

# *Kingston Parish & Church Magazine*



**August 2020**

**Village Diary**

It is good to be able to announce that the Village Hall is open again – subject, of course, to the current Government restrictions (see the update below)..

**Wheelie bin collection dates**

Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> August	Black bin
Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> August	Blue and Green bins
Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> August	Black bin
Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup> August	Blue and Green bins

**Editorial**

Kingston is back in business! Well, almost. Two Pub Nights – featuring John Easy's excellent pizza - have already been held and another one scheduled for September. The village picnic occurred on Saturday July 18<sup>th</sup> and was much enjoyed by those present. The playground on Crane's Lane is back open. This is all good news.

In this issue you will find a whole variety of articles including another piece by Paul Wright looking back at the Kingston that has gone before us. Paul's research always provides fascinating reading and many readers will be interested in the activities of their forebears. Another topic featured in this issue is pigeons, the birds we all love to hate – until now!

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

## Vicar's Letter

At this point in the church's year our weekly readings bring Jesus' great 'harvest' teachings: the Parable of the Sower, and The Parable of the Wheat and Weeds.

In the second of these, Jesus talks about how good and bad are mixed together in the world, using the metaphor of a field in which weeds grow among the crops. The farmer in the parable tells the workers to leave the weeds, because pulling them up would also damage the crop.

One of the unexpected side-effects of the covid-19 crisis has been that I've had a chance to witness the growth of crops much more closely on my daily walks. I now know how what from a distance looks like 'a field of barley' has all sorts of things growing in it, from thistles to wild oats.

Jesus' point was that even though certain things are bad, simply trying to eradicate them can do more harm than good. Our modern farming methods of selective herbicides and genetic modification still end up unintentionally causing more trouble than simply leaving the weeds alone.

What Jesus didn't mean was that we should do nothing about the things that are wrong. He made it perfectly clear throughout his teaching that we must live upright lives, that loving our neighbour was more important than any other rules, and that God would make the final decision, not us.

When Jesus was challenged about what 'loving our neighbour' meant, he responded with the Parable of the Good Samaritan: giving unstinting practical help to others in need, regardless of who they are.

If we live our lives this way, we reduce the influence of 'weeds' in our society, and perhaps even, from our own influence and example, some of those weeds will change into wheat.

This isn't always easy – there is 'wheat and weeds' inside each one of us so it's a constant struggle for us to bring out the 'wheaty' side of our nature, and chip away at the 'weedy' side. But with God's help, we can persevere at this, with benefits to ourselves, our communities, and our whole world.

***Rev. Steve Day***

## Church opening

The church is open for private prayer on Wednesdays and Saturdays, from 9.30 to 5pm. Please use the hand sanitiser provided and keep to the social distancing guidelines. The church will be closed for two weeks from the 27<sup>th</sup> July to the 10<sup>th</sup> August when the Perry Lithgow Partnership will be working on the nave arcade wall paintings.

## Church services for August

Worship continues online on the first Sunday of the month (August 2<sup>nd</sup> and September 6<sup>th</sup>) using the application Zoom. Go to [www.papworthteamchurches.org](http://www.papworthteamchurches.org) for details and sign up for the weekly newsletter.

### Daily Morning Prayer online at 8.15am

For further information contact the Revd Stephen Day [revdsmday@cantab.net](mailto:revdsmday@cantab.net)

### 5pm Monday service by telephone

A short service of the word using your telephone rather than the internet: further details from Nigel Pearson at [njfarm@gmail.com](mailto:njfarm@gmail.com) or 01954 719637.

## 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

August 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Church closed
August 9 <sup>th</sup>	Church closed
August 16 <sup>th</sup>	Christine Allison
August 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Janet Clear
August 30 <sup>th</sup>	Miki Ellar

**Philip Oliver 8th November 1948 – 13th June 2020**

*'Philip the fellow' in Cambridge market – photo by Jonathan Thornalley of The Cambridge Tour Company*

Philip was proud to be a Man of Kent – not a Kentish Man – born as he was in the Medway Towns and brought up in Gillingham. He came from a naval family, on the male side sport-obsessed: at one time three generations turned out together for the same cricket match. When a schoolboy Philip himself trialled for Kent County Cricket Club as a fast left-handed bowler; he also loved rugby and football. He remained a supporter of Gillingham football club all his life. His parents were very left wing and Philip's own political affiliation was confirmed in this direction when he spent time as a student working in Franco's Spain. From his mother Philip acquired his love of

nature: she would take him on 'first finds' walks in spring to collect sticky buds and catkins. He liked to bring these into the house in later life and he also grew hyacinths and dahlias.

Philip attended Gillingham Grammar School and then went on to read microbiology at Reading University. He studied for his PhD in recombinant DNA at the University of Kent, and this is where he met Rhonda: they were married in Canterbury in 1971. Philip was appointed University Demonstrator in the Department of Genetics at Cambridge in 1974, and he and Rhonda came to live in Kingston as Miss Chadwick's tenants at 2 Chantry Close; they were able to buy the property after she died. In 1979 Philip became a University Lecturer, and in 1988 he was elected a Fellow of St Catharine's College, where he was a Tutor, and later on Tutor for Admissions and a Graduate Tutor. He was deeply involved in every aspect of college life, especially its social and sporting activities. He had little interest in achieving academic distinction for himself, but rather devoted his time to the students – of all disciplines, undergraduate and graduate – keeping in touch and offering support to many long after they had left the college. He was known by many in college by the nickname 'Poliver'. It is a paradox that Philip was so assiduous in giving practical help to others, but was unable or unwilling to manage his own domestic affairs.

Philip never held any offices in Kingston but he used to attend the Annual Parish Meetings where he could be a formidable and fearless critic – I remember he once accused the Chairman of the Parish Council of acting like a 'tin-pot Ceausescu' (I forget why) and stormed out of the meeting. That wasn't typical: he was usually very amiable.

Philip was well known in the local pubs, particularly the Longstowe Fox, which he and Rhonda adopted as their local, and where he was one of the star players in the darts team, and later at The Hoops in Barton, where he would sometimes serve behind the bar. He would talk to anyone about anything. He loved village cricket and played for Longstowe.

Besides sport Philip had wide interests and knowledge. Folk music was a passion: he was a member of the English Folk Dance and Song Society and used to visit Cecil Sharp House in London. He was proud that he had taught John Spiers of Bellowhead. He read extensively, particularly poetry: John Clare was a favourite. In everything Philip was attracted to the local, the particular: varieties of apple, regional beverages and cuisines, flora and fauna, geology and landscape.

Philip might appear fierce and dishevelled but his was an engaging personality. He greeted people with a bow and he liked to address them with a title rather than by name: for example, 'Kingstonian'. He always had time for free-wheeling

conversation, when anything might come up; he was a copious e-mailer, with many correspondents; he had friends of all ages in all walks of life, not just in university circles; he cared about the homeless and supported their charities.

After Philip and Rhonda separated in the mid-1990s Philip became increasingly embedded in his college, his appearances in Kingston fugitive. Cambridge market became a second home to him and he was always there on Sundays, often helping out on Paul Neeve's bookstall. But without fail he turned up on the gate at Kingston's biennial church fetes, a role he enjoyed over more than two decades, succeeding the late Philip Hopkins.

Philip was buried with his college tie and scarf and a piece of turf from St Catharine's cricket pitch was placed on his grave. 'When an old cricketer leaves the crease, well you never know when he's gone, if sometimes you're catching a glimpse of a twelfth man at silly mid-on': the words of Roy Harper's song seem appropriate, except that Philip was only 71 when he died. After his burial, later that afternoon, a red kite circled low above the church.

Philip's funeral service was taken at his graveside, here in Kingston, by the Chaplain of St Catharine's College, the Revd Dr Ally Barrett, on the 2nd June. Prof Sir Mark Welland, the College Master, read from Proverbs; Dr Peter Wrothers read from Eliot's Little Gidding; Dr Fatima Santos read Pessoa's Autopsicografia; the eulogy was given by Prof Sir Chris Clark; Dr Niamh Gallagher played Ashokan Farewell on the fiddle; Prof Dame Jean Thomas read from Corinthians; and a four- piece choir sang James MacMillan's O Radiant Dawn. It is hoped that there will be a memorial service in the college chapel in due course.

Prof Sir Chris Clark concluded his address with these words: 'Every person is unique: the observation is banal. But Philip was more than unique. He was a singularity who pleated worlds together in an irreplaceable way. He asked for little and gave much. He enriched our lives and wove a thread of kindness and wisdom into the life of our College. We are terribly sorry to lose him. We will miss him sorely. But we are so lucky that we knew him.'

*Peter Reynolds, with thanks to Rhonda Oliver.*

## Departures

Raymond Jack (Cromwell Cottage, Town Farm, Tinkers Lane) has moved on from the village to a temporary rental until his build in Caxton is completed. We wish him well and hope that he will keep in touch.

## Book of the Month

Where the Crawdads Sing by Delia Owens

This novel thoroughly deserves its bestseller status. Set in the marshlands of the coastal Carolinas, it's the story of Kya, a young girl deserted by her siblings, her mother and finally her abusive father, who finds ways of surviving with precious little money and only rudimentary knowledge of finding enough food to eat. Nicknamed the "Marsh Girl" by local residents, she manages to evade the school authorities (she spends one day in school but, after merciless teasing, she vows never to return) and social services, determined to survive on her own devices. Befriending Jumpin', the attendant at the local boat station and Tate, an old friend of one of her brothers, she becomes increasingly adept at keeping her head above water – literally. Using her father's fishing boat, she becomes expert in exploring the nooks and crannies of the coastal swamps, inlets and marshlands and, along with Tate, develops their shared interest in fauna and flora and everything nature-related. Tate teaches her to read and write and encourages not only her collecting of rare shells and feathers but also her recording of her various finds into book form. Accompanying this story, the author evocatively describes the marshlands area where Kya lives in a ramshackle shack and gives the reader a real atmospheric sense of place and context.

But this idyll is broken when Tate (with whom Kya has developed a romantic relationship) goes off to college. Feeling abandoned yet again, Kya ill-advisedly falls in love with the former star quarterback of the high school football team, who manages to woo her, then goes off and marries his childhood sweetheart, and is finally murdered in the swamp. It's not long before Kya is arrested and tried for his murder. The trial and verdict follow in turn.

By this time Kya has become a beautiful young woman, an accomplished and respected author and a suspected murderess. With her brother Colt and Tate back on the scene, it remains to be seen how this sensitive and shy human being will survive the pressures put upon her. This novel is highly recommended.

***Peter Holly***

Hello,

My name is Magda Kowalska-Cheffey, and I work for Cambridgeshire Libraries, Library@Home Service.

As Cambridgeshire Library service starts re-instating some form of temporary, limited library services, we are aware that some residents who have been shielding or isolating due to age or health conditions, might struggle to access those services.



So, we would like to share the details of our Revised Library at Home service, hoping that local support groups and Parish Councils who have been helping our most vulnerable residents these past months will find this information useful and be able to share it with those who might benefit from the service.

The service is for anyone who usually relies heavily on reading books or listening to audiobooks AND who is housebound, shielding or isolating due to age or health conditions under the current COVID-19 guidelines. They may live on their own, be a full time carer for a loved one, and/or have real trouble sourcing large print books or audiobooks if they can no longer read ordinary print.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kindest regards,

**Magda Kowalska-Cheffey**

Phone: 01480 378170 Mobile: 07442 022926

## **East West Railway Project –what is happening?**

Public information events for the planned EastWest Railway have of course been cancelled in recent months because of the Covid-19 situation. But this does not mean that the project has been shelved. Work is still going on behind the scenes to choose the 'Preferred Route Alignment' within the 'Preferred Route Option'.

Landholders in the local area have been approached to grant access to surveyors - their work will be crucial to support decisions regarding the final route. All indications are that there is much to be gained by granting access. If important wildlife is discovered, mitigation measures would need to be implemented which could prove costly for the project. If no survey is carried out, that parcel of land will be deemed to have no environmental issues and thus be considered suitable for the route.

The Project's website page about this is here

<https://eastwestrail.co.uk/community#land-and-property>

In further developments, it appears that the new line is likely to be a diesel rather than electric line. This raises serious concerns regarding noise and pollution, so the Parish Council is seeking clarification direct from the East West Railway Company.

If you would like to receive regular information from the Project, you can sign up for their newsletter here <https://eastwestrail.co.uk/get-in-touch>.

Sue Dalglish is leading the Parish Council's efforts on this topic, and we will do our best to keep the Parish updated as we learn more.

**Julie Conder** (Kingston Parish Councillor)


July 2020

## Record Corner

### St. Cloud by Waxahatchee

This record of the month might well end up as my record of the year. It's the new album by Katie Crutchfield and her band who go by the name of Waxahatchee, named after the creek in Alabama where she was born and brought up. Crutchfield was previously a member (with her sister) of P.S. Eliot but in 2010 went solo, forming the indie music project that continues to today. Like others before her, she has steadily said goodbye to her punk roots (although her punk sensibilities remain intact) and has increasingly embraced Alt-Country and Americana music in the same vein as her main influences, Lucinda Williams and Gillian Welch. She has earned her spurs by touring constantly, including in Europe and the UK, latterly using the Detroit-based band Bonny Doon as her accompanists. These shared experiences on stage show through on her latest album – her fifth – where the approach is relaxed and effortless with the band and singer in complete sympatico. This is Country music with an edge.

When you listen to St. Cloud the tunes hit you first. Appreciating the lyrics comes later. The music is slinky: it creeps up on you and demands instant replays. The mood is wistful and mellow although several tracks are what you might call up-tempo without being excessively so. Tracks like "Oxbow" and "Fire" are slow, plaintive, bordering on being eerie, but other tracks like "Can't Do Much", "Witches" and "Lilacs" are faster and distinctly hummable. As I said earlier, the tunes grab you first and, when you're hooked, the words come along and complete the hi-jacking. My favourite track is "The Eye", another slow easy-going track where the subtle interplay of the guitar work comes to the fore. In "Hell" the words suggest that the singer song-writer sees herself as a tough assignment ("You don't worship me/I put you through hell") and Crutchfield has admitted in interview that the whole album is about her decision to get sober. Life on the road can be tough and not surprisingly places she visits (St. Cloud, Ruby Falls, and Arkadelphia) are name-checked on the track listing as she criss-crosses across America in words and music.



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My advice is to give this album a try. Turn up the volume, take in the music and let the lyrics creep up on you. You might just be listening to one of the albums of the year.

***Peter Holly***

## **Update from the Village Hall**

The Village Hall has re-opened, but with the rules on how we can operate changing so frequently, anyone wanting to hire the Hall is asked to speak to Rachel Hooper or Sarah Wright (contact details on the back page) and discuss their needs in plenty of time. We will be in contact with our regular hirers directly.

Meanwhile, our first Pub Night on 4 July went well. We sold about 17 take-away pizzas and 24 people registered (a new requirement) and stayed in the hall. We fulfilled all the government requirements on sanitisers, pinch-point controls, one-way systems, more sanitisers etc and still managed to have an enjoyable evening. The Pub night on 25 July will have just happened when you read this.

The next Pub Night is on 5 September. We will continue to try and make the event suitable for as many as possible. We will have to adapt our approach as time and regulations progress, as both the children and the vulnerable are equally part of our community and we want to find a suitable way for all to enjoy these community events. Please bear with us as we learn what works best.

***Rachel Hooper***

### **Coffee Mornings**

Coffee mornings will re-commence in the Village Hall in September and Miki Ellar asks that you book your places in advance. In the meantime, the weekly virtual coffee mornings on-line will continue on Wednesdays at 10.30am. If you are interested in hearing stories about chickens, lizards, gerbils, dogs, cats, snakes, cows and horses, then these sessions are for you! Contact person is Kay Forsythe at [kay4cy@gmail.com](mailto:kay4cy@gmail.com).

### **Wellness Classes**

For the foreseeable future there will be no wellness classes in the Village Hall. However, outdoor weekly wellness classes are up and running in Kingston at a venue near you! For further information or to book a session please contact Jacqueline Smith ([jacqsismith@gmail.com](mailto:jacqsismith@gmail.com)).

### **Music Nights**

There are no Music Nights scheduled at the present time.

## Kingston Picnic

Held on Saturday July 18<sup>th</sup> in the Clears' field behind the Village Hall, this was a highly successful event. Over 60 village residents were in attendance – appropriately socially distanced of course – and everyone present brought their own food and drinks and availed themselves of the barbecue facilities. Folks obviously had a lot of catching up to do and the conversations were non-stop and animated. One nice touch was the presentation of flowers to the owners of the Toft Shop in appreciation of their efforts to provide Kingstonians with food and other supplies during the lockdown. Many thanks to Jill Coleman and Peter Stokes for organizing this happy event.

The accompanying photos give a real sense of the enjoyable occasion.









# Anthony Browne MP

South Cambridgeshire Parish Council Update - July 2020

## Reopening, reworking and readying for the future

One of my highlights this month has been visiting Cambourne to see the work being done on the ground, as local people continue to support the vulnerable in our society.

Parish Councils have done tremendous work coordinating the volunteer efforts and supporting residents throughout this crisis, and I want to thank each and every councillor for their efforts.

But now, as Britain reopens, we must turn our attention to the new challenges facing local people, businesses and

organisations.

I would welcome your thoughts on how both national and local government bodies can move forward at this time, as well as what your priorities are for the months ahead.

I am also aware that funding remains an issue for many parishes. I want to assure all those concerned that I have raised these matters and will continue to support claims for further funding in such unique circumstances.

I would therefore welcome your input at my next Parish Council Forum, details of which are below.

My office contact details are listed at the bottom of this document. As ever, please don't hesitate to reach out if you think I can help.

Anthony Browne MP

## Spotting our not-spots - we need to improve signal in South Cambridgeshire

With many residents working from home, I have had increasing complaints about not being able to get a mobile phone signal.

Earlier this month, I met with Matt Warman, the Minister responsible for Digital Connectivity, to urge prioritising improvements in South Cambs.

The Government has just launched its Shared Rural Network scheme, getting the mobile operators to share masts in rural areas to close partial "not spots", where some operators have a signal but others don't.

This week, I called upon Oliver Dowden, Secretary of State for Digital, Media, Culture and Sport, to put South Cambridgeshire near the front of the queue as the Shared Rural Network is rolled out.

But I can't do this without your support. If you have problems with your mobile coverage, please email me at [anthony.browne.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:anthony.browne.mp@parliament.uk) or click



Anthony called on the Secretary of State to support the campaign for better signal

below to fill in our online survey.

Every report we get can be passed to Ofcom and the mobile phone operators, and strengthens our case! Please do ask your residents to support this campaign.

**FILL IN OUR SURVEY HERE**

## Chancellor's Plan will save jobs in South Cambridgeshire

The Plan for Jobs set out by Chancellor Rishi Sunak on Wednesday (8 July) will do so much to promote jobs and growth across South Cambridgeshire and the country.

Since the start of the coronavirus pandemic, the Government has said it will do whatever it takes to protect people and businesses from the immediate economic crisis.

As part of this, more than 11,200 jobs have been supported through the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme, allowing

employers to put workers on furlough while the Government supports their wages, in South Cambridgeshire.

Employers will be encouraged to retain staff who have been on the furlough scheme, with the Government paying a one-off bonus of £1,000 for every employee who was furloughed and who is kept on until January.

Speaking in the House of Commons Chamber, I commented:

"It's bold, it's imaginative, it's well targeted. I'd like to congratulate my

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### South Cambridgeshire benefits from unprecedented support

Across South Cambridgeshire, up to 11,220 jobs have been protected through the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme.

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE](#)

#### New era for cycling and walking

Cambridgeshire County Council has benefited from a multi-million pound emergency active travel grant for fast-track plans for new walking and cycling lanes.

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE](#)

#### Dates for your diary

##### From today

Beauticians, nail salons and tattooists can reopen their doors.

##### Saturday 25 July

Indoor gyms, swimming pools, sports facilities and leisure centres can reopen.

##### Late July

Action plan to restart grassroots football and other non-contact sports will be published.

**Please do follow further updates on <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>**

Rt. Hon. Friend the Chancellor on this package, which will do so much to promote jobs and growth across the country.

"I very much welcome the cut in VAT and Stamp Duty, but most welcome of all is the Kickstarter scheme which brings hope to young people in these difficult times."

**SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE PARISH COUNCIL FORUM**

Thursday 23 July  
16:00 - 17:00

Invite and agenda to be circulated later this week

If you have any interest in attending, please email [anthony.browne.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:anthony.browne.mp@parliament.uk)

**IN DETAIL****What do the Chancellor's announcements mean in practice?****Jobs Retention Bonus Scheme**

Encourages employers to keep their employees on, introducing a one-off payment of £1,000 for every furloughed employee who is successfully kept on continuously until January.

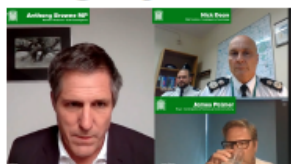
Parish Councils should encourage all local small and medium businesses with furloughed staff to consider this option.

**Temporary VAT cuts**

From 15 July 2020, the rate of VAT applied across the UK to hospitality, accommodation and attractions will be cut to 5 per cent until 12 January 2021. Please do make your local pubs aware of these changes.

**Eat Out to Help Out**

Anyone who eats at a participating business, Monday to Wednesday for the month of August, can receive up to 50 per cent off food and non-alcoholic drinks, up to a value of £10 per person. Businesses can claim the money back from the government weekly, receiving funds within 5 working days. Please keep an eye out for Guidance published next week.

**Did you join our livestream?**

Continuing the trend of finding new ways to inform residents, I invited James Palmer and Chief Constable Nick Dean to join me in a Facebook Live panel this week. Hundreds of people joined us live and have since viewed the stream - directly holding to account those who represent and serve the public.

**Water Water... not everywhere!**

I remain keen to ensure we don't lose sight of other important issues, and the hot, dry weather we have faced this month has pushed one oft-forgotten concern to the fore.

Last month, I led a delegation of groups and businesses concerned about the county's ailing water levels - affecting RSPB Fowlmere and more - to discuss tackling the crisis with the government minister for floods and water.

I know many parishes will have felt the impact of this - village ponds have at times dried out, while low levels at wildlife havens are impacting the plants, invertebrates and wildlife our area should have in abundance.

While there are many factors to this, one that can be controlled is water abstraction from the chalk aquifer.

Worsened by below-average rainfall and with groundwater levels in the South East now at the lowest level ever recorded,

**DEFENDING AND RESTORING CHALK STREAMS IN THE CAM VALLEY**  
I am most grateful to you and your advisors for meeting me with representatives of the Cam Valley Forum, Water Resources East and Cambridge Water on 22 June. It is good to hear your commitment to tackling the pressing issue of water shortage.  
East Angles has been hit hard in the UK, and while that my constituency of South Cambridgeshire has the most rapidly growing population, putting greater pressure on natural resources. Water shortages and the low water level are now a reality that will continue to impact the chalk streams in the area. The River Cam is a vital step, although by no means the only one which should be taken, to ensure Cambridgeshire's water supply is protected as we continue to grow.

Cambridgeshire's chalk streams remain at significant risk.

With support and input from Water Resources East and the Cam Valley Forum, I have written to the Minister of State for Water and Floods, calling for 'DEFRA Chalk Streams Task Force' to be set up, to restore and protect chalk streams across England.

This is a vital step, although by no means the only one which should be taken, to ensure Cambridgeshire's water supply is protected as we continue to grow.

**FIND OUT MORE HERE**

**DO YOU HAVE ANY CONCERNS?**

If there are any issues you think Anthony should be made aware of or think he can help in any way, please get in touch via the details to the right.

[anthony.browne.org](mailto:anthony.browne.org)

[anthony.browne.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:anthony.browne.mp@parliament.uk)

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@AnthonyBrowneMP

01223 603677

National Garden Scheme gardens are now open but must be pre-booked at <https://ngs.org.uk/product-category/garden-tickets/>. All funds raised will go to the Help Support Our Nurses campaign. Some gardens offer personalised visits by direct arrangement with the owner and there is a library of nearly 200 garden videos at <https://ngs.org.uk/>. The National Garden Scheme is the largest funder of Hospice UK's work.



## Papworth Team Ministry (C of E)

The Papworth Team Ministry Team Office:

Lower Pendrill Court  
Ermine Street North  
Papworth Everard  
CB23 3UY

Email: [papworthteamministryoffice@gmail.com](mailto:papworthteamministryoffice@gmail.com)

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...

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

> The Revd Stephen Day,  
Team Vicar - 01954 264226

### KINGSTON VILLAGE HALL

## FOR HIRE

- One large and one smaller hall
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**Non residents:** Before 7pm - £10. After 7pm - £13

Enquiries: Sarah Wright (secretary)

01223 263500 or 0787 999 1068

[kingstonvillagehall@gmail.com](mailto:kingstonvillagehall@gmail.com)



## VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE

The Committee will be appointing a new Chair at the September AGM. Meanwhile we would like to express our thanks for the hard work and enthusiasm Rachel put into the post.

We hope that some new blood will come forward and join the Committee at the AGM. Please contact me if you would like to learn more.

**Sarah Wright** (Secretary)

[Kingstonvillagehall@gmail.com](mailto:Kingstonvillagehall@gmail.com)

0787 999 1068

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## Kwirky Korner

Why are pigeons our least liked birds? You may want to change your opinion.

Last year the family of a National Geographic photographer, Jasper Doest, noticed two pigeons frequently visiting the balcony of their apartment in the Netherlands. Eventually the pigeons made a nest under Jasper's chair on the balcony and attempted to raise their chicks there. Unfortunately the chicks died, the victims of two spring heatwaves.

This year, during the lockdown, the pair of pigeons returned, making themselves very much at home and roaming around the apartment looking for scraps of food. Nick-named Ollie and Dollie by Jasper's daughters, the pigeons have become part of the family and the subjects of many of his photographs.

Jasper contends that pigeons don't deserve the bad rap they receive. Yes, he says, you have to clear up their droppings, but, otherwise, they are clean animals, loving parents who mate for life. Intelligent, they are one of a small number of non-mammals that can learn to pass the mirror test.



The pigeons have helped Jasper and his family get through the lockdown unscathed. As he says, their daily visits have taught us that we are not alone on this planet, and we need to share it with all living things as if our lives depend on it.

Talking about pigeons brings us to Cape May County Zoo in New Jersey, USA. Closed during the lockdown, the absence of humans has had different effects on the animals there. A pair of blue-crowned pigeons had previously failed to produce offspring, with the male doing everything he could to attract the female's attention, even going so far as to build a nest (on several occasions) which the female immediately destroyed. With the lack of human's prying eyes, it was hoped that things might work out differently (as, apparently, had happened in the case of the zoo's pandas). No luck yet apparently.

It transpires that different animals have reacted differently to the lockdown. The absence of humans is just fine for reptiles who hate children banging on the glass of their cages to get a reaction and retreat to the back and stop eating. Gil, the grey

cockatoo, on the other hand, has responded very differently. He became so distressed by his newfound solitude that he began self-harming, plucking out his chest feathers until he gnawed a hole in his skin at which point he was fitted with a pink polka-dot ruff. He loves being talked to all day and, recently, has tried to remove his keeper's face-mask to aid open communication. "You think you're coming to the zoo to watch the animals. Well, the animals are watching you, too", says his keeper. Other animals that miss socializing include primates, otters, camels, and even tortoises. Even normally self-isolating bison have been looking for human contact.

And back to pigeons et al. Did you know that bar-headed geese migrate every year from Kazakhstan and India to Mongolia by flying over the Himalayas. They've been seen flying at 28,000 feet and can fly over Mount Everest. How can they do this? Like all birds – hummingbirds, ostriches, pigeons – they have super-efficient lungs which they inherited from their ancestors, the dinosaurs. It's one of those quirks of evolution.

So let's give pigeons a break.

## Parish Council News

**Playground:** Following the relaxation of restrictions by the government, the playground has been reopened, but for the time being, users are encouraged to wipe down hard surfaces (using normal domestic cleaning products) before and after use, and wash or wipe children's hands regularly.

**Toft Shop collection scheme:** this will be discontinued from 1 August as usage has dwindled. Many thanks to the volunteers who have been doing the daily collections.

**Annual audit:** the audit of the Parish Council's accounts for 2019/20 is complete. The internal auditor has confirmed compliance with all relevant requirements. Kingston qualifies for exemption from review by the external auditor and so has self-certified as exempt. Various documents can be viewed on the website and members of the public can exercise their right to view other parish council documentation for a limited period. Full details are available here:

<https://kingstonvillage.org.uk/parish-council/publication-scheme.html>.

**Planning:** 20/02431/HFUL Orchard Cottage Cranes Lane; an application has been submitted for a two-storey side extension, single storey rear extension and re-roofing works. Kingston Parish Council has agreed to support the application.

*Peter Stokes, Parish Clerk*

## Letter home from a Kingston family in Australia in 1848

According to the 1841 Census the Pitt family were agricultural labourers, originally living in Main Street, Kingston. Baptism records show they were non-conformists. When this letter was written, the parents, Charles and Ann were 37 and 42 respectively, Charles junior was 18, John was 16 and Ebenezer was 13. The letter seems to have been dictated by the two older sons and probably written down by a local school teacher or clerk, as most labourers at time were no more than semi-literate and certainly would have been unable to use colons, semi colons and Oxford commas. It seems to be in the form of an open letter to a newspaper, but maybe someone who read it subsequently thought it worth publishing. The paper may also have edited the letter. Pain Custerson, a wheelwright, did not accept the invitation to join them as he is recorded in the Kingston censuses until his death. John Jakes may have gone, as he is not in the 1851 census and there are no local records of his death. I have added some contextual historical notes after this letter.

**From the Cambridge Independent Press  
and  
Bedford, Huntingdon and Peterborough Gazette  
Saturday June 2<sup>nd</sup> 1849**

**PROSPECTS FOR EMIGRANTS  
Felix-stowe, near Adelaide, South Australia  
Nov. 13, 1848**

We now take the liberty of writing these few lines, hoping to find you well, as we are at present. We left Kingston (near Cambridge) all in good health, and it was a delightful voyage. We landed safe in Australia and were happy enough when we got on shore. We had a comfortable walk to Adelaide. I was paid 8s per week, and board and lodging; but father saw Mr. Stow, and agreed with him to go altogether. I have been driving two horses to Adelaide. I got wood and hay; from 5s. to 10s. per load for wood, and 30s. to £3. per ton for hay. I was bid 12s. per week, and board and lodgings; but stopped again with Mr. Shaw, myself, John, Ebenezer, and father, for £125 a year, house, garden and milk. William takes the garden stuff to Adelaide. He makes from this 10s. to £1.10s a week. He has a billy-goat and cart; we work billy-goats, they are better than dogs. I, John and Ebenezer have a garden each, and it pays well. If anybody is coming, I would be obliged for them to go to Mr. Bell's, on Peas Hill, and get some cauliflower and brocoli (sic) seeds, as many sorts as they can; and some celery seed. I should be obliged to you to send me some of your choice flower seeds, and bulbs of tulips and lillies (sic) of different kinds. We will pay

the bearer for them and their trouble. Send us as many sorts of flower seeds as you can. We should be very glad to see you with them yourself. If you do come you will never repent of it. Australia is the pleasantest country in the world. About twenty miles from the sea is a beautiful range of mountains; some of them are four thousand feet high; they are about four miles from our house: we have been to them three or four times; we have a waterfall in them – it falls a hundred feet – and when you come we will have another walk in them. If you come you will be able to get thirteen shillings per week and your rations; and you will soon have a farm of your own. You should bring out some Redhill sickles, shovels and forks; they are dear here and not so good. Tell Pain Custerson (he talked of coming out here) if he does come it would be as well for him to bring his tools for his use: and he must bring strong ones for the work is hard. He will get eight shillings a day, journey work. You can buy good milking cows for £2; bullocks from £3. to £4; draught horses from £20 to £40; sheep from 4s. to 22s, pigs for fattening, 13s; fat ditto from £2. to £3; beef, 1d. to 3d. per lb; mutton, 2d. per lb; pork 3d. to 8d. ; bread, 7d. per half loaf; that is dear, it has been 4d. This is the country for fruit. We have plenty of grapes – they grow like currants tied to a stake – and peaches, nectarines, and apricots; we have water melons of different kinds – they are very cooling fruit; we have sweet melons of different kinds, and the pie melon – they grow like cucumbers. We grow cucumbers, vegetable marrows, pumkins, oranges, lemons, loquate, citron and olives – these are, as you know, hot country fruits. All sort of fruits that grow in England will grow here; they have got them all here but they have not got them to perfection. Corn does very well here; wheat is making 4s. 6d. per bushel; barley, 5s. per bushel; oats, 6s. per bushel; peas and beans do well here. There are two or three different kinds of seeds that we forgot to mention which we want such as poppey and piony (sic). There are wild dogs, kangaroos, opossums (sic), reptiles, snakes, lizards, and birds; there are plenty of cockatoos, parrots, crows, wild ducks, geese, turkeys, cranes, magpies, quails, larks, hawks (very large), and many other sorts of birds; there are very nice fish. After this year we are in hopes that father will get a farm for himself. Give our respects to all who know us, and tell them we would be very happy to see them here. We will never be seen in England again until we have our pockets full of money. A young man came out here about five years ago with seven pounds in his pocket, and he is worth about eighty thousand pounds; he has shares in the Bora Bora mines. A man is not sensible who stops in England when he can get out – working all day like horses, with nothing but a bit of bread to eat, while they may have plenty of roast beef, and work as you like. If you were here we could tell you more than the pen can describe. So no more from your friends.

**CHARLES AND JOHN PITT.**

Direct your letter to Charles Pitt, Jun., Adelaide, South Australia.

P.S. – We find we have more to tell you. We are never troubled with snow and hard frosts, as you poor frozen fellows are. You arise in the morning at five o'clock, with snow up to your knees; there you are, stamp, stamp, stamp; knocking your hands, grinning, and setting up your barks like hedgehogs a crabbing; but we may lay till seven o'clock if we like, and never see any ice as thick as sixpence, nor any snow. We are often with you at night, but in the morning you are gone. We suppose that G\_R\_ is your brother by this time. If he is they are just the people to come out here. If any of you do come we have plenty of roast beef for you; we have a barrel of beer in the house, and a bag of sugar to make another when that is done, a tub of pork, a sack of flour, three fat pigs, a billy-goat, two kids, and soon some hope to get a farm; if that is not worth coming for, anything is not. Some people may say the ship will sink; but they need not be afraid of that, for it is a very safe passage; there's  
A life on the ocean wide,  
All on the rolling deep,  
On scattered waters wide.

Bring your gun with you, and some shot – shot is worth 5d per lb. You may bring as many seeds as you can, for here good seeds are very scarce. Bring as many kinds of peas as you can; get half a pint of each sort, with their names on them. Father and mother send their respects to Mr. and Mrs. Prior and all inquiring friends. Mother says if any of you think of coming here, it would be wrong of your parents to try to hinder you; mother would be happy to make you a cup of tea here. Ebenezer sends his kind love to Mr. and Mrs. Custerson and all their family; he says he would like to see Richard and Joseph here. Ebenezer sends his respects to his uncles, aunts and his companions all. William would like to see his uncles and aunts. Our two little sisters say they won't come to England because there are no melons there. Tell John Jakes he must come here; we will make him plenty of broth, and, if that won't do, we will get him a round of beef. His wife said that she would see about coming when they had a letter from father, so we suppose she has made up her mind by this time. Tell our uncle we will write him a letter after hay time. Tell Abraham that if he can beg £25 of the farmers in the village, and come out here, father says he will take no hurt. Write as soon as you can.

Farewell.

### Historical context:

I found this fascinating in many ways, not least in how it is a first hand and lucid account of a Kingston family working hard to prosper in a new continent. Some parts are reminiscent of the bragging by the returned emigrant in Cider with Rosie who so

enraged the villagers of Slad that they beat him unconscious and left him to die in the snow. The picture painted here of life in Kingston is bleak, so I did a bit of research on what life would have been like there in the 1840s. I discovered that the agricultural labouring class would have been impoverished by three events outside their control. Kingston's common fields had only recently been enclosed (1815 onwards) so that people had lost their rights to farm this land. Instead, they were turned into agricultural labourers working for the new class of landed farmer. The latter had been hit by falling grain prices following the Repeal of the Corn Laws in 1846 which reduced agricultural wages and farm employment. Finally, this has been termed the 'Hungry Decade' in northern Europe, including Britain, characterised by poor harvests and political unrest. As well as poor grain harvests, the failure of the potato crop affected much of Europe as well as Ireland (see; *The European subsistence crisis of 1845-1850: a comparative perspective*. <http://www.helsinki.fi/iehc2006/papers3/Vanhaute.pdf>).

Therefore, rather than bragging, this letter can be seen as a well-meaning attempt to persuade friends and families to escape from poverty and build a better life in Australia.

**Paul Wright**

July 2020

Dear all,

I hope all of you and families are keeping well and safe.



### **Libraries**

Large libraries are now opened. Our staff have been working 24/7 to make sure the space is safe but also a lot of work has been done on the online offer.

Libraries are at the heart of the Conservative Administration at County and we will continue to make sure they are a vibrant space and will continue to invest on them.

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/libraries-leisure-culture/libraries>

### **Adult learning**

We have a fantastic offer of free courses for adult learning. Please do check it out:

<https://www.cambsals.co.uk/>

### **Transport**

I am working closely with Anthony Browne MP and James Palmer to deliver the Girton Interchange. I believe this will solve many problems we have within our villages. Anthony is now raising this with Ministers. Although it might not happen



with immediate effect, I want to see it in the Capital Program of Highways England. I will keep you posted regarding this.

### **East West Rail**

I have been liaising with the EWR Chair and team. I have been told that the plan will remain the same. They will resume stakeholder engagement shortly and I have strongly advised them to start the process again as soon as possible. I hope that you will be receiving further communication in the no so far future.

<https://eastwestrail.co.uk/the-project/central-section>

### **Speeding**

I have sent a letter to the Police & Crime Commissioner regarding the need to increase police visibility and tackling speeding. I am waiting to hear back from the Chief Police. However, I have also been in contact with the local PCSO and hoping to get him out and about my division soon.

Anthony Browne MP is holding a live Q&A tomorrow afternoon with Chief Police and James Palmer. All details here:

<https://www.facebook.com/anthonybrowneMP/photos/a.186525719379276/294460225252491/?type=3>

### **White Ribbon Campaign: Looking for AMBASSADORS**

The White Ribbon campaign is a national campaign to end male violence against women once and for all. Our message to men is to practice tolerance, respect and kindness, and to stand up against male violence, bullying and sexism in all forms, whether the victims are women and girls or men and boys.

We are looking to recruit male Ambassadors to support Cambridgeshire County Council in our work to achieve White Ribbon accreditation. Ambassadors are men who have pledged to never commit, condone or remain silent about violence against women and girls and can help to take the message out into the community. The campaign culminates with White Ribbon Day on the 25 November, which is also the UN International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women.

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

If you would like to get involved, please drop me a line. I would be thrilled to get you involved.

Yours,

**Lina**

*Cambridgeshire County Councillor, Hardwick Division*

*Mob: 07402351821 Email: [Lina.Nieto@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:Lina.Nieto@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)*

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tel. 01223 262500

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<b>Cambridge Rail Station</b> general inquiries	0845 7484950
<b>Cambridge Water</b>	01223 706050
<b>Cambridgeshire County Councillor</b> (Lina Nieto)	07402 351821
<b>Camdoc</b> (out of hours)	01223 464242
<b>Chinese</b> , Fish and Chips 2 High St. Toft	01223 263337
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revdsmday@cantab.net

**Rev Nigel di Castiglione** (Team Rector) 01954 267241  
nigel.dicastiglione@gmail.com or 0777 0697240

**Rev Nigel Pearson** 01954 719637

## Churchwarden

**Peter Reynolds**

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**Julie Conder** (Vice-Chair, Finance,  
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**Peter Stokes** (Clerk) 01223 262207  
kingstonpc.cambridge@gmail.com

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