hailing from Middlesbrough, he came to prominence in the late 1970s, becoming well-known for his distinctive husky and gravelly voice and slick slide guitar playing. In 1978 he had a major hit in the USA with his song "Fool (If You Think It's Over)" and proceeded to achieve huge success in Europe – curiously more so than in the UK. Coming as he did at the tail end of the punk phenomenon, his rootsy yet sane and sensible music was a blast of fresh air. Other hits followed including "Stainsby Girls" (a personal favourite), "Josephine", "On the Beach", "Let's Dance", "Auberge" and the aforementioned "The Road to Hell". Stainsby Girls (referring to his wife's Secondary Modern School near Middlesbrough) is a classic rock number with standout slide guitar playing and echoes of Mark Knopfler and Dire Straits at their best. In fact, Rea's music slotted in nicely between Dire Straits and Bryan Ferry's Roxy Music, the perfect antidote to the acerbic excesses of late '70s punk. Even his Christmas song, "Driving Home for Christmas", is a cut above many of the songs in this normally dire genre.

Suffering from serious long-term health issues, he toured and made records up to last year, but recorded music that was more to his own taste – by returning to his blues roots. He always has eschewed rock-star status, preferring to play his kind of music to his kind of people. Thanks to the Kingston Blues Band for their reminder of a musician whose songs are well worth another listen.

Peter Holly

Date	Title	Bourn	Kingston	Caxton	Longstowe
Jan 6	Epiphany	10.30am FHC	8.30am HC	10.30am FS	
Jan 13	Baptism of Christ (Epiphany 2)	10.30am W4A	6.00pm EP	10.30am MP	8.30am HC
Jan 20	Epiphany 3	8.30am HC	10.30am FS		
Jan 27	Epiphany 4	10.30am FW		8.30am HC	10.30am MP
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

HC = traditional Holy Communion (BCP)

MP= traditional Morning Prayer (BCP)

EP = traditional Evening Prayer (BCP)

FHC= Common Worship/All Age Holy Communion

W4A/FS = Family Service

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



The Doghouse Caxton

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.

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For further information contact

Hannah Hope

hannah@thedoghousecaxton.co.uk

Book of the Month

“From Sand and Ash” by Amy Harmon (Lake Union)

This book came highly rated. People I know and respect loved it, couldn't put it down, read it from cover to cover, etc. I don't know. It's certainly a good story. Set in Italy during World War Two, it's basically a love story involving Eva, a young Jewish woman, and Angelo, a young Catholic priest. The plot circles around the sterling efforts by those in the Catholic Church to hide Jewish refugees who, if found by the German occupiers, would have been sent northwards to the death camps of the Third Reich.

My problem with the book is the use of factual events to service the needs of a novel. It is interesting to compare it with “Beneath a Scarlet Sky” by Mark Sullivan (reviewed in a previous issue of this magazine and shares a similar theme) which is so embedded in reality that it hardly merits the description “novel”. And I loved it. This time around, however, I get the feeling that the novel seems to exploit historical facts for its own ends. The topic of Jews being saved from destruction by members of the Catholic Church is an important one and certainly deserves serious study. As the author says in her ending “Note”, she had long been fascinated with World War Two but had never thought she would be able to write a book set in the time period because of the vastness of the topic. As she says,

The historical setting and the events that Eva and Angelo find themselves immersed in are all factual...as in most historical fiction. Eva and Angelo were not real, but they interact with people who were.

For the sake of verisimilitude, she uses the names of real characters who were involved at the time and pays homage to them in her Author's Note. For instance, “Jake Prior,” she says, “was an actual American doctor who worked the aid station in Bastogne...I thought about changing his name, but then thought how lovely it is to give credit, even through the use of a name, when I can”. The fact that she felt the need to write an Author's Note at all is an interesting point. Did she feel that her romantic plot-line trivialized actual events? She spends time here reminding us of the horrors befalling Jews across the rest of Europe and how, in Italy, a large number were saved from extermination by the real efforts of Catholic brethren. I think my main gripe, however, is the fact that she is a novelist not an historian and, perhaps, it takes an historian to tackle such a deep topic even if, as in the case of “Beneath a Scarlet Sky”, the book is called a novel in the end.

Her lack of historical skills catches her out in the end. In an improbable ending to the book, Eva (who, after capture, was being transported to one of the camps in

Germany) frees herself and meets up with Angelo (who attached himself to American forces in their advance through France) in Bastogne, only to find themselves in the thick of the fighting during the Battle of the Bulge – even as Eva gives birth to Angelo’s baby. Harmon mentions that Bastogne was being held for the Allies by American troops including the 101st Airborne who had been parachuted in to form defensive positions. In actual fact, the forces she is referring to are the very ones who made up the “Band of Brothers” and they were transported to Bastogne much more prosaically – by lorry!

But the good news is that the happy couple and their first child live to emigrate to America where he becomes a professor - of history. Um!

What this review tells me is that I’m far happier dealing with history masquerading as fiction than fiction masquerading as history. I suppose it’s the historian in me coming out. It’s true that I have no time for fantasy of any kind. Books (and films) that include ghosts, time travel, science fiction, unicorns, vampires, etc., all leave me cold and are automatically jettisoned from my “to read” list. At this rate, I can add historical romance to the list.

Peter Holly

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UK's Biggest Road Upgrade Reaches Halfway Point

The £1.5bn A14 Cambridge to Huntingdon improvement scheme reaches its half way point this week.

Construction work to upgrade 21 miles of the A14 between Cambridge and Huntingdon started on Monday 28 November 2016 and is on target to be completed by December 2020.

Since work started, more than 8 million working hours have gone into the project, and eight million cubic metres of earthworks have been moved across the site – equivalent to more than three Great Pyramids of Giza. Nine new bridges will have opened to traffic by the end of the year and construction is well underway on 25 more. Along the way, the project team has started delivering extensive protection for the environment and uncovered astonishing archaeological finds which shine new light on thousands of years of history.

Highways England Project Director for the A14 Cambridge to Huntingdon improvement scheme David Bray said:

“Our amazing team has been working incredibly hard to deliver this upgraded A14, and most days we have up to 2,700 staff working across more than 20 miles to build the new roads and bridges that are needed, in addition to all of the environmental measures we are implementing. This is the biggest road building project currently taking place in the country and yet drivers will only see around a quarter of it from the existing road at present.

“Working on this epic project has been remarkable so far: from seeing the new road emerge as we moved earth into place for its foundations, to the wide array of bridges and structures being built, the fantastic discoveries of our archaeological team and the industry-leading work our environmental team is carrying out.

“We know drivers can be frustrated by roadworks, particularly when they’re in place for a long time, but we’re delighted to announce at this two-year anniversary that we’re on time and on budget, having completed more than 50 per cent of the work, to get this new road opened for drivers by the end of 2020.”

Highways England is upgrading a 21-mile stretch of the A14 between Cambridge and Huntingdon to three lanes in each direction including a brand new 17-mile bypass south of Huntingdon, with four lanes in each direction between Bar Hill and Girton. The project, which includes 34 main bridges and structures, will add capacity, boost the local and national economy and cut up to 20 minutes off drivers’ journeys.

Since work started in November 2016, 80 per cent of the 10 million cubic metres of material needed for the £1.5 billion project has been moved, with the spoil used for new earthworks and embankments. More than 8,000,000 construction hours have been worked, and the 750m long River Great Ouse Viaduct, with its 6,000 tonne steel structure, is 85 per cent complete.

The project team has worked hard to keep traffic flowing through the roadworks, leaving all lanes open to traffic during the day, with extra restrictions, when needed, in place overnight and at weekends. The free recovery service has also responded swiftly to every incident within the existing roadworks, recovering more than 700 broken down vehicles, with 95 per cent of these cleared within an hour, and 184 cleared within 30 minutes.

The team has won eight industry awards for innovative working, including 'Best Construction Project to Work On' and a RoSPA Gold Health and Safety Award. The project is also the first of its type to be recognised as by the Considerate Construction Scheme as an 'Ultra' site, for the way the project is delivered.

The project's diverse workforce includes more than 100 apprentices and 63 graduates, in addition to 28 internships and two Groundwork outreach programmes.

Some 250 archaeologists have been involved in the scheme, investigating 33 sites across 360 hectares. Their remarkable discoveries include 40 pottery kilns, 342 burials, a Roman camp, an abandoned Medieval village, rare Roman coins from the third century, and a variety of Ice Age animals, including a woolly mammoth from 130,000 years ago.

Some 866,000 plants from 50 different species will be replanted alongside the new A14, with trees in keeping with those found locally including oak, elm, hawthorn, blackthorn, elder and field maple. Several rare plant species have also been moved so that they can be replanted. In all, twice as many trees will be replanted as those which have had to be felled for the construction of the new road and cleared vegetation has been used within the local community for energy production. All the electricity used in the project has come from renewable energy.

The team has also been working hard to support local charities and good causes, with 30 local projects receiving £280,000 to benefit around 2,000 people. as part of the A14 Community Fund. Around £60,000 has been raised for local charities through various initiatives too.

In partnership with Cambridgeshire County Council, a £3.5 million programme of works has started to build new pedestrian, cyclist and horse rider routes in addition to the 18 miles which are provided as part of the scheme. Funding has also been secured to support four local flood prevention projects. Communities have engaged with the project thanks to the team's mobile visitor exhibition centre attending 70 events, reaching around 5,000 people.

In recent weeks, a new bridge over the A14 at Swavesey has opened to traffic, and an old bridge demolished. Two massive new bridges at Bar Hill were also moved into place during a weekend operation in September, having been pre-fabricated next to the A14. Looking ahead, the project team expects to open a new local access road between Cambridge and Dry Drayton this winter, and the new A1 between Brampton and Buckden is expected to open early in 2019.

The fully upgraded A14 is due to be opened to traffic by December 2020.

MARK STEELE

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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.

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