



Kidmore End Parish Council

Cane End Chalkhouse Green Gallowstree Common Kidmore End Tokers Green

Newsletter Summer 2007

Jun 2007 No. 92

Editor's Notes

Local elections have come and gone and not much has changed. We do have a new District Councillor. Mr Robert Peasgood, who lives in Gallowstree Common, has replaced Mr Nigel Spencer-Jones as a member for the Shiplake ward. But the faces around the table at the first meeting of the "new" Parish Council in May were the same as those of the retiring Council in April. Perhaps this reflects a deep satisfaction with all that the Council does, or maybe it reflects a general apathy?

It is true that Parish Councils have very little power. Almost all the local issues

which people would like to see attended to are outside the Council's direct control. The Parish Council has no jurisdiction over schools, traffic, housing or policing; but on all these issues it can represent a local view (if there is one) and press for action by the authorities further up the chain.

It is therefore a good thing if concerned citizens speak up about matters that bother them. This Newsletter contains one letter, from a resident worried about the speed of traffic in her local road, and it would be good to publish other letters in the

future, if you care to write them.

It would also be good to have a little fresh blood on the Parish Council. There are currently two vacancies and, as the Chairman writes in his Notes overleaf, it would be very welcome if two (or more!) persons interested in filling these vacancies would speak up. At present, Gallowstree Common, and Kidmore End have less representation (relative to their population) than the other three villages in the parish.

Trevor Morris (Editor)

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An Apology

We are very sorry that two articles submitted for publication in the Spring Newsletter, about the Pre-school and about the Parish Church, were omitted from that issue. This was due to a muddle in our "virtual" office. We will try to ensure that this does not happen again.

Ed.

Report from The Chairman of the Parish Council

Dear Parishioner,

The Editor has reproduced in this Newsletter much of what I said at the Annual Parish Meeting back in March of this year, so I will try not to repeat myself.

You are probably very surprised that I am still writing to you as Chairman of your Parish Council, after the comments I made in the last newsletter that I wished to stand down after eleven years as Chairman. Also, at that juncture, I was not even sure that I was going to stand for re-election as a Councillor. Well, as is obvious, I did put myself forward for re-election, mainly because I enjoy working for the community and helping to maintain the Parish that I love living in. Also I enjoy working with those people, past and present, who also sit on the Council. Regarding my re-election as Chairman, when the new Council met for the first time in May this year, when nominations were requested I was seriously asked if I would re-consider. This, coupled with the fact that nobody else's name was put forward, basically

ensured that I would say yes! I was very proud to have been asked to re-consider and was delighted to say yes. My good friend Roddy Young was re-elected as Vice Chairman, so effectively the status quo remains.

Regarding the elections on 3 May 2007, as I am sure you are well aware, those Councillors who put themselves forward for nomination were elected unopposed, since there were fewer nominations than there were vacancies. Also, the ten persons who now sit on the Council, are the same persons who sat on the Council for the last session. We are now looking to co-opt two more persons for the Council to bring us up to the full strength of twelve members. So, if anyone is interested in being co-opted, please make yourself known to the Clerk, Roger Penfold, or to one of the Councillors (whose names are listed on page 8) so that you can be considered.

The two vacancies have been created because Mr Roy Bayliss of Gallowstree Common and Dr Rob Potter of Chalkhouse Green have both decided, for personal reasons, not to stand again. They had served the community as members of the Parish Council since December 1998 and December 2001 and believe me they will be sorely missed by us all.

Unlike our big brothers further up the political ladder, we do not have a manifesto in this Parish. We just try our level best to look after and administer the Parish to the best of our ability. If we did have a manifesto, I think the two main items for the forthcoming term would be trying to further calm the traffic that comes through the Parish and ensuring the smooth passage of the hoped-for replacement pavilion at the Recreation Ground at Gallowstree Common. This last project is under the very able stewardship of Roddy Young, fully supported by the rest of the Council.

Giles Martin (Chairman, Kidmore End Parish Council)

Kidmore End Village Day

Just a reminder that this year's Village Day is on Saturday 16 June, between 2 pm and 5 pm at Kidmore End Primary School.

We are now collecting for some of the stalls and we would be very grateful for donations of any of the following items:

Tins and bottles

call Phil Brown on 972 2369

Plants

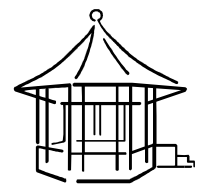
call Sue and John McNie on 972 2672

Books

call Paul LeCorgne on 972 4991

For any queries regarding a stall or offers of help please contact me on 972 1053.

Cathy Dean (Secretary, Village Day Committee)



The Parish Church

The piece that I prepared for the Spring issue of the Newsletter did not appear! Had it done, readers would have found an invitation to attend our Lent Study course entitled "Can we build a better world?" This celebrated the work of William Wilberforce, the intention being that those attending would be inspired by Wilberforce's achievements in combating slavery 200 years ago. It is pleasing to report that 34 people attended the course and that all of them found it stimulating and thought-provoking – inspiring, even! A very good preparation for Easter.

Before Easter, of course, we had Good Friday, when the sun shone brilliantly on our traditional ecumenical Procession of Witness, which was well supported. Those who attended the afternoon Devotional Service at St John's enjoyed a new-style (for us) presentation of the readings, with our choir and soloist Simon Classey performing excellently.

On Easter Day, both our churches were full and the Feast of the Resurrection of Christ was celebrated joyfully. Were you there?

Neil Scott (Lay Chairman, Parochial Church Council)

During March, the Bishop of Dorchester visited Christ the King Church in Sonning Common (the Parish's daughter church), where we celebrated that church's 40th anniversary and the Bishop dedicated the new building work to the service of God. A splendid occasion.

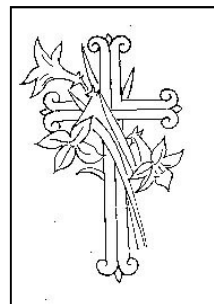
At our Annual Parochial Meeting in April, we elected two new members of the PCC, and a new Churchwarden, Mrs Val Heywood. Val replaces Mr John Pearson who is standing down after many years of stalwart service.

Sadly, we are losing the Chapman family. They have moved house and are now members of the church in their new Parish. Our loss is that Parish's gain! We will miss them all, particularly Felicity, who has undertaken so many roles, not least that of Editor of "The Lamb and Flag".

St John's will have its 155th anniversary on **Sunday 24 June**, the Feast Day of John the Baptist, when we celebrate annually the Patronal Festival of our Parish Church. After the 11 am service there will be a Bring-and-Share Lunch in the school.

Yet again, there will be no Spring Fair this year, but there will be an opportunity to compensate for this loss of income through a **Gift Day on Saturday 23 June** from 10 am until noon. This is an opportunity for those who would have supported a Spring Fair, and any others who wish to give, to make a donation to church funds - a donation which matches, or perhaps exceeds, what they would have spent at the Fair. If you are a taxpayer, the value of your gift can be increased by the use of Gift Aid. Envelopes will be available for those who wish to use this scheme. Coffee will be served throughout the morning at the Parish Room, Kidmore End and at Christ the King Hall, Sonning Common. If you cannot attend, but would like an envelope, please contact me on 972 3890.

We thank all those who collected for and contributed to Christian Aid, during May.



Tokers Green Triumph (Just!)

The final of the South Oxfordshire Villages Knockout Quiz contest was played at Preston Crowmarsh on 17 May between teams from Stoke Row and Tokers Green. It was a closely fought match all the way, although it has to be admitted that Tokers Green started with a 7 point advantage, derived from the handicapping system which uses the final scores in last year's League table.

At the end, there was a dead heat, with both teams having scored 88 points. A deciding question was put: "What is the distance from Lands End to John o' Groats as the crow flies?"

Tokers Green came up with an answer of 625 miles, which was inaccurate, but nearer to the true figure (603 miles) than Stoke Row's guess of 725. Stoke Row went home with the moral victory, having actually answered more questions correctly during the course of the evening, but Tokers Green are the winners of the Bill Slade Trophy for this year.

Chairman's Annual Report

The following is an abridged version of the Report given to the Annual Parish Meeting in March this year by the Chairman of the Parish Council, Mr Giles Martin.

The past year has been quite eventful for the Council. Normally our activities pass unnoticed but the local profile of your Council was raised considerably during the past year by the subject of Affordable Housing for local people. The Council finally reached a conclusion on this matter in October, when it was decided to take no further action on the results of the housing needs survey undertaken by the Oxfordshire Rural Community Council in 2004. This decision was made after extensive public consultation, including a well-attended public meeting in June 2006.

The Council was as split on this issue as the local populace. Voting on a proposal to support a scheme for affordable housing in Gallowstree Common was 50:50 and I, with reluctance, used my casting vote in favour of the *status quo*, that is against the motion. The issue is now closed as far your present Council is concerned, although I know that a number of the present councillors feel, like me, that affordable housing is required in the Parish.

Planning is another subject of interest to residents. The Council has commented on 58 planning applications since the last Annual Parish Meeting. Most of these applications were for extensions to existing houses. In the vast majority of cases where the Council expressed a strongly held view, the District Council recognised those concerns. Nevertheless, I would urge residents who are concerned about planning applications to write to the District Council giving their views.

I reported at the last Annual Parish Meeting that the South East England Regional Assembly had withdrawn the Parish from the Western Corridor and Blackwater Valley Sub-Region for the purposes of the South East Plan, much to the relief of us all. However, you will appreciate that this is just one battle in what could prove to be a long conflict. There can be no doubt that there will continue to be significant demand for housing in the South East. We need to be on our guard concerning development pressures.

The District Council is searching for sites for development, so that it can meet its present commitment to house-building under the Oxfordshire Structure Plan. One site under examination is in the Parish, right on the boundary with Reading, although it can only be accessed from roads in Reading. Your Council has expressed its opposition to the development of that site, for fear that it would prove to be the thin end of a much larger wedge.

Traffic, and particularly traffic speed, were the top concern of residents at the time of the Parish Appraisal 7 years ago. You all know the appalling record of accidents and, sadly, deaths on the A4074. Unfortunately, your Council is not aware of any plans by the County Council which might address this problem. Indeed, your Council has been disappointed to note that the County Council has no proposals for road safety measures south of Wallingford. It has no funds for minor road safety measures, even though such measures might bring almost immeasurable relief to local residents.

Because of this lack of funding, your Council has decided to install, at its expense, a

vehicle-activated speed indicator sign in Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common. Although this is not an enforcement measure, we hope that the sign will have a salutary effect on drivers passing through Gallowstree Common.

Issues have also been raised during the year which stem from the popularity of Kidmore End School and the Pre-School. We are lucky to have a primary school in the Parish but some may see the school as an environmental disadvantage, given the traffic that the School and Pre-School generate. Your Council has opened a dialogue with the Pre-School about parking and is aware that the School Governors have travel issues high on their agenda. The Council was concerned, although it understood the reasons, that 71% of pupils at the School travel by car.

Of course, enforcement of traffic and parking restrictions is a matter for the Police. Regrettably, it is now very many months since the Area Beat Officer has met the Council. Indeed, the Police are thin on the ground in our area. Your Council understands that neighbourhood policing will be rolled out in this area in the not too distant future. There will then be, we are assured, a dedicated team of police officers and police community support officers (uniformed civilians with no power of arrest) covering the Parish and a number of neighbouring areas.

In the meantime, the Council is advised about crime recorded in the Parish. Although any crime is regrettable, the levels we suffer are relatively low. 37 crimes have been recorded from 1 April last year to 31 December, mostly burglaries and thefts. It is

(Continued on page 5)

Chairman's Annual Report cont'd

important to report all crimes, because the Police target their resources in the areas where there is greatest need.

The Council continues to look after a number of local assets. The Playing Fields Committee manages the Recreation Ground at Gallowstree Common and the Play Area at Kidmore End. One major project for the Council is the replacement of the Pavilion at the Recreation Ground. Following public consultation last summer, the architect has submitted a planning application to the District Council for a replacement Pavilion.

The Council is also responsible for the maintenance of the ponds

at Kidmore End and Tokers Green and the wells at Gallowstree Common and Kidmore End. The heavy rains of the past winter led to flooding of the roads in the vicinity of the pond, and some residents suggested that flooding was a result of the pond being silted up. The Council had the pond surveyed in February 2006, when it was found that silt accounted for less than 30% of the volume of the pond. A new hedge has been planted at the Gallowstree Common well.

The Council continues to manage its resources prudently. Both the internal and external auditors gave us a clean bill of health for

2005-06. Your Council has set its precept for 2007-08 at £13,600. Although this is an increase of nearly 30%, it will entail a Council Tax payment on the typical Band D property of only £20.51 for the year. The precept will enable the Council to undertake its routine services and a number of specific projects. As you will have seen from the material which accompanied your Council Tax bill, the average precept across South Oxfordshire is £37.63 and the average town or parish Council Tax £50.17, more than twice the figure for Kidmore End.

Giles Martin (Chairman, Kidmore End Parish Council)

FISH

The FISH AGM took place on Monday 30 April, when volunteers and supporters enjoyed a buffet lunch prepared by volunteers, followed by the meeting. With the retirement from office of our Chairman, Fred Curzon and Treasurer David Cunningham, who had each completed 5 years in the post, and Secretary, Helen Fort (3 years) we will have new faces around the table at our committee meetings in the coming months. All three of these officers have done sterling work for FISH during their terms of office and will continue to do so for many years to come, no doubt. Our grateful thanks are extended to them.

The weather is now much warmer and our thoughts are turning to outings better suited to the summer, such as River Trips and

our recently introduced Mystery Tea Tour. Details of all our outings, along with the Shop and Lunch trips can be obtained from the FISH office between 9.30 and 11.30 am by telephoning 972 3986. Our bus manager is always open to new ideas for outings and so, if you have in



they are no longer eligible to drive for us and so we are seeking new volunteer drivers who can spare a few hours during the week. I can assure you it is worthwhile. You get to meet and have an exchange of views with many in the neighbourhood who need help. To volunteer please call on the number above, where you can also leave a message outside normal working

hours. You will be sure of a great welcome.

Barbara Perez

Diary Dates		Start Time
Monday 4 June	Garden Centre	1.30 pm
Friday 8 June	River Trip	contact office
Thursday 14 June	Pub Lunch	11.30 am
Thursday 21 June	Shop & Lunch in Aylesbury	10.00 am
Tuesday 26 June	Mystery Tour & Tea	2.00 pm
Monday 2 July	Garden Centre	1.30 pm
Thursday 19 July	Pub Lunch	11.30 am
Monday 6 August	Garden Centre	1.30 pm
Thursday 16 August	Pub Lunch	11.30 am
Monday 3 September	Garden Centre	1.30 pm
Thursday 20 September	Pub Lunch	11.30 am

mind a venue that you think would attract at least 12 people, give us a ring and your request will be considered.

Many of our stalwart volunteers are approaching the stage when

Kidmore End Pre-School

The summer is here and we are enjoying the sun and the rain. The children are enjoying the ducklings on the pond, and wet walks in the woods. We are learning all about being happy and healthy this term. We have a new planter outside the Parish Rooms where the children are growing tomatoes, peas and beans. The older children have started to visit the reception class at Kidmore End Primary school in preparation for September when they will start 'Big School'. We have 17 leavers this year, so the leaving ceremony at the end of term will be both a happy and sad time for everyone.

Our Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday 31 March was a wonderful success and we made over £1600, which is wonderful news for our small pre-school. A big Thank You to everyone who organised, helped and came along to have some fun. A special thank you must go to

the residents of Gallowstree Common for coping with all the extra cars and people in the village. We are very appreciative of Lord Phillimore for enabling us to reduce congestion on the day by giving us permission to park on the field next to the pavilion. We have already spent some of the funds that were raised on a special coach trip to the Cotswold Wildlife Park. Everyone enjoyed the day out, and a fantastic time was had by all! Other trips this term include one to Legoland and taking part in the Big Toddle at Child Beale Park.

On a more serious note, we have been having informal discussions regarding parking around the Parish Room with members of the Kidmore End Parish Council. All of us at the pre-school, including committee members, parents and members of staff, are



very concerned that there have been problems caused by inconsiderately parked cars. One idea that was raised at the meeting was whether there are any neighbours near to the Parish rooms that could offer a parking place on their drive to members of staff to park on during the day. Such an offer would be wonderful, and treated in confidence. It would also reduce the number of cars parked on Wood Lane all day. If you feel that you might be able to help, even if it is just for one day a

week, please e-mail me at caroline_aldridge@btinternet.com

Our pre-school is very small and friendly. Session numbers are limited to 14 children. If you would like to learn more, please contact our registrar, Janet Hartrup, on 972 2966.

Best wishes. **Caroline Aldridge** (Pre-school Manager)

How To Deal With Fly-tipping

Like me, several residents saw and picked up for recycling the large quantity of cardboard boxes dumped in Wood Lane a couple of weeks ago. I was thrilled when I discovered paperwork with the boxes identifying Littlewoods as the originator of the rubbish and a lady in Southampton as the recipient. Feeling sure that SODC would be able to act on this information I reported all the details to Public Amenities, as did a number of other people. I was informed that nothing could be done because the boxes had been removed from the tip site. Apparently the Local Authority needs to photograph the rubbish *in situ* for evidence. The moral of this tale is that if you find dumped rubbish and think the culprits can be identified, do not touch it. Phone SODC as soon as possible and leave it to them or ask their advice on removal.

Sue Rowland

Our Masthead

A parishioner has asked about the origins of the picture of the Kidmore End well, which adorns the masthead of this Newsletter. This black and white version was taken from a watercolour, painted by Alan Gunn, which hangs high on the North wall of the Parish Room. A splendidly coloured version of a very similar view can be seen by visiting the Parish Council website at www.kepc.info.

Distraction Burglaries in South Oxfordshire



There have been a number of Distraction Burglary/Bogus Caller incidents in South Oxfordshire during the early part of this year. They have been reported in Thame, Didcot, Wallingford and Henley areas.

Bogus callers can appear to be very credible, dressing as utility workers, tradespeople or even police officers. They are particularly persuasive and articulate and can easily talk their way into peoples homes. Once in, they steal money and valuables.

They target homes of the elderly and more vulnerable members of our communities.

Some of the excuses used to gain entry are:

- They are from the Water/Electricity Board to check your pipes / wiring
- They are from the police station or Neighbourhood Watch
- Their kitten/pet has gone into your garden
- They have broken down and need some water for their vehicle
- They have called to see your neighbour who was out and ask for a pen and paper to leave a note
- Can I use your toilet? / Can I have a drink of water?
- I am from Age Concern - can I take down the number of your pension book?

Analysis by the Didcot Crime Reduction Advisors has found that in several cases of Distraction Burglaries/Bogus Callers the victims were targeted again, usually at about a three year interval.

Other crime information gained whilst carrying out the analysis revealed that many elderly residents had been victims of Rogue Traders and that they had not reported this to the police. One example of this was where tree cutters had put their prices up year by year, so after three years they were charging over £1000 to trim one tree!

Anyone worried about traders or workmen they have dealt with, or are thinking of dealing with, should contact Trading Standards on 0845 051 0845 or your local Crime Reduction Advisor on 08458 505 505 for advice.

If an unexpected caller comes to the door, put the chain on; ask for their identification and check it carefully. If there is a telephone number, call it to verify their story. Only let them in once you are sure they are genuine. If not, close your door and they will go away.

A Tokers Green Toddle

Six gardens will be available for your inspection and delectation in Tokers Green from 2.00 to 5.30 pm on Sunday 24 June. The owners are opening their carefully tended plots, some large, some small, in aid of the Thames Valley and Chiltern Air Ambulance Trust.

Admission will cost only £3.50 for adults (excellent value for money) and children get in free.

Ample free parking will be provided at the north end of the hamlet (the Kidmore End approach) and tea, cakes and plants will be on sale nearby.

Two of the gardens are being opened to the public for the first time and so, if you walked around Tokers Green in 2005, come again and see what's new: but please wear comfortable shoes, as the full circuit of six gardens covers nearly one and a half miles.

If any one would like to contribute plants for the plant stall please contact Sue Rowland (972 3107) or cakes for the teas or would like to help with teas please contact Teresa Heffer (972 2840).

Your New Parish Council

Five former members of the Parish Council were nominated to serve again and were duly elected unopposed on 3 May. Nomination papers for three other Councillors went astray and arrived at the District Council offices after the closing time. These three and two other former members, who had not submitted nominations but indicated that they were willing to serve again, were co-opted by the new Parish Council at its first meeting on 16 May. The present Councillors and the Sub-Committees to which they have been appointed are as follows:

Mr A K Martin	(Chairman)	(Planning)
Mr R S Young	(Vice-Chairman)	(Planning, Playing Fields)
Mrs J A Appleton		(Traffic Calming)
Mrs S G Hall		(Planning)
Dr D J M McNie		(Footpaths, Planning)
Mr R G McQuillan		(Footpaths, Planning, Playing Fields)
Prof T R Morris		(Newsletter)
Mr R M Naish		(Playing Fields)
Mrs M S Rowland		(Newsletter, Planning)
Mrs C Toms		(Footpaths, Traffic Calming)

There are two vacancies, which the Council is keen to fill by co-option. If you are interested in serving on the Parish Council please make contact with one of the above members for information. To put your name forward for co-option, please write to the Clerk, whose address is on the back page of this Newsletter, giving a short biographical sketch of your relevant experience.

Changes on the A4074?

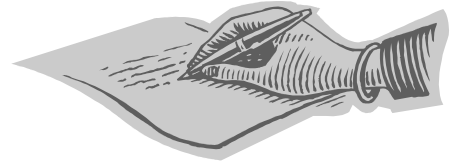
We are all aware of the terrible accident record on the A4074 main road between Caversham and Woodcote and anything effective that can be done to make this road safer will be very welcome. Oxford County Council Road Safety Division has announced that consultants have been commissioned to look at the feasibility and likely effectiveness of a 40 mph speed limit on sections of this road. They have been asked to seek the best balance between keeping the 40 mph limit as short as possible, whilst ensuring that it covers the worst accident locations, and also to consider whether the alignment of the road is suitable for a 40 mph limit. There will be public consultation before any action is taken and OCC have undertaken to ensure that the local population are kept well informed about this.

Crime Statistics

There has been a 25% increase in reported crime in the Kidmore End Parish in the past 12 months, compared with the previous year! However, the rate has only gone up from 0.75 crimes per week to 0.94, so the Parish is still a comparatively safe and law abiding place to live.

Crimes reported	Apr 05 - Mar 06	Apr 06 - Mar 07
Burglaries	9	9
Car crime	4	4
Criminal damage	2	8
Theft	7	16
Other crimes	<u>17</u>	<u>12</u>
Total	39	49

A Letter to the Editor



Dear Sir,

The introduction of the 30 mph limit on Horsepond Road through Gallowstree Common has been very welcome, particularly as, when turning into the Hamlet on the brow of the road, oncoming vehicles are only visible when they are almost upon one. As pointed out in the Newsletter, not everyone observes the speed limit, so extreme caution is still required when turning into or out of The Hamlet or Hazelmoor Lane. It is to be hoped that the proposed speed indicator will help to make the road less hazardous.

Whilst on the subject of speed limits, could the 30 mph signs round The Hamlet and in Hazelmoor Lane be replaced by something more appropriate, ideally 5mph? These roads are in constant use by pedestrians such as children returning from school, mothers and toddlers and dog walkers, as well as by cyclists and horse-riders on their respective ways home, to the woods or to the playground and sports field. There are no footpaths and there is barely room for cars to pass pedestrians in single file. Also, visibility in The Hamlet is curtailed because it is a crescent. A speed limit of 30mph in these conditions is completely ludicrous and if there are regulations governing this they should be overturned.

Jennifer Balinski (The Yews, The Hamlet, Gallowstree Common)

[Letters are always welcome. This one will be referred to the Parish Council at its next meeting. If you have something to say about matters in the Parish, please write to the Newsletter. **Ed.**]

Parish Council Meetings

I have been attending Parish Council meetings for more than a year and I would like to look at the reasons for the lack of public involvement at these meetings and the handling of issues put forward to the Parish Council by the public.

When I have attended the last few Parish Council meetings, I have been the only member of the public there although, when there was a burning local issue, parishioners did attend quite regularly. It has been suggested by the Council that this is because the community is satisfied with the proceedings and feel there is no need to attend. Do you agree with this or do you have other reasons for not attending? If you do, the Council would be pleased to hear from you and you can email them to webmaster@kepc.info.

I have been trying to get a salt bin replaced in the village of Kidmore End near to the bus stop for over a year. I have found the process exasperating and have asked the Council to look at their procedures for moving proposals by a member of the public forward. As it stands, no minutes are taken of the public session and as such it is almost impossible to follow up on any issues raised during this part of the meeting. I have been told the most effective method of getting a response to a request is to write to the Council. Having done this you cannot then go to the meeting and discuss your request, as letters from the public are placed on the main agenda, for discussion after the open session.

I would be interested to know if anyone else has experienced the difficulty of raising issues to our Council, or other parish councils, and if anyone has any ideas as to how the process could be improved?

My two concerns could of course also be linked: maybe the lack of local attendance has led to the unstructured approach to handling the occasional issue raised by the public. And the public may be reluctant to raise issues, knowing that there is unlikely to be a timely and positive response from the Council?

Sue Biggs

Local Weather Report: Year 2007

	Average Minimum Temperature		Average Maximum Temperature		Rainfall	
	Cel	Fahr	Cel	Fahr	mm	in
February	1.8	35	9.1	48	102	4.1
March	1.6	35	12.2	54	46	1.8
April	4.0	39	19.1	68	0	0.0
Rainfall, 3 months to end of April					148	5.9
Total rainfall during previous 12 months (May 06 to April 07)					885	34.8



This is about 29% **above** the normal average twelve month figure of 685 mm (27 in).

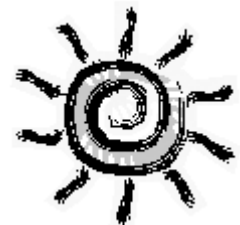
The high winter rainfall petered out during March, finally ending altogether in April, producing a period of drought!

With an area of high pressure dominating our weather pattern, we had the second highest April temperature recorded for this area after the 26.4C (79F) record in 2003.

At the time of writing (12 May) the rains have made a welcome return for gardeners and the village ponds!

Lowest and highest temperatures during the last 3 months

	Lowest		Highest	
	Cel	Fahr	Cel	Fahr
February	-7.8C	18F (7 th)	11.9C	53F (21 st)
March	-4.5C	24F (22 nd)	17.7C	64F (11 th)
April	-1.6C	29F (5 th)	25.4C	78F (15 th)



Derek Brown (972 3895)

New Bus Timetable

From 4 June 2007 the M1 bus service which operates from Stokenchurch to Reading will **not run through this Parish** on Mondays, Tuesdays or Thursdays.

On **Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays** there will be one service a day into Reading and one bus back.

To Reading

Sonning Common Garage.....	09.43
Gallowstree Common (Hamlet/Hazelmoo Ln).....	09.46
Kidmore End Church	09.49
Chalkhouse Green Turning	09.54
Emmer Green Pond.....	09.58
Church Street Caversham	10.03
Reading Railway Station	10.09

Return from Reading

St Mary's Butts, Reading	12.45
Friar Street, Reading	12.47
Reading Railway Station	13.00
Church Street Caversham.....	13.06
Emmer Green Pond	13.11
Chalkhouse Green Turning	13.15
Kidmore End Church	13.20
Gallowstree Common (Hamlet/Hazelmoo Ln)	13.23
Sonning Common Garage	13.26

Topical Tips: June chores



- Sow sweetcorn, marrows, cucumber, squash, wallflowers and Sweet Williams for next year.
- Plant out French and runner beans and outdoor tomatoes raised in the greenhouse.
- Plant bedding plants into containers and hanging baskets, giving them a good watering to settle them in.
- Keep an eye out for powdery mildew on perennials, climbers and sweet peas.
- Dead-head your roses regularly and pinch the faded blooms off rhododendrons if it's practical. It keeps the plant tidy and it is easier when the stems are soft. Do the same for azaleas and lilacs.
- Keep an eye out for bright red lily beetle and squash on sight as they really do a lot of damage, and not only to lilies. We have found a lot!
- Prune your spring flowering shrubs, remove the shoots that have flowered and any dead wood.
- Pinch out fuchsias and chrysanthemums to make them more bushy.
- On warm rainy days, give your houseplants a few hours outside to wash the winter dust off.
- Keep an eye on your variegated shrubs and trees. If any have reverted (i.e. gone all green) prune the green bits out at once, because shoots like this are always more vigorous than the variegated parts.
- Try to keep on top of the watering, particularly for trees and shrubs recently planted. They may appear to have settled in but in a dry spell newcomers are very vulnerable.

Remember folks, as Gertrude Jekyll wrote "The love of gardening is a seed that, once sown, never dies".

Happy gardening.

J and J Manuel

Chiltern Edge Horticultural Society

The Society had a highly successful Spring Show on 31 March and is now looking forward to its Autumn Show, which will open to the public at 3 pm on Saturday 1 September (**not** the 8th as previously announced in this Newsletter) at Chiltern Edge School.

In the meantime, there is a coach outing to Mottisfont Abbey (National Trust) on 16 June. If you are interested, but not yet a member of the Society, please contact Janet Evans (the Programme Secretary) on 972 3245. There will also be an outing to Kingston Bagpuize House and the Waterperry Gardens on 17 September.

The autumn programme of illustrated talks starts on 17 October when John Tyler will speak on "The Changing Wild Life of the Chilterns". On 21 November the subject will be "Hellebores and the Buttercup Family" and the speaker is Don Everitt. These talks will be at Chiltern Edge School starting at 7.30 pm. The charge for non-members is £2 on each occasion.

If you would like to join the Society, please contact Sue Hedges on 972 3678.

Bin Emptying Dates

The next Bank Holiday is on Monday 27 August. All bin collections arranged by the local Council will be made one day later than normal in that week.



Summer Diary

- 04 Jun FISH Garden Centre (p5)
- 08 Jun FISH River Trip (p5)
- 14 Jun FISH Pub Lunch (p5)
- 16 Jun KE Village Day (p2)
- 16 Jun CEHS Outing to Mottisfont Abbey (p11)
- 21 Jun FISH Shop & Lunch (p5)
- 23 Jun Gift Day-Parish Church.... (p3)
- 24 Jun Feast Day of John the Baptist (p3)
- 24 Jun Tokers Green Gardens (p7)
- 26 Jun FISH Mystery Tour..... (p5)
- 27 Jun Parish Council Meeting....8pm
- 02 Jul FISH Garden Centre (p5)
- 18 Jul Parish Council Meeting....8pm
- 19 Jul FISH Pub Lunch (p5)
- 06 Aug FISH Garden Centre (p5)
- 16 Aug FISH Pub Lunch (p5)
- 01 Sep CEHS Autumn Show (p11)
- 03 Sep FISH Garden Centre (p5)
- 17 Sep CEHS Outing to Kingston Bagpuize (p11)

Newsletter Contributions

Are we missing your club or society? Would you like to see their activities listed in the Newsletter? Let us know by contacting one of the editors.

If you would like to contribute to the next edition, we'd be delighted to hear from you. Articles should be sent to one of the editors.

The closing date for the next edition is Friday 17 August 2007.

Useful Numbers and Contacts

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 Thames Valley Police, emergency 999
 Crime Stoppers (anonymous) 0800 555 111
 Victim Support 01865 751511
 SODC e-mail: info@southoxon.gov.uk 01491 823000

Open: - Mon-Thu 8.30 am - 5.00 pm
 Fri 8.30 am - 4.30 pm

ORCC Directory of Transport Schemes 01865 883433
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Services available at 32 Market Place, Henley
 Drop-in service - Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri 10 am - 1 pm
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 (phone 01491 578267)
 Telephone advice - Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri 10 am - 4 pm
 (phone 01491 572129)
 CAB Website www.adviceguide.org.uk

Kidmore End Parish Room

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