



Kidmore End Parish Council

Cane End Chalkhouse Green Gallowstree Common Kidmore End Tokers Green

Newsletter Spring 2008

March 2008 No. 95

Editor's Notes

In November 2007, but too late for coverage in our Winter Newsletter, South Oxfordshire District Council produced a "Core Strategy Issues and Options" document, which set out a number of proposals, and alternatives, as to how SODC could meet the housing target set for it by the South East Regional Assembly (SERA) for the period 2006 – 2026. Although SERA itself is due to disappear, its plan, or some modified version of it, is expected to become government policy and so to be binding on all councils in the South East.

The total number of homes allocated to SODC for building in the next 20 years is 10,950. However, sites for 5,850 houses have already been allocated by the District Council and so the number of new building plots to be found is only 5,100. The Council proposes to put 3,700 of these in Didcot or near

Oxford, leaving 1,400 to be allocated to other small towns or large villages in South Oxfordshire.

The options offered for these 1,400 new homes were (a) to put them all in Thame and Henley; (b) to focus on Thame and Henley, but also to put some new houses in Chalgrove, Chinnor and Watlington; (c) to add to add Goring, Sonning Common and Woodcote to the list or (d) to include some land adjacent to Reading as well as one of the other options, (a), (b) or (c).

There was an on-line questionnaire that allowed residents to give their views about the 42 questions posed in the full document, but this closed on 1 February. Perhaps some of you managed to wade through this and send in your personal responses. Some members of your Parish Council made individual

replies, but the Council as a whole gave up any attempt, when it met on 23 January, to prepare and submit a set of agreed answers within the short time available.

Instead, the Clerk was instructed to write to SODC, setting out replies to the most important bits that affect the Parish of Kidmore End. That letter is reproduced on page 11 of this Newsletter.

Also in this issue (page 8), we have reproduced part of an article which appeared in the Sunday Times in November 2007, touching on the question of exception sites for affordable housing. Although this describes a self-build scheme, as opposed to the housing association development proposed for Gallowstree Common in 2006, there are some interesting parallels concerning the provision of land.

Trevor Morris (Editor)

Inside this issue:

Chairman's Report	2
Kidmore End Village Day	
Update on New Pavilion	
Spring Fair	3
South Chiltern Choral	
Know Your Councillors	4
Closure of A 4074	
Kidmore End Pre-School	5
FISH	
The Parish Church	6
Orinoco Re-use System	
Kidmore End Cricket Club	7
Between Rock and a Hard Place	8
A New Councillor	
Kidmore End School	9
Reading Freecycle	
Annual Parish Meeting	
Local Weather Report	10
Crime Statistics.	
Sth Oxon Core Strategy	11
Eleemosynary	
C.E. Horticultural Soc	

Report from The Chairman of the Parish Council

Dear Parishioner,

The Editorial Board offers me a quarterly opportunity to reflect on what your Council has done. Sometimes there is plenty to say. On other occasions, it seems that little has happened of any significance, although the Council has sat through three further meetings!

The Parish Council fixed its budget for the financial year 2008-9 just before Christmas. As a result, a precept has been issued to the District Council for £13,500, which is pretty close to last year's figure. The District Council will collect that sum via the Council Tax bill and so, if you live in a Band D house, your Parish Council will cost you £20.50 for the year beginning 1 April 2008. I hope that you agree that represents good value for money.

The biggest feature in the budget for next year is a provision just short of £3,500 for the project to replace the Pavilion at Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground. This is not so much a contribution towards the construction costs, but more to enable further planning. Securing funding will be a major activity in the coming months. I am pleased that work is under way on this front by a group led by John Sheldon, Chairman of the Kidmore End Cricket Club.

The Council continues to share your concern about the A4074 road. There has been talk about work to remove trees and undertake other improvements through Cane End and Green Dean Bottom. Unfortunately, it seemed that progress was stultifyingly slow, so you're Council formally asked the County Councillor, Carole Viney, to step in and secure some action by her Council's officers. I gather that we will hear at our next meeting that there has been movement.

Julia Appleton resigned from Council just after Christmas. Notice has been given of the vacancy and I understand that there was no call from residents for an election. The Council will therefore be invited to co-opt a new councillor from amongst those who have indicated an interest in serving on the Council.

May I once again plug the Council's website, www.kepc.info? The agenda for our meetings, the monthly list of planning applications and the Council's minutes all appear there; and you can contact the Council via this site.

This leads me to an interesting story. The Clerk sends our minutes to the webmaster, for posting on the website. When he

tried to send the confirmed minutes of the December 2007 meeting, they were stopped "at the gate", because of their "adult content". He was able to have them released, and sent on their way, but enquired why they had been stopped. He was advised that there were too many references to a particular word associated with putting up buildings, which is a bit tricky, given the number of planning applications we handle!

As we come towards the end of winter, it is very noticeable that our grass verges are in a poor state. As these are very much part of our wonderful Oxfordshire country lanes, could I please put in a plea that everyone, when meeting another vehicle, considers finding reverse gear and reversing to a wider passing place (if one is close by), rather than immediately just taking the evasive action of mounting the grass verge. This starts to flatten the verge, other vehicles then follow suit, and the consequences can then be seen throughout the parish. I would be interested if others feel as I do and if they have any ideas as to how to overcome this desecration?

Giles Martin (Chairman,
Kidmore End Parish Council)

Kidmore End Village Day 2008

The Village Day will be held on Saturday 21 June, so do keep this day free in your diaries. All the usual exciting events will be included in the programme.

Three more members are still needed for the Committee. If you can help at all, please volunteer your name to John Elliott by telephoning 972 3698.

Gardeners, please save your spare plants for the Plant Stall; and avid readers, please donate your spare books to the Book Stall. Food and drink connoisseurs, please save some bottles and tins for the Bottle and Tin Stall.

John Elliott (Chairman, Village Day Committee)



Update on the New Pavilion

Residents will be aware that the Parish Council has undertaken to replace the dilapidating pavilion at Gallowstree Common with a new Pavilion that will meet the needs of the Parish for the next few decades.

Planning Permission was granted in May 2007. Since then two working groups have been formed to push the project forward as quickly as possible. One group, "The Fundraising Group", will co-ordinate all fundraising activities and will prepare an application for Lottery Funding.

The second group, "The Project Team", will be responsible for all aspects of building design, licences, the timetable and tendering for construction.

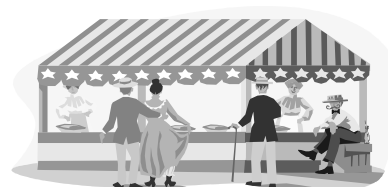
This is an exciting project for the Parish and we are confident we will be able to deliver a super new Pavilion that the Parish will be proud of.

If anybody would like to put forward suggestions or comments, or to help with the fundraising, please feel free to contact me on 07850 782546.

Roddy Young (Chairman of the Playing Fields Committee)

Don't Miss the Spring Fair

Please come along and enjoy the Spring Fair at Kidmore End School on **Saturday 10 May** from 2.30 to 5.30 pm. The Fair will have exciting stalls which will appeal to all age groups. A great family afternoon is planned with outdoor games, entertainment, cakes and plenty of refreshments.



This is the only fund-raising occasion for the School this year and, amongst the list of pressing needs, are a new sound system for the School Hall and replacement furniture for Reception and Year 1 children.

Please join us for what will be a fantastic afternoon out for everyone.

Camilla Skinner (Chair of the School Association; enquiries, please phone 972 4100)

South Chiltern Choral Society

For their Spring concert this year the South Chiltern Choral Society (SCCS) will be performing one of the greatest of all choral works, **Verdi's Requiem**. If you want to enrich your lives with a fantastic drama then book your tickets now for this concert on 19 April, when SCCS will once again be performing in the Concert Hall in Reading.

The Choir will be joined by a group from Grenoble, the 'Ensemble de Meylan', who are making a return visit after SCCS performed with them last year in France. SCCS has also invited 'Parenthesis', a Reading-based choir, to join forces, so there will be a combination of about 220 voices on stage!

Interpreting the beautiful solos incorporated in this Requiem will be Julia Sporsen (soprano), Rachael Lloyd (mezzo soprano), Paul Hopwood (tenor) and Roland Wood (baritone), four young singers who are already launched on sparkling professional careers.

The massed choirs will be accompanied by the South Chiltern Orchestra under the baton of the SCCS's conductor, Gwyn Arch.

Tickets (£12 for adults and £8 for under 18's) can be ordered from the Choir Box Office on 934 5746.

Emma Sieling

Know Your Councillors

A series in which the Newsletter introduces you to some members of your Parish Council

Giles Martin

Giles was born in Cornwall in 1945, not too far from the seaside town of Looe, where his family had been farmers and country butchers for many generations. He was the third of four children, but the only one to continue in the family tradition of farming.

After school he went to agricultural college at Bicton in Devon and followed this with a course in farm management at the Northampton Agricultural College, where he met Liz, whom he later married.

After finishing at Northampton, Giles' first job was at the Rothamsted Experimental Station in Harpenden and from there he moved to the post of Assistant Farm Manager at Askham Bryan Agricultural College near York. It was there, in 1973 and 1974, that Giles and Liz's two children were born. In 1975, they moved to Reading where Giles was a Research Officer in the University Department of Agricultural and Food Economics. The work involved visiting farmers in central and southern England collecting financial data that were subsequently analysed to form a basis for MAFF policy.

Giles took early retirement in 2001 but now spends some of his time working as a consultant for Reading and Exeter Universities. He still very much enjoys his involvement with farmers and the farming industry and has managed once again to become a farmer himself, with a small 10 acre holding in the north of the parish, where he and Liz have lived for many years. When they moved to this parish in 1980, their children went to Kidmore End School and then on to Chiltern Edge.

Giles was co-opted to the Parish Council in 1991, and has been returned at each election since then. He was appointed Vice-chairman in 1994 and has served as Chairman of the Council since 1996. Giles says that there have been highs and lows during his time on the Parish Council, but that he is still very much enjoying working with and for the community in which he has made his long term home.

If there are issues concerning the Parish that you would like to discuss with the Council Chairman, please telephone him on 972 2365.

Richard McQuillan

Richard was born in Surrey in 1950 and chose dentistry as a career. He qualified at Guys Hospital in 1973 and married Sue in the same year. He first practised as a dentist in Camberley but, since 1979, has run his own Dental Practice in Sonning Common.

Sue and Richard first moved from Surrey to Woodcote, but then bought a house in Chalkhouse Green, where they have lived happily for the past 21 years. Their four children, now grown up, went to Kidmore End Primary School and on to Chiltern Edge.

Richard has been a member of the Parish Council for 10 years and currently serves on the Plans Sub-committee, the Rights of Way Committee and the Playing Fields Committee. He is keen on measures which help to reduce carbon emissions and especially, in the local context, anything that can reduce car journeys. He is a strong believer in preserving the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and other significant green belts, but also recognises the need for more homes in the area, especially well-managed, low cost housing.

If you would like to talk to Richard McQuillan about the Gallowstree Common playing fields, rights of way in the Parish or planning issues relating to Chalkhouse Green, please contact him on 972 3291.

Closure of A4074

The latest information available to your Council indicates that the main **A4074** road will be **closed** to all traffic between "The Fox" public house and Mill Lane on the weekend of **29-30 March** to allow tree cutting to take place and again on **5-6 April**, when warning signs will be installed. However, the official notice relating to this has not yet appeared, so please check local papers nearer the time.

A more definite, but less disturbing, piece of news is that **Mill Lane** will be **closed**, to allow cable laying, for one day during the seven days beginning 12 March.

Kidmore End Pre-School

It's a new term and a new year and we are already making plans for the older children, who will start school in September, to pay a visit to Kidmore End Primary School. We have 24 children leaving us at the end of the summer term, and the visits that the children make to the Early Years Unit at the primary school are very valuable and a wonderful way for them to get used to the larger surroundings and their new teachers.

The Pre-school continues to be very busy. We have 7 new starters, so a big welcome to all of them. This term we are learning about 'opposites'.

Our big news from last year is

Easter Egg Hunt on **Sunday 16 March**

that we had an Ofsted inspection at the end of November. I am very pleased to report that Kidmore End Pre-school was given a very good report. This is published on the Ofsted website,

under the URN 133696.

January and February have been very busy months for us. From 14 January 2008, we have provided organic pasteurised milk to the children at snack time. We have celebrated Pancake Day and made rat masks and eaten noodles for Chinese New Year. We painted lots of lovely red hearts for Valentine's Day and, at the end of term, we are hoping to visit the lambs at Ipsden.

I have one piece of sad news to report: Joan Behiry left the

Pre-school at Christmas to start a new job at Emmer Green Primary School. She will be missed by all the staff, parents and children, and we wish her every success in her new job.



We will be holding our 2008 Easter Egg Hunt on **Sunday 16 March** from 11.00am to 1.00pm at the Gallowstree Common

Cricket Pavilion. This is our main fund-raiser of the year and lots of fun for all concerned. All those who come along on the day have a lovely time hunting for eggs in the woods, with tea and cakes for sale in the Pavilion afterwards.

This year we are limiting ticket numbers to 250. If you would like to come along, please purchase your tickets beforehand or telephone Helen Beville on 972 4281 to order them. There will be very few or no tickets for sale at the gate.

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, Nerys Havers, on 972 2027.

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

FISH

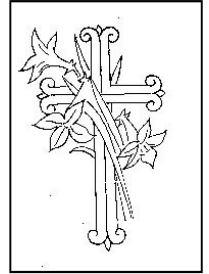
With spring fast approaching we will soon be thinking about venues for outings. As in previous years, we shall continue to find places of interest which we think our clients will enjoy visiting. As well as the "Shop and Lunch" trips to towns outside the area, we will continue with the afternoon tea trips, which were introduced last year and proved so popular. Our Pub Lunch and Garden Centre trips will also continue. So, look out for posters which are displayed prominently on notice boards in the villages and do book early to avoid disappointment.

Perhaps you have a favourite venue which you think our clients would enjoy? If so, please telephone your ideas to the FISH office (972 3986) between 9.30 and 11.30am on any weekday. A volunteer will take down the details and pass them on to the Bus Manager.

These outings are in addition to our regular shopping trips to Henley twice each month and to Reading three times a month. The bus normally picks up passengers in the Sonning Common area but it is also possible to arrange pick-up in the surrounding villages. Please call the office during business hours to check times, dates and pick-up locations. The FISH bus is a real alternative to driving into Reading and Henley, so why not use the park and ride scheme on your doorstep? All are welcome, young and old.

Barbara Perez (FISH Coordinator)

The Parish Church



We've hardly settled down after celebrating Christmas and yet, as this piece is being written, we have already moved into Lent, Easter being very early this year.

On the five **Wednesdays**, in Lent, there will be a **Lent Study Group** meeting, at **7.30pm at Christ the King**. The study will focus on the Lord's Prayer and will include listening to an audio tape that features some well-known personalities. Everybody is welcome at these meetings, even those who have missed the first three! (The fourth one is on **5 March**). The study is not at all intense, and we do offer a cuppa and a biscuit or two!

The fourth Sunday in Lent, **2 March**, is **Mothering Sunday**. At the 11am service at St John's, posies of flowers will be distributed to the children, for their mothers. The service finishes in plenty of time to be able to take Mum to lunch and, as we always say, fathers are particularly welcome!

Palm Sunday, this year, is on **16 March**. As usual the service will begin in the school, with the distribution of palm crosses, after which we will process to the church.

On **Maundy Thursday, 20 March**, we have the Commemoration of the Last Supper at **8pm at St John's**. This is another joint service with All Saints'.

The **Good Friday** ecumenical Procession of Witness, is on **21 March**. All are welcome, young or old, to join in this event, which starts from **Christ the King car park at 10am**. Good weather is just about guaranteed! In the afternoon, we have our one hour **Good Friday Service of Meditation**, with music, at **St John's at 2pm**.

The arrangements for **Easter Day, 23 March** are:

9.30am Eucharist at Christ the King

11am Sung Eucharist at St John's

All of this is leading to **Easter**, the Feast of the Resurrection of Christ, the oldest and greatest feast of the Christian church and the day when all Christians attend church, don't they?

Everybody is welcome; we expect a full church.

Little Lambs is a friendly church group with a short service, craft activity and refreshments, primarily for children under five and their parents or carers. The group meets in St John's Church on **the last Wednesday of the month** during term time, from **9.30am to 10.30am**.

Enquiries to Felicity Cooper on 947 7862.

Our clergy and members wish all readers a Happy Easter.

Neil Scott (Lay Chairman, Parochial Church Council)

The Orinoco Re-use System

Orinoco is a charity that takes things like garden tools, household paint and other waste from businesses and households all around Oxfordshire. It then sells these goods at prices ranging from free to cheap, saving lots from being thrown into landfill sites.

Director Howie Watkins said "Our aim is to teach people about recycling and to make usable waste available at a nominal cost". Just some of the things they've recycled are children's bikes from the Oxford Cycle Shop, a shipment of soap from the Eynsham Soap Co, paint from an interior decorator and rolls of fabric from Wesley Barrel.

Have a look around and see what you don't want and could give away to Orinoco. Or maybe you would like to buy from them something that you need? Why not visit their website at www.oxorinoco.org?

Kidmore End Cricket Club

AGM and Awards

Members of Kidmore End CC held their Annual General Meeting at Gallowstree Common on 26 November, when they heard from chairman, John Sheldon, that the 2007 season had seen the Saturday 1st and 2nd XI's lose only one league match each. Even so, the 1st XI's runner-up position in Division 2B of the Marrant Thames Valley League meant that promotion has just eluded the team in two successive seasons.

The continued success of junior cricket at Kidmore End, outlined in Rob Potter's report and underlined by the recent award of ECB Clubmark status, now needs some silverware from the boys to put the icing on the cake and to emulate the girls, who won two trophies during the season. It was recently announced that 17 of the Kidmore End juniors in different age groups have been chosen for Reading District trials, while two U11s and one U14 are in the Berkshire County winter training squads.

Club treasurer, Alan Pigden, in presenting the accounts, was able to report on a break-even year, despite the loss of anticipated income due to poor summer weather. However, work costing in excess of £3,000 had been carried out on the cricket square since the end of the financial year and this will have a serious impact on the club's financial position in 2008.

The club officials were re-elected, while Larry Tingle was elected vice-president in recognition of his work on the ground and his support for the players. Paul Butler continues as Saturday 1st XI skipper, while Charlie Moore becomes Sunday 1st XI captain.

At the Club's recent annual dinner and awards evening, the Fred Emery Award was presented to Rob and Lu Potter in recognition of their excellent work for junior cricket at Kidmore End. Among the awards for senior players, Jeff Sheldon was voted player of the year.

Junior Cricket Activities

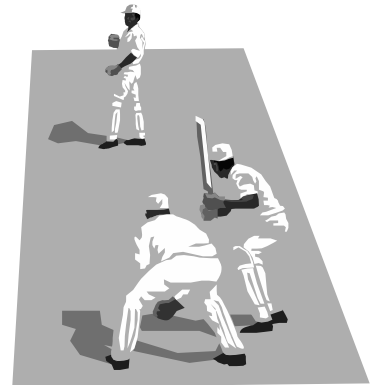
General nets will begin on 29 March and outdoor training on 21 April, weather permitting. With ECB Clubmark achieved and having one of the largest junior sections in the area, we intend to maintain our ability to provide quality cricket for nearly 200 youngsters.

Any enquiries about junior cricket should be directed to Rob or Louise Potter who can be contacted on 972 3043 or at lupotter@btinternet.com.

The Season Ahead

The club season begins on 19 April, when the Kidmore End 1st XI will visit Burnham for a 1.30 pm start. Our opponents in the npower Village Cup will be Oxford & Bletchington, who will be the visitors on 4 May. Marrant Thames Valley League matches begin on 10 May, with the 1st XI playing away against High Wycombe 2nds. The 2nd XI is at home to Chiswick & Latymer 3rds, while the 3rd XI plays Windsor 4ths away. Thames and Chilterns Sunday Competition matches begin on 18 May, when Marlow will visit Gallowstree Common to play the 1st XI and Kidmore End 2nd XI will travel to Chearsley.

Keith Atkinson (972 2844)



This is a complete list of the Marrant Thames Valley League home games to be played on Saturday afternoons at Gallowstree Common in 2008:

May	10	2 nd XI v Chiswick and Latymer 3rds
	17	1 st XI v Slough 2nds
	24	2 nd XI v Sonning 2nds
	31	1 st XI v Cove
Jun	7	2 nd XI v Yateley 2nds
	14	1 st XI v Chalfont St. Peter
	21	2 nd XI v Burnham 3rds
	28	1 st XI v Farnham Common
Jul	5	2 nd XI v Farnham Common 2nds
	12	1 st XI v High Wycombe 2nds
	19	2 nd XI v Purley 2nds
	26	1 st XI v Reading 2nds
Aug	2	2 nd XI v Fleet 2nds
	9	1 st XI v NPL Teddington
	16	2 nd XI v Wooburn Narkovians 2nds
	23	1 st XI v Falkland 2nds
Sep	30	2 nd XI v Hampton Hill 2nds
	6	1 st XI v Boyne Hill

Between Rock and a Hard Place

The following extract is reprinted, with permission, from the Sunday Times of 18 November 2007.

There is little doubt that Rock, on the north Cornish coast, has been one of the great property success stories of the past decade. Second-homers with city bonuses have splurged up to £1m on nondescript bungalows with sea views, then sat back and watched their investments rocket. For many of the locals though, it has been a disaster, as house prices have spun way beyond the reach of the average salary.

Now, as in much of Britain, the market is uncertain and the big money deals are stalling – but the locals don't care. Thanks to a pioneering community-based self-build scheme, and a farmer who has sold a plot of land on the edge of the village at a fraction of the going rate, 12 families have the chance to buy a first home of their own in one of the most expensive places in Britain. A three-bed bungalow is priced at £84,000 - less than a third of the £350,000 it could fetch on the open market. The project is being seen as a potential model for other communities elsewhere in the southwest and beyond.

The origins of the scheme go back four years, when the late Bill Dingle, a local builder and parish councillor, realized the lads working for him, building homes for others, would never be able to buy a place themselves. At his instigation, the St Minver Community Land

Trust was formed to provide the wherewithal for 12 locals to build their own homes at a price they could afford. Such trusts have been around for decades, largely for the management of orchards and woodlands. Now, though, they are being encouraged by the government as an efficient way of delivering rural homes.

The first requirement was land. Retired farmer David Wills, 76, who is the chairman of the trust, sold a 1.5-acre field for £120,000, or £10,000 a plot. It lay just outside the development boundary of the village – although single plots, closer to the centre, can fetch as much as £400,000 each. Wills says that there wasn't much else he could do with his land, though a less charitable person might have hung on to it in the hope of a boundary change.

Thanks to the involvement of the not-for-profit trust, North Cornwall district council accepted Wills's field as a rural exception site. In other words, despite its location, it is eligible for planning permission as long as all the homes built on it are classed as affordable – and will continue to be so in perpetuity.

The council provided the trust with an interest free loan of £544,000, to be repaid within 15 months. Fittingly, this money came from funds raised by increased council-tax charges

for second-homeowners, who now pay 90% rather than 50% of the usual rate. It will be repaid when the self-builders take out a mortgage on their properties.

Competition to get onto the scheme was fierce, with 45 applicants for the 12 places. Candidates had to have strong local connections and be unable to afford to buy a suitable home in the area - often because they couldn't obtain a mortgage. The winners will be given the plots, with planning permission, roads and services, foundations and a timber frame, up and ready to be filled in.

Once they have received mortgage approval, all they need to do is to get together and build the rest. A bit of blockwork, plasterboard, electrics and plumbing, and, with a project manager on hand to lead the way, by Christmas next year, 24 lucky people and their children should be living in detached bungalows with garages, gardens and driveways.

"Should they ever want to sell, a prospective buyer must be approved by the trust. The same constraints will apply in perpetuity, and we will buy back if necessary" says Helen Richards, 63, a retired property negotiator, former county councillor and company secretary of the trust.

A New Councillor

At the Council meeting on 20 February, Mrs Sue Biggs was co-opted to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Mrs Julia Appleton. Mrs Biggs has been one of the most regular attenders of Council meetings as a member of the public and it is now a pleasure to welcome her to membership of the Council.

Kidmore End School

For those of you in the village who walk past the School and wonder what we do here, I thought I would tell you about some of this term's highlights.

Firstly, we are very proud of our young mathematicians who came first, second and third in the Chiltern Edge Maths Challenge for local primary schools. The pupils were a credit to the School and to their parents with their attitude and behaviour as well as their mathematical knowledge.

Academic success is important, but play is also important for developing sharing and cooperation between children. We are currently having a new quiet garden built where children will be able to talk, read, play imaginatively and have a game of chess on our new giant chess board. We have also reintroduced the 'Buddy' system to ensure that no one is alone, unless they choose to be, and we are training our Year Six children to organise games and play activities for the younger ones during break times.

Our charity this term has been the Children's Heart Unit at the John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford. One of our youngest pupils has recently been treated there, and so the children themselves decided that they would like to support the unit and have so far raised £170.

I hope that this has given you a taste of the variety of activities that take place behind our doors. If you would like to see for yourself why not come along to our open morning on 11 June, from 9.30 to 11.30am ?

Janet Maul (Head teacher, Kidmore End Primary School)

Reading Freecycle

"One person's waste is another person's useful item"

The Freecycle Network is made up of many individual local email groups across the globe. It's a grassroots movement of people who are giving (and getting) stuff for nothing, in their own towns and with the objective of saving local landfill sites from all the perfectly good things we have no further use for and throw away every day.

Freecycle groups use email to allow people who have things they no longer need, to get in touch with people who can use them.

By using what we already have, we reduce consumerism, manufacture fewer goods and lessen the impact on the Earth. Another benefit of using Freecycle is that it encourages us to get rid of the things that we no longer need, and promotes community involvement in the process.

According to the online Freecycle Waste Calculator*, the Reading Freecycle group will save approximately 25 tonnes of waste from landfill per month at its current membership which is based on an estimated 3000 items being offered, by a membership of 8500.

The popular Reading group is still growing, with a new satellite group being set up in the area to cover Woodley and the surrounding villages. The Woodley Freecycle group was launched in September and has over 700 members. Locally there are also Freecycle groups in Wokingham, Newbury, Henley, Windsor and Maidenhead.

Another service being offered to Freecycle members is the Freecycle Café group. The Café groups offer local people a chance to chat and get to know each

other a little and really strengthen the community side of Freecycle. The Reading and Woodley Café covers the membership of both the Reading and Woodley Freecycle groups. The Newbury group has its own Café, as does the Windsor & Maidenhead group.

Café groups are there for members to discuss local and environmental issues, recommend local services, ask recycling questions and advertise local fund-raisers. They can also be used to discuss anything related to Freecycle with both members and moderators.

Unlike a lot of other groups, Freecycle moderators are very open to discussion with their group members and welcome all constructive suggestions and ideas. You can find out more and get involved through the Freecycle UK website <http://uk.freecycle.org>.

* <http://uk.freecycle.org/calculator.php>

Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual Meeting, at which parishioners can raise any matters of concern, will be held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 19 March in the Kidmore End Parish Room.

Local Weather Report: Year 2007 - 2008

	Average Minimum Temperature		Average Maximum Temperature		Rainfall	
	Cel	Fahr	Cel	Fahr	mm	in
November 07	2.7	37	11.2	52	91	3.6
December 07	0.6	33	7.2	45	61	2.4
January 08	2.6	37	9.2	49	110	4.3
Rainfall, 3 months to end of January					262	10.3
Total rainfall during previous 12 months (Feb 07 to Jan 08)					943	37.1



Rainfall for the past year was 37% (compared with 44% in the last report) above the normal annual average of 685mm (27 in).

There were two separate dry spells, each of about a week, in mid-December and at the end of January, with lots of clear blue skies and frosty nights. On either side of these spells, we received enough rainfall to take the monthly totals well above the normal figure of about 57mm (2.25 in).

Lowest and highest temperatures during the last 3 months

	Lowest		Highest	
November 07	-5.7C	22F (16 th & 24 th)	18.1C	65F (2 nd)
December 07	-6.6C	20F (12 th)	13.1C	56F (6 th)
January 08	-1.7C	29F (17 th)	12.1C	54F (19 th)



Derek Brown (972 3895)

Crime Statistics

Here are the figures for crimes recorded in the Parish of Kidmore End for the two years up to December 2007:

	Jan – Jun 2006	Jul – Dec 2006	Jan – Jun 2007	Jul – Dec 2007
There does not seem to be much of a time trend here, either up or down, but please continue to be vigilant, especially about locking your doors and windows and making sure that rogues cannot get at your car keys.				
Burglary	5	4	3	4
Theft	5	7	5	7
Car crime	4	0	1	2
Other crime	5	11	8	12
Totals	19	22	17	25

South Oxfordshire Core Strategy

As mentioned in the Editor's Notes, the South Oxfordshire District Council published an "Issues and Options" document in November 2007 setting out its core strategy for development in the region over the next 20 years. This was accompanied by a questionnaire, inviting residents to have their say about the various issues raised in the document.

The Parish Council was not able, in the short time available, to prepare an agreed response to all the 42 questions posed, but concentrated their attention on matters which were of most immediate local concern. As a result, the Clerk to the Council wrote to SODC in the following terms.

"The Council wishes to make the following comments in connection with the Issues and Options [document] and the specific questions posed by your Council.

1. The villages surrounded by the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty should be excluded from development plans: these include Stoke Row, Checkendon and Rotherfield Peppard.
2. Question 7, Option 5c. Although we are in favour of some mixed development within the existing perimeter of Sonning Common, to support the continued use of existing services, we strongly oppose any development on its southern boundary towards Reading.
3. The same applies to Option 5d [which said " include some land adjacent to Reading"]. This opens up once again the possibility of redrawing the County boundary."

Eleemosynary

Just in case you read the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 23 January and were puzzled by the word eleemosynary, which our esteemed Clerk Mr Roger Penfold used in connection with the Dorothea Vanderstegen Trust, the word is an adjective meaning "of or pertaining to alms or almsgiving".

The English "eleemosynary" comes straight from the medieval Latin "eleemosynarius", a compound word made up (no doubt by lawyers) from the older Latin word for alms, "elemosina" (from which the English word "alms" is indirectly derived) and the verb to grant (sinare). Should you wish to drop this term into conversation, be warned that both the 'e's after the 'l' are sounded, so that it comes out as "e-lee-u-mo-sin-u-ree".

Ed. (with thanks to the Shorter Oxford English Dictionary)

Chiltern Edge Horticultural Society

The Society's **Spring Show** will be held at Chiltern Edge School on **Saturday 29 March**. It is open to the public from **3 to 5 pm**.

Two summer coach outings are planned; to Lord Carrington's garden at Bledlow Manor and to Waddesdon Manor on Saturday 17 May and to The Nursery Further Afield and Wood Chippings (near Brackley) on Saturday 21 June. Non-members who would like to join either of these outings should contact Janet Evans on 972 3245.

There are still two talks left in the Society's winter programme. On Wednesday 12 March Gwen Barton will be speaking to the title ' Let's Samba in South America' and on Wednesday 23 April Timothy Walker will give an illustrated talk on 'A Year in the Life of Oxford Botanic Gardens'. These meetings will be held at Chiltern Edge School at 7.30 pm.



Spring Diary

- 12 March CEHS Talk 'Let's Samba in South America' p11
- 16 March Easter Egg Hunt p5
- 16 March Palm Sunday p6
- 19 March Annual Parish Meeting p9
- 20 March Commemoration of Last Supper p6
- 21 March Procession of Witness Good Friday p6
- 23 March Easter Day Eucharist p6
- 24 March Easter Monday p6
- 29 March CEHS Spring Show p11
- 19 April SCCS 'Verdi's Requiem' p3
- 19 April KECC first fixture p7
- 23 April CEHS Talk: A Year in the Life of Oxford Botanic Gdns p11
- 10 May Spring Fair: KE School p2
- 17 May CEHS Bledlow/Waddesdon. p11
- 11 June KE school open morning p9
- 21 June KE Village day p2
- 21 June CEHS Nursery Further Afield p11

Parish Council Meetings:

- 19 March (Annual meeting. See p9)
- 23 April
- 21 May

at 8pm (except 19 Mar) in Kidmore End parish room including 10 minutes public session

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 16 May 2008.

Useful Numbers and Contacts

- Thames Valley Police, non emergency 0845 8505 505
- 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
- e-mail orc@oxonrcc.org.uk

Oxfordshire Rural Community Council,
Jericho Farm, Worton, Oxon OX29 4SZ

Parish Councillors

- Parish Council Chairman: Giles Martin 972 2365
- Parish Council Vice-Chairman: Roddy Young 972 2097
- Clerk to the Council: Roger Penfold 947 3130
- 30 Venetia Close, Emmer Green, Reading RG4 8UG

SODC Councillors

- Malcolm Leonard 940 2299
- Robert Peasgood 972 1877
- e-mail rob@peasgood.net

County Councillor

- Carol Viney 01491 680887

Citizens Advice Bureau

- Services available at 32 Market Place, Henley
- Drop-in service - Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri 10 am - 1 pm
- Pre-booked appointments - every weekday 10 am - 3 pm (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

- Bookings: Paula Beville 972 2247

- Oxfordshire Highways** 0845 310 1111
- www.oxfordshirehighways.org

Newsletter Editorial Board

- Derek Brown (derekbrown@btinternet.com) 972 3895
- Andy Miros (andym-general@usa.net) 972 1001
- Trevor Morris (trevor@trevormorris.wanadoo.co.uk) 947 0758
- Sue Rowland (sue@srlegal.net) 972 3107
- Newsletter website www.kepc.info
- e-mail webmaster@kepc.info