Kingston Parish & Church Magazine



June 2025

Village Diary

Sat 7th June from 6.30pm	Pub night in the Village Hall
Thurs 12th June 1 – 1.30pm	Library Van at the crossroads
Tuesdays at 10-11am	Boogie Tuesday at the Village Hall
Wednesdays at 10.30am	Village Hall Coffee Morning
Fridays at 10.00am	Pilates at the Village Hall

Wheelie bin collection dates

Thursday 5th June	Blue and Green bins
Thursday 12th June	Black bin
Thursday 19th June	Blue and Green bins
Thursday 26th June	Black bin
Thursday 3rd July	Blue and Green bins

Editorial

"June is bustin' out all over" as they sang in Carousel by Rodgers and Hammerstein. If you've never seen this number, and are a musical fan like me, do check out the short video on Youtube. Made to cheer you up, as are all the dog roses, elderflower trees, daisies and cow parsley plants which abound all around the village and beyond.

And June events are 'bustin' 'out here in Kingston. Check them out inside the magazine as usual, especially the open garden at Kingston Wood Manor on 29 June in aid of church funds. It's worth getting to know this 'extension' of our village if you've never been before.

As I write this editorial in May, we have yet to hold the Annual Parish Meeting. I do hope lots of you were able to attend, but if not, the minutes and agendas of all meetings are posted on the notice board outside the Village Hall.

As we now have a village WhatsApp group, we thought it worth noting that for anyone unwilling or unable to use WhatsApp, the village email is also available. Just be sure that Peter Stokes has your email and you will receive postings and information on this resource. Many thanks to Peter for maintaining this useful village notification system.

Miki Ellar miki.ellar7@gmail.com 07568 706106

Cover picture by Simon Draper

Vicar's Letter: Searching for peace …

… is a major focus for a host of speeches or initiatives around the world. It is easy to forget this is a thread that can be seen throughout much human history. It would be easy to conclude human beings are better at forging and fighting war than brokering and maintaining peace. One aspect of the matter is what people mean by peace.

It doesn't exist when we mean the absence of direct conflict or the imposition of terms that disadvantage one party to the benefit of the other. Such scenarios seem to result in the inevitable breakout of fresh battles and warfaring subsequently, often more embittered because of resentment or false ambitions festering in the so-called intervening truce periods.

The Christian tradition has plenty to be ashamed of in this regard; both internally and in some of our external dealings. When destructive fallouts between people claiming to be Christian occur, they indicate a loss of vision and alignment with the nature and purposes of God who is described as the 'God of peace' in the Bible. However, at its best I believe the Christian tradition has valuable lessons and insights for us to draw on.

For example, Jesus said not 'Blessed are the peacekeepers …' but 'Blessed are the peacemakers'. Jesus is described, in the Bible, as having 'made peace' by his life, death and resurrection. Thus, it seems that peace-making will often require initiatives costly to one party who may well be judged the innocent one in the prevailing conflict. At the same time there is a long and much-heralded Christian view that espouses the need, occasionally, for 'just war' rather than a quietist pacifism in the face of rampant evil.

A feature of public life that continues to change is the place of faith and religion in the political sphere. 'We don't do God' is the alleged retort of spin-doctor Alastair Campbell when Tony Blair was asked, as Prime Minister, about his faith. In the intervening years it feels as though more and more world leaders are claiming some form of religious affiliation including Messrs Putin and Trump today. Whether their beliefs and actions will make the world safer and less war-torn often seems hard to fathom or expect.

One of the challenges is that many of us would rest easier if a religious value influencing politicians and major decision-makers meant their adherents were of uniform views. They aren't, usually; the challenge becomes living and working alongside people with different outlooks which could become either a seedbed for division, hatred and conflict or for mutual respect, esteem and a form of harmony that is not monochrome.

Leo XIV, is one person who - in his new role as pontiff - has to straddle both the church and political spheres as head of the Roman Catholic Church and the Vatican state. As such he can't be sidelined as just another spiritual leader who may have a few interesting things to say from time to time. His first speech highlighted the need and urgency of peace which he rooted in the first words of Jesus to his disciples after the resurrection: 'Peace be with you.'

***Nigel di Castiglione**, (Papworth Team Ministry)*

Kingston Church Services for June

Sunday 15th June Family Service 10.30am

The church is open every day.

Papworth Team Services (FS=Family Service, HC=Holy Communion, MP=Morning Prayer)

June 1st 10.30am FS at Bourn
June 8th 8.30am HC at Bourn, 10.30am MP at Caxton, 9.30am HC at Longstowe
June 15th 9.00am HC at Caxton.
June 22nd 10.30am HC at Bourn, 10.30am FW at Caxton, 9.30am MP at Longstowe
June 29th 11.00am Team Service at Boxworth (**Revd Nigel di Castiglione's last service** & celebration of 25 years of the Papworth Team) followed by lunch

The website **papworthteamchurches.org** has up to date service information for all churches in the team. It also has the Zoom link for the Morning Prayer.

ZOOM Chapel Morning Prayer (Mon – Sat) at 8.15am (Zoom)
Telephone service on Mondays at 5.00pm (except Bank Holidays)
Team Prayer meeting at St Peter's Church, Papworth Everard at 6.30pm on 9 & 30 June

Church cleaning

1st Sunday	Henrietta Burbridge
2nd Sunday	Donal & Monica O'Donnell
3rd Sunday	Peter Reynolds
4th Sunday	Janet Clear
5th Sunday	Linda Rimmer

Church flowers and brasses

June 1	Lee Steele
June 8	Monica O'Donnell
June 15	Janet Clear
June 22	Miki Ellar
June 29	Christine Allison
July 4	Annabel Diggle

Kingston Wood Manor Open Garden 29th June 2.30-5.00pm

The garden at Kingston Wood Manor will be open on the afternoon of 29th June by kind invitation of Julian and Sara Metherell. Afternoon teas will be available and there will be a plant stall. This will be the church's main fund raising event this year. ***All welcome - please tell your friends.***


The Church of All Saints and St Andrew
Kingston, Cambridgeshire
Kingston Wood Manor
Open Garden
and Afternoon Tea
Sunday, June 29th; 2:30 – 5:00 pm
by kind invitation of Julian and Sara Metherell
Admission: £5 with children free.
Access is from A1198 1 mile north of Arrington:
look for the signpost "Kingston Wood Manor".
(Post code SG8 0AP)
Please note that children must be supervised
by an adult at all times. No Dogs Please.
All proceeds will be for the Church of All
Saints and St. Andrew, Kingston.

Chimney Sweep in Kingston

Wednesday 9th and Thursday 10th July 2025

The chimney sweep will be in Kingston on **Wednesday 9th and Thursday 10th July**. As usual Mark will give us a discount for our village block-booking.

Please contact me if you would like to have your chimney(s) swept on one of these dates or for more details.

***Pat Draper**, Rose Hide House, Church Lane.*

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Saturday 5 July
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Family (2A, up to 3C)...£40

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WIMBLEDON IN THE HALL

Starting on Monday 7 July until Sunday 13 July from 1.30 to 6.00 we will be showing tennis on the television in the Village Hall for anyone who wants to come along. This will cover the Quarter and Semi finals and the Finals for both Men and Ladies.

We will have coffee, tea and barley water cordial. Sorry, if you want Champagne please bring it yourselves along with strawberries, cream and cake!

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SUNDAY 29th June 2.00pm

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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
Web: www.papworthteamchurches.org

Our Team Administrator, Revd. Chris Westgarth, works in the office normally on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday 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 Vicar – 07770 697240

LONGSTOWE HISTORY SOCIETY

My Grandfather's exploits with the SAS in WW2

illustrated talk by
Nicky Muirhead
(whose childhood was spent at Lower Farm, Longstowe)
Tuesday 24th June 2025,
7.30 for 8pm
LONGSTOWE VILLAGE HALL
Admission: £3 (members free)
refreshments included.
Everyone Welcome.

Guided Rare Orchid Walk to Haslingfield Quarry

at the bottom of Quarry Lane, Haslingfield, CB23 1LB

Sun 15 June
2pm (prompt) to 4pm

A County Wildlife Site with undisturbed chalk grassland, Bee Orchids, Twayblades, Common Spotted Orchids, Pyramidal Orchids, the rare Man Orchid and other native wildflowers.

Wear sturdy shoes and long trousers,
bring drinks and sunhats.

Free event.

Cambridge Nature Festival

Sun 1-30 June

Events all month, including Coton Orchard Bioblitz and making a flute from natural materials at Wicken Fen
For details of events see
https://cambridgenaturenetwork.org/naturefestival/

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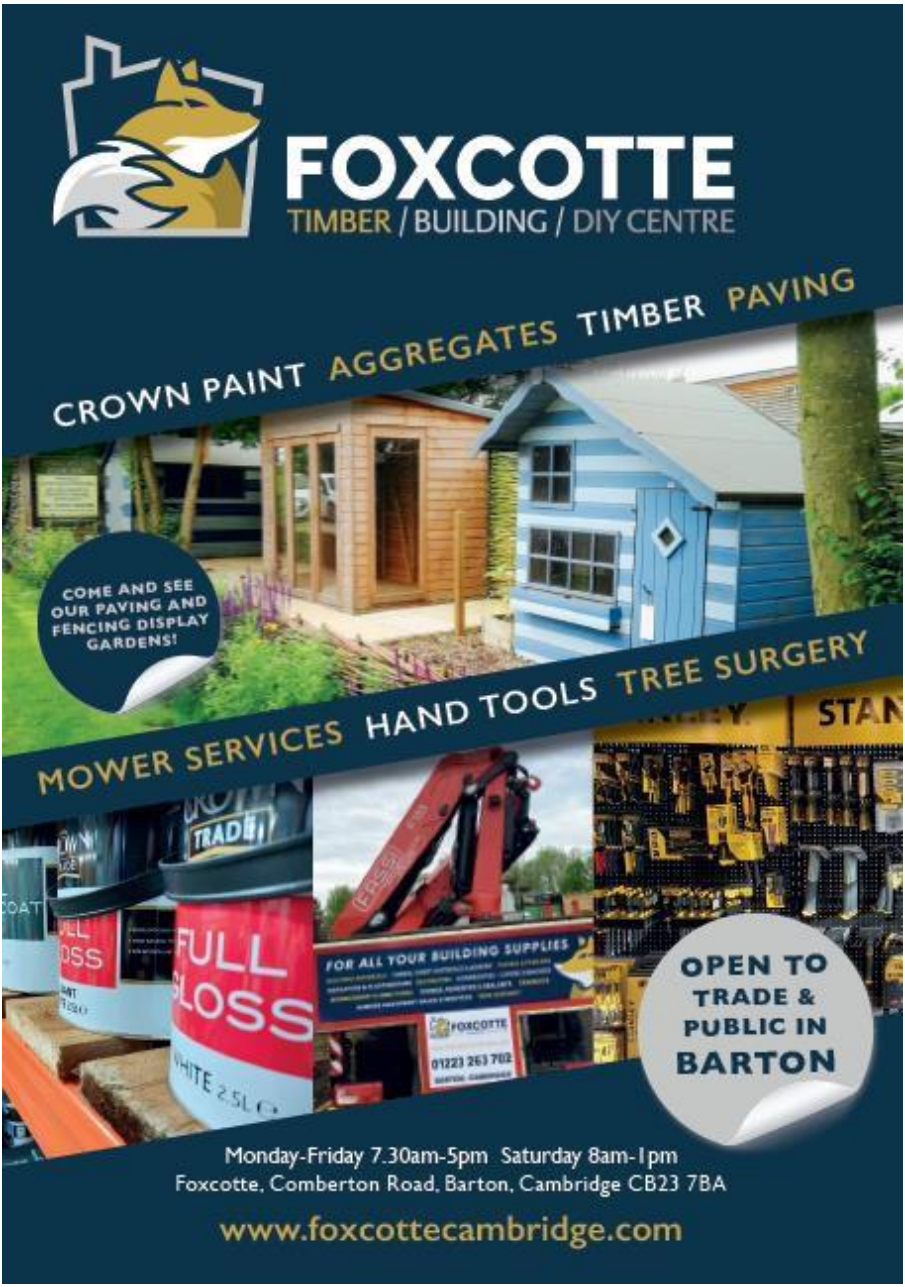
Enquiries: Sarah Wright (secretary)
kingstonvillagehall@gmail.com

0787 999 1068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Sir Robert Chamberlain (c.1435-1491)

Manorial descents – lists of successive owners of estates – can give local history a bad name, but occasionally a lord of a manor emerges with a documented role on the national stage. Sir Robert Chamberlain (c.1435-1491) is a case in point for us in Kingston.

The Mortimer family of Attleborough, Norfolk, held Kingston Wood Manor, the largest estate in the parish, from the mid-C13. Constantine Mortimer the younger (c.1270-1334) died without issue and the manor passed to his brother, Sir Robert (c.1295-1387), whose son, Sir Thomas, pre-deceased him; Sir Robert Mortimer's three granddaughters then became his coheirs. The eldest, Elizabeth, had already received a settlement on the occasion of her marriage, and so after the deaths of Sir Robert and his widow, Margery, the Mortimer estates were partitioned in 1403 between the two younger granddaughters, Cecily and Margery. The former married Sir John Harling and the latter Sir John FitzRalph of Great Ellingham. Margery's portion included various manors, lands and advowsons in Norfolk, Suffolk and in Kingston, Caldecote and Eversden, Cambridgeshire.

Sir Robert Mortimer founded the chantry College of the Holy Cross in Attleborough, with a Master and four Fellows, by the terms of his will in 1387. (Chantries were endowed foundations where priests celebrated daily masses in perpetuity for the benefit of the departed souls of their founders, their predecessors and successors.) The 1403 settlement obliged both Sir John Harling and Sir John FitzRalph to contribute the considerable sums of 1,000 marks each to Sir Robert's foeffees to finance the completion of the college house and its chapel, which was built to the east of St Mary's church's central tower as an aisled structure, replacing an earlier Norman chancel. Attleborough is well worth visiting to see the magnificent rood screen created in the mid-C15 to separate the chantry to the east from the nave to the west, which remained the parish church.

Nothing endures of the College of the Holy Cross: it was granted in 1541 by



Rood Screen at St Mary's, Attleborough

King Henry VIII to Robert Radcliffe, first Earl of Sussex (a descendant of Cecily Mortimer and her second husband, John Radcliffe), who demolished the whole edifice, pillaging it for the lead roof and its valuable contents. Blomefield laments that, 'He not only pulled down and spoiled the chancel; but he also pulled up many fair marble grave-stones of his [Mortimer] ancestors, with monuments of brass upon them… and besides this he got fourteen Crosses and as much town-plate as was worth above 100l., from the Church; and by this means the Chancel was reduced to ruins as we now see it.' (Francis Blomefield, *An Essay towards a Topographical History of the County of Norfolk*).

Sir John and Margery FitzRalph had a son, also John, who married Alice Whalesborough; Kingston Wood then descended in the female line in the person of their daughter Elizabeth, born in Kingston in 1439. Elizabeth FitzRalph married Sir Robert Chamberlain in Kingston church in 1457.

There is a Chamberlain family of Shirburn Castle, Oxfordshire, claiming descent from the Norman Counts of Tancarville, but we are not concerned with them. Our Chamberlains were obscure Suffolk gentry holding an eponymous manor, Chamberlains, in Stoke by Nayland. By the early C15 they had acquired the manor of Gedding, also in Suffolk, south of Bury St Edmunds, which became their principal seat. Sir Robert's father, Sir Roger Chamberlain (c.1410-1463), achieved local prominence as J.P. for Suffolk and as Sherriff of Norfolk and Suffolk: he served John Plantagenet, Duke of Bedford, brother of King Henry V, in France. Sir Roger then secured the patronage of Humphrey, Duke of Gloucester (1391-1447), Bedford's younger brother. Gloucester appointed Sir Roger his chamberlain (a case of nominative determinism?) and Constable for life of Queensborough Castle on the Isle of Sheppey in Kent, a prestigious and lucrative office, previously held by, amongst others, John of Gaunt and Thomas Arundel, Lord Chancellor and Archbishop of Canterbury.

Henry V died unexpectedly in 1422: his heir Henry VI being only eight months old – England's youngest ever monarch – a regency government of nobles was appointed with the Duke of Bedford designated Regent of France and the Duke of Gloucester Lord Protector of England. The regency council was always factious and Gloucester faced powerful enemies in his uncle, Cardinal Beaufort, and later on, William de la Pole, Duke of Suffolk, and Henry's Queen, Margaret of Anjou.

Gloucester and his entourage, including Sir Roger Chamberlain, were lured to Bury St Edmunds by Suffolk and his allies in February 1447, where they were arrested. Gloucester died a few days later, probably of a heart attack: many, including William Shakespeare, believed that he was murdered in captivity by order of Queen Margaret and Suffolk. Sir Roger was convicted of High Treason – the charge clearly fabricated – and was sentenced to be hung, drawn and quartered at Tyburn. In July he was indeed hung and was about to be disembowelled when he was pardoned, Suffolk suddenly producing a charter signed by the King. Last minute stays of execution were a feature of the times. Sir Roger was pardoned and resumed his duties as Constable of



Gedding Hall gatehouse

Queensborough, which he successfully defended against the rebel Jack Cade in 1450; he was M.P. for Suffolk in the same year.

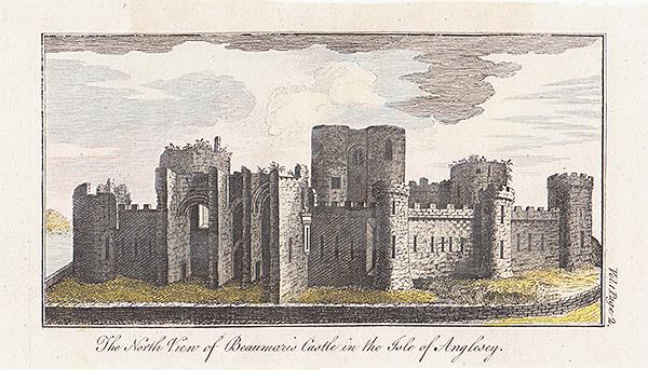
Sir Roger's son, Sir Robert Chamberlain, was born around 1435 at Gedding. He acquired Kingston Wood Manor and other estates, principally in Norfolk, as we've seen, through his marriage to the heiress, Elizabeth FitzRalph; he also owned manors in Capel St Mary, Little Waldringfield, Polsted and Stoke by Nayland, all in Suffolk. It may have been Sir Robert who built a new fortified mansion house, Gedding Hall, late in the C15. Some date it to the early C16 and attribute it rather to Sir Robert's son, Edward: it was most likely begun by the former and finished by the latter. Of this once magnificent edifice only the gatehouse survives; in its heyday it probably resembled the late-C15 National Trust property, Oxburgh Hall in Oxborough, Norfolk. The house was a clear statement of the Chamberlain's increased wealth and elevated status at this time, although the family was never ennobled.

The Wars of the Roses began in 1455 with the capture of King Henry VI by Richard Plantagenet, Duke of York, and his allies. (York's claim to the throne was based on his mother Anne Mortimer's direct descent from both King Henry III and King Edward III: she belonged to the powerful family of Marcher Earls who may have been distant cousins of the Attleborough Mortimers.) These wars were prosecuted with extreme brutality, inspiring George R R Martin, by his own admission, to write the *Game of Thrones* series. Prominent gentry families were more or less obliged to take the sides of the great barons and often did so willingly, looking to advance their own interests: our Sir Robert Chamberlain was loyal to the House of York which had a strong presence in Norfolk and Suffolk.

By 1460 Sir Robert was in the service of King Edward IV and he fought at the battles of Towton in 1461, and Hexham in 1463. He went into exile in Flanders with the King in 1470 and returned with Edward's army the following year to inflict decisive defeats on the Lancastrians at the battles of Barnet and Tewkesbury. Edward reclaimed the throne in 1471 and reigned thereafter until 1483.

Highly regarded by King Edward, Sir Robert was created a Knight of the King's Body: these were select and intimate members of the royal household, attending the King in his bedchamber. In 1475 Edward IV invaded France with an army of 11,000 men, supplemented with 2,000 Burgundian archers. Sir Robert Chamberlain served in this campaign, commanding twelve men at arms and one hundred archers. (Were some of

these recruited in Kingston?) The invasion ended with the Treaty of Picquigny which brought the Hundred Years' War to an end. Sir Robert was dubbed a Knight of the Bath for his support.



Beaumaris Castle, Anglesey

Sir Robert went on to serve Edward's successor, Richard III: he was again a Knight of the King's Body and he was made Constable of Beaumaris Castle, Sherriff of Anglesey and Receiver General, responsible for the collection of taxes, of North Wales.

The Wars of the Roses ended with the House of Lancastrians victorious and the coronation of Henry Tudor, following the battle of Bosworth Field in 1485, where Richard III was killed. Henry's marriage to Elizabeth of York was supposed to unite the Houses of the red and white roses; intrigues, however, continued.

Sir Robert Chamberlain was pardoned by King Henry VII but remained an incorrigible Yorkist. Possibly with the support of King Charles VIII of France, Sir Robert and others plotted to foment civil war by removing King Henry and replacing him with the Earl of Warwick, Edward Plantagenet, the son of George Plantagenet, Duke of Clarence, who was the brother of Kings Edward IV and Richard III. (Clarence was executed by King Edward in 1478, infamously said to have been drowned in a butt of Malmsey wine, the story told by Shakespeare.) Warwick was the last of the House of York with a claim to the throne and had been held in the Tower of London since 1485, when he was ten years old. In 1491 Sir Robert, with his two sons, Edward and Ralph, and other conspirators, attempted to leave the country via the port of Hartlepool. They were pursued by King Henry's men and sought sanctuary in Durham Cathedral but were apprehended and brought back to London. Sir Robert was attainted – declared an outlaw by Act of Attainder – and his estates were forfeited to the crown; he was found guilty of High Treason and beheaded in the Tower of London on March 12th, 1491. The Earl of Warwick survived until 1499 when he too was beheaded for treason on Tower Hill: with his death the Plantagenets became extinct in the male line.

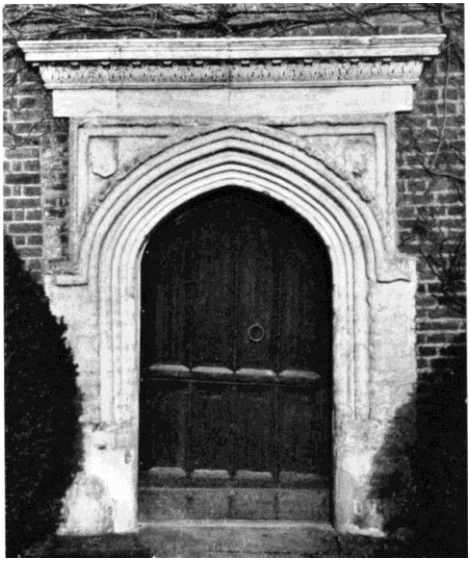
King Henry VII granted Sir Robert's manors to one Roger Ormeston: 'The sequel was curious and somewhat romantic, for this Roger Ormeston married Sir Robert's widow (the Lady Elizabeth Chamberlain), and died in 1500, apparently without heir, for on the death of the Lady Elizabeth Ormeston her son and heir [Ralph Chamberlain], who was also the son and heir of the baronet (her husband) who had been beheaded...succeeded, in 1516, to the Manor of Gedding, and thus got back that which his father had lost' (J R Olorenshaw, *Notes on Gedding, County Suffolk,* 1905).

According to the Victoria County History (1973), Sir Robert and Elizabeth's son Ralph inherited Kingston in his mother's right, indicating that this manor was not sequestrated by the King.

Behind Kingston Wood Manor's elegant Georgian façade, with its brickwork, sash windows, pedimented dormers and coved eaves, is an early C16 timber-framed house: this was built by Ralph Chamberlain, replacing the earlier Mortimer residence. The Tudor house is illustrated on the 1720 estate map drawn up for Edward Harley (later the 2nd Earl of Oxford) of Wimpole Hall. The front door case and door are original although the cornice above the spandrels is post-1720.

The lives of subsequent Chamberlains were uneventful: Ralph died in 1522 and his brother Edward succeeded; in 1541 Edward died and he was followed by his son, Ralph, who died in 1568, with the Manor of Kingston Wood settled on his son, Fitzralph Chamberlain and Dorothy, his wife.

The Chamberlains consolidated their Kingston estate, extending their demesne by buying out tenants. Ralph was accused of inclosing common land; he also obtained the lease of Beamonds, the manor in Kingston belonging to the nuns of the priory of St Mary, Clerkenwell. Fitzralph Chamberlain purchased the manor of Kingston St George in 1569, and so by the later C16 his family dominated the whole parish. Kingston church's register of burials includes entries for Mistris Dorothey Chamberline on October 10th 1613, and for Mr Fitzrafe Chamberlaine on June 21st 1622. (The parish register also records early-C17 baptisms of seven children of Thomas Chamberlain). Thomas Chamberlain conveyed all FitzRalph's manors and lands in 1625 to the Cambridge apothecary, John Crane who gave his name to Crane's Lane.



A *post scriptum* which may be of interest: Gedding Hall was purchased by Bill Wyman, of the Rolling Stones, in 1968 and he still lives there. (He also has homes in London and the south of France, a modest portfolio in comparison with some other rock stars). By all accounts he has a keen appreciation of the history of his property and has made many finds in his grounds as a metal detectorist.

Peter Reynolds

Kingston Wood Manor: early C16 door case and door (RCHM West Cambridgeshire, 1968)

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- Quarter page: £5 (£50 for 12 issues)

Other sizes by arrangement. Reduced rates for Kingston residents

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Bourn Surgery	Appointments	01954 719469
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Stansted Airport		0870 0000303
Streetlight failure reporting		0800 7838247

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