



Kidmore End Parish Council

Cane End Chalkhouse Green Gallowstree Common Kidmore End Tokers Green

Newsletter Winter 2008

December 2008

No. 98

Editor's Notes

We would like to extend a warm welcome to Dr Brian Knapp of Kidmore End who was co-opted to the Parish Council in October. He will fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Mrs Claire Toms, who served the Council diligently for four years, particularly as a member of the Traffic Calming Sub-committee, but in many other ways too. We have Mrs Toms to thank for the speed indicator sign in Horsepond Road.

The September issue of this Newsletter carried information about the New Pavilion planned for the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground and came with a leaflet inviting residents to contribute to the Appeal. The number who have so far responded (16 or 3.2% of households in the Parish) is a little

disappointing, but the sum contributed (£6,695) is extremely generous, representing an average donation of £418. As is usual with appeals, the pattern of gifts is skewed, with a few large donations and a greater number of more modest ones.

If you would like to support the Pavilion Appeal, there are still plenty of fund-raising events to come (see page 3) and there is another opportunity to give directly by completing the form on page 15 of this Newsletter.

Your Council spent a good deal of time at its October meeting discussing traffic in and around Reading. This arose from a report to Reading Borough Council about measures to reduce traffic congestion in the town, including park-and-

ride schemes, road pricing and the possibility of putting a third bridge across the Thames; see report on page 4.

Park and ride schemes were thought a good idea, provided that there are two sites on the Caversham side of the river so that traffic does not have to weave through Caversham to reach a single car park. A third bridge was reckoned a bad idea, because of the disruptive road network that would be required to connect it to existing highways.

Finally, the Editorial Board would like to thank all our stalwart contributors for their support during the past year and we wish our readers a Peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Trevor Morris (Editor)

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Report from The Chairman of the Parish Council

Dear Resident,

The most significant issue exercising your Council this Autumn has been how to react to the Greater Reading Transport Innovation Fund bid. You will no doubt have seen in, or heard from, other media that Reading Borough Council's Independent Transport Commission reported in the summer. Reading have accepted the recommendations from that Commission, chaired by Sir Brian Briscoe, which covered a wide range of issues including park and ride, better public transport, peak period congestion charging and a third bridge over the Thames.

The Commission stressed that a solution to the problems in the area cannot be achieved by Reading alone: a sustainable solution will require all four highway authorities, including Oxfordshire County Council, to co-operate. In this connection, your County Councillor, Carol Viney, asked the Parish Council how it reacted to possibilities, like park and ride sites north of Reading. Your Council feels it would be premature to make any significant comment without further information about what might be proposed. Mrs Viney is hoping to arrange a meeting for the three most southerly Parish Councils (Kidmore End, Eye & Dunsden and Mapledurham) about possible traffic measures. The Council will consider the matter again after that meeting.

Your Council received a positive response from the County

Council's Cabinet Member for Transport to our request for lower speed limits, and better enforcement of them, on the A4074 road through Cane End. It seems quite likely that the County Council will propose a reduction of the speed limit to 40 mph, and press the Safer Roads Partnership to review the arrangements for speed cameras.

Similarly, the Council received an encouraging response from the County Council's Cabinet Member for School Improvement about our suggestion that pupils resident in Caversham might be able to use the transport provided by the County Council for those attending Kidmore End School. While the Cabinet Member advised that his Council would not wish to incur any additional financial liability, it might prove possible to offer places, in return for termly fares, on the buses already provided.

Turning to the more mundane, while it is said that we are moving towards a recession, there has been no let up in the number of planning applications about which your Council has been consulted. There were some 20 applications referred to your Council in September and October. May I remind you about how the Council deals with planning applications? They are referred to our Plans Sub-Committee, which includes one councillor from each village in the Parish. They will try to show the applications to

affected neighbours. However, all applications can be viewed on the District Council's website at www.southoxon.gov.uk.

Whilst in the planning arena, the Secretary of State has published his proposed amendments to the South East Plan. However, no alterations are proposed to the draft Plan, as far as the Parish is concerned. It is reasonable to assume, therefore, that there will continue to be limited growth in this area. Nevertheless, when the economy picks up again, there will no doubt be increased demand for new houses in the greater Reading sub-region.

On more domestic matters, Claire Toms resigned from the Council in August, because of pressure on her time. Claire had been a councillor since April 2004 and had worked very hard indeed on all of our traffic calming measures. No election was called to fill the vacancy and so we have co-opted Dr Brian Knapp of Kidmore End as a councillor.

It seems very early indeed at the time of writing these few notes, but may I, on behalf of myself and the Council, wish each and every one of you all the very best for Christmas and the New Year.

Finally, as winter draws on, please may I ask you to keep an eye on some of our more elderly friends and neighbours to ensure that all is well with them.

Giles Martin (Chairman, Kidmore End Parish Council)

Progress on the New Pavilion

During the autumn, complete specifications of every room in the New Pavilion to be built at Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground have been committed to paper. That includes floor and wall finishes and colours and details of all fittings and fixtures. This will allow the project to go to competitive tender in the New Year.

The design includes a heat pump system to warm the building from the subsoil and solar panels, placed on the back slope of the roof, for water heating.

Meanwhile, fund raising activities have continued. The Pavilion Appeal account currently holds just over £12,000 and the Cricket

Club have an additional £8,000 in their account, much of which came from an extremely successful Ball held in Reading Town Hall. Thus, local enthusiasm has already raised more than £20,000.

A bid for £100,000 submitted to the England and Wales Cricket Board has successfully passed all its preliminary stages and is now awaiting a final decision by a Committee at Lords. An application has also been prepared for South Oxfordshire District Council, seeking a grant of £200,000. An answer from SODC is expected in April 2009. After that, when there should be a substantial sum in the Appeal fund, a bid will be made to Sport

England, which distributes National Lottery money for sport.

More local fund raising activities are planned for 2009, including a log-splitting contest at the Reformation pub and a Jazz, Beer and Barbecue event at Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground. Although local events will not raise the majority of the funding needed, contributions from the local community are extremely important. This money helps to persuade major charitable donors that the project is supported locally and so it has an important leverage effect in opening the purse strings of bodies capable of giving tens or hundreds of thousands of pounds.

Proposed Changes to the South East Plan

In 2006 the South East of England Regional Authority (SEERA) submitted a plan to the government for the development of the region up to 2026.

This plan was examined by an independent Panel which reported in August 2007. The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government has now published a reply, containing proposed changes to the plan.

Although the government is requiring an increase in the overall number of homes to be built in the South East from 32,000 to 33,125 dwellings per annum for the next 20 years, there is no change in the target number for those parts of South Oxfordshire that lie

outside the Oxford Strategic Development Area. The target for rural South Oxfordshire is still 125 dwellings per annum.

There is no mention in the revised document of a new bridge over the Thames in the Reading area. The transport links marked for priority investment in the next 20 years are Reading station and the M4, the A34 in Oxfordshire and a Thames crossing serving the A2/A282/M2 corridor in Kent.

The underlying assumption of the South East Plan was that economic growth in the region would average 3% per annum over the next 20 years. In view of the current downturn in the economy, one may wonder

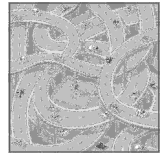
whether this assumption will be fulfilled and whether the increased rate of house building called for by the Secretary of State will be achieved.

However, all analyses agree that there is a chronic shortage of affordable homes to rent in the South East, so perhaps the opportunity can be taken to build homes to meet this need. Either way, 125 dwellings per annum is no more than the rate that has prevailed recently in rural South Oxfordshire and this modest rate of development could easily be achieved by infilling in small towns in the area.

Trevor Morris

Reading's Transport Plans

Arising from controversy about the proposed one-way working on Reading's Inner Distribution Road (IDR), Reading Borough Council (RBC) appointed an Independent Transport Commission (ITC) to consider the problem of traffic congestion in the town.



The following is a selection of some of the recommendations made by the ITC. The added comments are the personal views of the Editor and may not coincide with those of the Parish Council. The responses of the Parish Council will be formulated when more precise details of proposed action by Reading Borough are available.

Commission Recommendations

1. "Problems of traffic and transport issues must be resolved across the Greater Reading area, if necessary through the creation of a Local Transport Authority, including parts of West Berkshire, Wokingham District and Oxfordshire."

Comment: Good. There needs to be full consultation with the local authorities surrounding Reading to find generally acceptable solutions.

2. "There is conflict between the pace of economic growth planned for Reading and the rate of infrastructure provision. The RBC and its neighbouring authorities should be making a persuasive case for this sub-region to benefit from national funding."

Comment: By all means try; but the same could be said for most parts of the South East Region. Government funds for major projects are ear-marked years in advance. The current version of the South East Plan proposes priority for improving East-West traffic flows in the Thames Valley (mainly the M4 route and Reading Station?) and the A34 through Oxfordshire. Local problems will probably need solutions funded by local taxes.

3. "RBC and its neighbours should urgently examine the case for managing demand by road pricing to influence driver behaviour, including the use of exemptions or concessions to encourage non-car journeys to work and encourage traffic with no business in Reading to use alternatives."

Comment: Road pricing, cleverly designed, can reduce traffic flows at peak times. But there are no alternative routes for most of the traffic which crosses Reading without having any business in the town. RBC seem to have decided that it is people who cross the town without using it who cause the problem; but it is these users added to those travelling by car to work, school and shops in Reading who cause the congestion and it is only cars intending to park in Reading that can be reduced by offering alternatives.

4. "Whilst the one-way IDR scheme had some theoretical merits, there were always some very real disadvantages, and the RBC should now formally abandon this scheme."

Comment: Good riddance. Reading's Cabinet formally abandoned the scheme on 29 September.

5. "RBC and its partners should promote a new Thames bridge as a tolled crossing, both to support its financing and because tolling offers the opportunity to use the price mechanism to influence usage."

Comment: Oxford CC and Kidmore End Parish Council are opposed to a Third Bridge, because it would require extensive and disruptive road building north of Caversham to connect the bridge to the existing major roads. Putting a toll on a new bridge would make no sense, unless paying a congestion charge for driving through Reading costs more than the new bridge toll.

6. "RBC and Network Rail should cooperate to ensure that the marketing of the redeveloped Reading station discourages car access and encourages sustainable use of railway and public transport to access the rail network."

Comment: This is daft. Whilst some people have a good bus service to get them to the station, many rural and suburban residents will only choose the train for off-peak journeys to reach their ultimate destination if there is convenient and reasonably priced parking at the train station. The problem of commuter travel can be resolved by combining park-and-ride and road pricing to discourage car drivers from blocking routes to the station at busy times; but full use of the improved train services requires generous provision of parking at the station for those travelling off-peak, including those returning to Reading late in the evening.

7. "In cooperation with adjoining authorities, there is an urgent need to establish new, attractively priced, Park-and-ride sites to the North, South, East and West with fast track buses to the town centre."

Comment: Good. Park-and-ride schemes, with free parking and a bus fare that is cheaper than paying a congestion charge plus parking fees in Reading, could do a lot. At least two Parks would be needed North of the Thames, sited to avoid the need for South Oxfordshire traffic to drive through Caversham.

Further Comment on Reading's Transport Plans

The most important single measure that would relieve rush hour traffic in and around Reading is missing from the ITC's list. By providing Yellow Buses to take all pupils to and from school and prohibiting parking of other vehicles within 400 m of school gates, traffic could be reduced close to the levels now seen in school holidays. The government is consulting on a national Yellow Bus scheme, but is there anything to prevent the local authorities from setting up contracts for Yellow Buses now?

A combination of Yellow Buses, Park-and-ride and peak period congestion charging would almost certainly allow Reading's traffic to be managed effectively, without the need for a Third Bridge.

(Ed.)

Carol Singing in Tokers Green

Carols will be sung around the roads of Tokers Green on the evening of **Monday 22 December**. All welcome. Assemble by the pond at **6.30 pm**. Collection in aid of the Chiltern Centre for Disabled Children.

Kidmore End School Association

The Annual Christmas Fair, arranged jointly by the Church and the School, took place on 15 November in Kidmore End School. It was extremely well organised and well attended and raised a total of £3,182 to be divided between the Church and the School. This is £1,000 more than last year. In addition, a Silent Auction yielded £1,674, which will go entirely to the School.

The churchwardens, Jenny MacGregor and Val Heywood, worked with the Chair of the School Association, Camilla Skinner, to organise the Fair. The timing was changed this year, so that it ran over lunchtime making it possible to serve mulled wine (donated by The New Inn at Kidmore End) and home made soup and hot dogs (sausages kindly donated by Carl Woods of Sonning Common). The food and drink were popular and added substantially to the takings.

The Fair was a total success and a great day out for the family. The Church and School would like to thank all those who gave their time and also the many local businesses that supported the event.

Do you use www.kepc.info?

Use it or lose it is the cry! There have been discussions recently about whether it is worth maintaining the Parish Council's website at www.kepc.info, in view of the modest number of hits it receives.

Actually, an average of about a dozen different people log on each day (and some of those log on more than once) but that is low compared with many similar sites.

Although there is much useful background information on the website, such as copies of previous Newsletters, bus services and rubbish collections, there is very little that is topical.

At its meeting on 19 November, the Parish Council agreed that it would be useful to put a short report on the website soon after each Council meeting, giving an informal account of the more interesting items that were discussed. So, if you want hot news of Council meetings, you can get it from the website before the Newsletter comes out and before the Clerk's Minutes have been posted.

If you identify Parish items (long-term or transient) that you think would add interest or usefulness to the website, please send a note to webmaster@kepc.info.

Neighbourhood Action Groups (NAGs)

What is a NAG?

Neighbourhood Action Groups have been set up to deal with key community safety issues, as identified by members of the community. They are volunteer working groups, made up of (unelected) representatives from the community and local organisations, intended to solve problems on behalf of the community and to ensure that tasks are completed.

Who is represented on a typical NAG?

Members of the police, the fire services, housing associations, district and parish councils, schools, and youth and community groups such as neighbourhood watch and residents' associations.

How many NAGs are there in South Oxfordshire?

Six, serving the following areas: Didcot, Wallingford, Wheatley, Thame, Henley Town and Henley Rural. The Henley Rural NAG embraces three regions: Nettlebed and its neighbouring parishes, the Goring and Woodcote neighbourhood and Sonning Common neighbourhood, which includes the parishes of Mapledurham, Kidmore End, Rotherfield Peppard, Binfield Heath, Harpsden, Shiplake and Eye & Dunsden.

Who represents Kidmore End on the Henley Rural NAG?

Nobody. However, Mrs Jane Bowen, Chairperson of Mapledurham Parish Council, is a member.

What has the Sonning Common Neighbourhood sub-Group done?

At a meeting earlier this year, members of this group assigned priorities to a list of issues that had come up in discussion. This led to a collective decision that the top three priorities for action in the Sonning Common neighbourhood were (1) anti-social behaviour (2) speeding (3) parking.

What action can be expected to follow?

Because of the limitations of resources and (police) time, only the first priority is being tackled for now. In Nettlebed this was identified as speeding; in Woodcote and Goring it was criminal damage and in Sonning Common priority will be given to reducing anti-social behaviour around the shops.

Anti-Social Behaviour Contracts have been issued to six local teenagers, South Oxfordshire District Council will be placing their deployable CCTV camera at the shops on a temporary basis and the NAG will be working with Chiltern Edge School to try and combat anti-social behaviour.

What can you do? You can help by reporting any anti-social behaviour that you see to the police on 08458 505 505 or by ringing 999 if a crime is currently being committed.

Contacts.

For general information about NAGs, please contact Alison Smith, Neighbourhood Action Group Co-ordinator on 01491 823054 or by email at alison.smith@southoxon.gov.uk.

The latest newsletter issued by the Henley Rural NAG can be found at: <http://www.southoxon.gov.uk/NAG>

To raise local issues that concern you, it is probably best to contact Jane Bowen on 972 2978 or by email at jane_bowen2@hotmail.co.uk.

Jane Bowen writes:

At a meeting of the Henley Rural NAG on 30 October, it was reported that criminal damage in Goring is now negligible, because the two main culprits have been arrested: anti-social behaviour in Sonning Common is greatly reduced, as the main culprits have been targeted and are being dealt with by police, although it was felt that still more could be done through youth groups and schools.

There will be a further meeting of the Henley Rural NAG at the end of November, at which the next targets for action will be identified.

The Bus Survey

In the September Newsletter, we asked if you would be interested in additional bus services connecting the parish to Reading, Henley or Wallingford. Almost thirty residents completed the questionnaire printed in the Newsletter. This represents about 5% of households in the parish. Despite the relatively low response rate, your Council recognises that it does not indicate that the other 95% would have no interest in a decent bus service if one were provided. Indeed your Council believes that there is significant untapped demand for better public transport services for residents of the parish.

In particular, it is clear from the responses that there is potential demand for new services from Gallowstree Common and Kidmore End to Reading and

Henley; but, on the basis of this survey alone, it would be difficult to persuade Oxfordshire County Council that there is sufficient potential demand for a subsidised service, still less for a commercially profitable one.

However, there may be some scope for seeking to persuade Reading Buses to extend their 137 or 138 services to include Gallowstree Common and perhaps to cater more effectively for Tokers Green residents wishing to take the No. 9.

Councillor John Swift will be taking up these issues with the bus providers on behalf of your Parish Council. Indeed he and the Clerk to the Council have already used the responses to the Questionnaire as the basis for responding to the consultation document issued by Reading Buses in respect of their rural

services. Your Council is also engaged in the process of consultation initiated by Reading Borough Council relating to concerns about congestion in Reading and the possible use of Government funds to improve the infrastructure and to influence a shift from cars to public transport in journeys to and from Reading.

Thank you to all those who sent in a completed questionnaire. If you have further comments on local bus services please contact John Swift on 924 2695 or email him at jaswiftqc@btinternet.com.

Bus information

If you need information about your local bus services, there is an excellent website at www.travelinesoutheast.org.uk. Here you can type in your postcode and destination and get full information about available buses.

Allotments at Gallowstree Common

At its September meeting, the Parish Council was asked if they would permit the placement of a garden shed on an allotment at Gallowstree Common. Given the practice at other allotments, for example those owned by Sonning Common Parish Council further East in Horsepond Road, councillors thought that they should not refuse permission for sheds, but should lay down some clear rules about them so that the allotments do not become unsightly.

It was resolved that there would be no objection to the placing of sheds by allotment holders provided that:

- only one shed be permitted on each full allotment;
- each shed is not more than 2 m x 1.5 m in floor area;
- sheds are sited within the allotment area;
- sheds are to be stained a colour approved by the Allotments Manager;
- any shed which in the opinion of the Allotments Manager is not adequately maintained shall be removed;
- when a tenancy ends, the allotment holder shall remove any shed sited on the allotment concerned.

The Allotments manager is Mrs Sue Rowland (972 3107) and there is currently a short list of people waiting to take up any vacant allotment.

The Parish Church

By the time this appears, our Christmas Fair will have taken place. We extend our thanks to all those who organised and supported that event.

And so our thoughts turn to Christmas itself, the commemoration of Christ's nativity. Details of our services, to which everyone is welcome (you can spare an hour!), are listed here. The candlelit Service of Carols and Readings is always popular (the congregation get their chance to sing!) and will be held, this year, at 7.30 pm on Friday 19 December.



Our second Christingle service of the year, at which each child is presented with a Christingle, will be held in Christ the King Church, Sedgewell Road, at 4.30 pm, on Christmas Eve. A Christingle is a lighted candle set in an orange, representing Christ as the Light of the World. This is an excellent way to start Christmas. You don't have to be a church member to attend, but the service attracts a good attendance, so come early for a good seat!

Little Lambs, a group for children under five years with their parents or carers, continues to meet at St John's Church, Kidmore End, at 9.30 am on the last Wednesday of each month during term time (but, please note, not in December). This is a friendly group offering a short service, relevant craft activity and refreshments. Enquiries to Felicity Cooper on 947 7862.

Christmas Services

Friday 19 December	7.30 pm	Service of Carols and Readings at St John's
Christmas Eve	4.30 pm	Christingle Service at Christ the King
	11.00 pm	Midnight Mass at St John's
Christmas Day	9.30 am	Family Eucharist with Carols at Christ the King
	10.30 am	Family Eucharist with Carols at St John's

It was with sadness that we said farewell, in the autumn, to the Revd Hugh Warwick (one of our Associate Priests) and his wife, Auriel. We will miss them both, but wish them every happiness in their new home near Brackley.

The annual Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is held between 18 and 25 January each year. Look out for details of a local ecumenical service to mark this occasion.

Our clergy and members wish the Editor and all readers a Happy Christmas.

Neil Scott (Lay Chairman, Parochial Church Council)

The Future of Rubbish Collection

South Oxfordshire District Council have agreed a new scheme for collecting rubbish, which will be put out to tender after Christmas and will take effect in the Summer of 2009.

There will be four types of rubbish container. A new bin will be provided for food waste that can be composted. There will also be a wheelie bin for recyclable paper, plastic, glass and aluminium, a separate bin for garden waste for those who choose (and pay for) it and a wheelie bin for rubbish that can only go to landfill.

The food waste will be collected weekly, but the wheelie bins will be emptied fortnightly.

These changes will allow SODC to significantly improve its already impressive record for reducing the amount of waste that goes into landfill sites, without significantly increasing the overall cost of rubbish collection.

Cricket's OSCAs

On Monday 13 October, Fred Curzon, who lives in Orchard Avenue, Sonning Common, went to Lord's, home of the MCC, to attend the presentation of the NatWest Outstanding Service to Cricket Awards (OSCAs). Fred had been shortlisted in one of the seven categories of Award, the Leagues and Boards category. He had been nominated by the Berkshire County Board, while the two other shortlisted men came from Gwent and Lancashire. In the final analysis, Fred was runner-up to the Welsh nominee. Nevertheless, this achievement represents a significant honour for a man who has done so much for Kidmore End CC (of which he is president) and for youth cricket in the Berkshire area.

The citation, published by the England and Wales Cricket Board, records that "since becoming chairman in 1995, Fred has guided the growth of the [Michael Shanly Berkshire Youth Cricket] League (prior to 2002 sponsored by KMC

International) to 37 clubs with 165 teams. Within the county there are now over 2000 players from Under 9s through to Under 17s taking part in competitive youth cricket in Berkshire. He has been a great advocate of the younger age groups and specifically girls' cricket – introducing first Under 11s and then Under 9s and in the past two years an Under 13 girls' league. In 2008, the league introduced two County Cup competitions to select the county champions at Under 13s and Under 15s. Initially as chairman and now president, Fred Curzon has actively led the Youth League committee to the present position in which more than 650 matches were scheduled in the 2008 season. In 2008 Fred was elected a vice-president of the Berkshire Cricket Board for his contribution to youth cricket."

To set the OSCAs in context, there are seven categories of award with a total of 21 shortlisted nominations. Their geographical

distribution ranged from Durham to Cornwall and from Lancashire to Sussex. It is encouraging to see that one-third of the nominations were of cricketing stalwarts from minor counties like Berkshire. Four of the 21 nominees were ladies. The citation for a lady from Somerset ran to six verses of poetry!

Mr. Curzon, who is 70, only gave up playing for Kidmore End 20 years ago. As colts' manager from 1984 to 1995, he was the inspiration for youth cricket at Kidmore End and several of the club's current senior players owe their introduction to the game to him. Ten years ago, Mr. Curzon founded the immensely successful annual kwik cricket inter-schools competition for primary schools in the Kidmore End area. There is no doubt that Fred Curzon merits this national recognition for his outstanding voluntary contribution to our national game.

South Chiltern Choral Society

The SCCS will be giving two performances of an English Christmas carol concert in Chiltern Edge School at **7.30 pm on Saturday 20 December** and at **2.30 pm on Sunday 21 December**.

The major works included will be the Son of God Mass by James Whitbourn, a work accompanied by saxophone and organ, first performed in 2001, and Vaughan Williams' Fantasia on Christmas Carols.

The Choral Society will be joined by the Caversham Primary School Choir and there will be a number of familiar carols for the audience to join in.

Tickets, price £10 (£5 for under 18's and free for under 5's) including seasonal refreshments, can be obtained from Choral Society members or from Heather Clark on 01491 575727.

Rats at the Pond

Rats have again been seen on several occasions at the village pond in Kidmore End.

These pests are attracted by remnants of food offered for the ducks and other birds around the pond.

Please limit your feeding to the amount that is cleared up while you are watching, so that there are no 'left-overs' on the ground to attract vermin.

Police Matters

On Wednesday 1 October we held a Crime Prevention Event at Sonning Common Village Hall, which was well attended and enabled us to meet members of the community of both Sonning Common and surrounding parishes.

We now have regular Pub Watch meetings. Landlords kindly open their premises on a rota basis. This enables us to visit all the member parishes.

Over Halloween and Guy Fawkes nights the Neighbourhood team carried out regular patrols to combat egg throwing and misuse of fireworks. We attended schools to give advice and delivered literature to vulnerable members of the community to offer support and reduce fear of crime.

Over the next few weeks, the Neighbourhood team will be observing dwellings that have no lights on in the early evenings, suggesting to criminals that the house is unoccupied. An information leaflet on how to combat opportunist burglary will be posted through the letter-box. We hope this will assist and provide necessary information on your home security.

PC Julie Greenough, PCSO Janice Smith and PCSO Ben Wyatt (phone 0845 8505 505)

Crime Statistics

The following figures for crime in the Parish of Kidmore End are reported by the Sonning Common police office.

	Oct 05 - Sep 06	Oct 06 - Sep 07	Oct 07- Sep 08
Burglary	12	5	10
Theft	11	12	6
Car crime	4	2	5
Criminal damage	4	8	12
Other crime	6	12	10
Totals	37	39	43

The figures seem to indicate a rising trend, but the rate in this Parish is still less than one petty crime a week. (Ed).

Rubbish Collection over the Christmas Holidays

Bins will be emptied as follows over the Christmas holidays:

Normal collection day Wednesday

No change. Rubbish will be collected on Christmas Eve and on New Year's Eve

Normal collection day Thursday

Rubbish will be not be collected on Christmas Day nor on New Year's Day, but there will be a collection on **Saturday 27 December** and then on **Thursday 8 January 2009**

Kidmore End Pre-School

It is wonderful to be back after the summer. Our new children have settled down well this term and it is lovely to see the older children back after the summer break. We are busy learning all about transport, and the Parish room is already full of art work. We have also been making the most of the outdoor space when the weather permits. The primary school have given us a wonderful climbing frame that they were no longer able to use, and the children have been having a great time playing on it.

We have had a busy term so far. We raised £153.45 for Macmillan cancer research as part of "the world's largest coffee morning" in September. In November we had

special Bonfire lunches of sausages, rolls, baked beans and spider-jelly, the children made poppies for Remembrance Day, we marked 'Children in Need day' by bringing our teddies to pre-school, and we celebrated Thanksgiving. In addition, the amount raised at our Christmas shopping extravaganza afternoon in Sonning Common was a smashing £316.22, so thank you to everyone who supported this event.

Now it's the count down to Christmas and we are looking forward to a trip to the pantomime to see Beauty and the Beast. The children will be practising



special songs which they will sing in front of their families at our Christmas performance. At the end of term we will be holding the Christmas party for all the children.

This is always a fun and noisy party which is enjoyed by all, especially when our special Christmas visitor arrives.

If you would like to learn more about the pre-school, please contact our registrar, Nerys Havers, on 972 2027. However, we can only take babies onto the waiting list, for enrolment in 2011, because the pre-school is fully booked up to 2010!

Best wishes

Caroline Aldridge (Pre-school Manager, 972 3700)

Private Counselling

Are you feeling that things are getting too much for you at times? Would you like to speak to someone about your difficulties?

If so, you might feel that you could benefit from private counselling. A service is now available on Fridays at Sonning Common Health Centre (and appointments are available at other times at another venue).

The Counselling Clinic is run by Michele Burden who has more than 20 years NHS experience of helping people to overcome their emotional problems. Michele is registered with the UK Council for Psychotherapy and is a member of the British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy.

Counselling can help people with a number of emotional difficulties, including:

- low mood
- lack of motivation and enthusiasm
- general anxiety and panic attacks
- stress
- eating problems
- problems with decision making
- tendencies towards negative thinking
- difficulty with relationships
- low self esteem
- unresolved childhood issues

If you would like to discuss this further you can ring Michele on 934 4491 or email michele_burden@hotmail.com.

Know Your Councillors

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

Susan Biggs

Sue was born in Emsworth, Hampshire and spent her early years travelling with her parents around numerous RAF stations, moving eventually to Wallingford when she was seven years old. She trained at Great Ormond Street Hospital and the London Hospital to be a general and sick children's nurse, qualifying in 1972, and as a Health Visitor in 1980. She worked in London until moving to Kidmore End in 1990.

Sue and her husband Mark have three sons, the youngest of whom is currently at university. Sue undertook and completed a degree at the University of Reading in 2004 and is now working towards an MA. She works in the Learning and Development team for the NHS Berkshire West Primary Care Trust and as a volunteer at the Sue Ryder Care Home and at Homestart Reading.

Sue was co-opted to the Parish Council in 2008 and, before that, was (and still is) Chairperson of Kidmore End Environment Preservation (KEEP), a body concerned to help preserve the environment of Kidmore End and its neighbourhood, in part through sharing information via its web site, www.keepnews.org. The group consists of a number of people from all the hamlets and meets when an environmental issue arises. If you would like further information about KEEP, please go to the website or contact Sue at susanbiggs@keepnews.org.

As a Parish Councillor, Sue takes a keen interest in preserving the rural character of the area. Her other interests include walking, biking, reading, skiing and gardening. She is also a member of the South Chiltern Choral Society (see page 9 for details of their Christmas concert).

For Parish matters, Sue can be contacted on **972 3456** or at susanbiggs@btconnect.com.

Roderick Young

Roddy was born at Townlands Hospital, Henley in 1955. At the time his parents were Landlord and Landlady of the Reformation pub in Gallowstree Common, where Roddy spent many happy years, learning the arts of beer drinking and playing bar billiards.

He went to Kidmore End Primary School and from there won a scholarship to Reading Blue Coat School in Sonning. In due course he captained the school cricket team and was a prop-forward in the rugby team. His many sporting achievements included winning the *Victor Ludorum* trophy for athletics.

Roddy's fascination for the countryside led him into farming. He left Blue Coat School at 16 and worked firstly for Lebeus Hordern at Cane End and, after his death, for Edward and Michael Hordern. Roddy's intention had been to leave after two years and join the police force, but farming became his passion and he continued to work the land. After gaining a Diploma in Agriculture through the International Correspondence School, he became Farm Manager at Cane End. When, later, much of the Cane End land was purchased by Aubrey and Angela Adams of Vines Farm, Roddy was appointed Manager of the Vines Farm estate.

Roddy and his wife Julie live in Cane End. They have two sons, Robert and Matthew, and recently became grandparents to Robert and Helen's son Charlie.

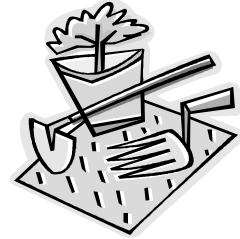
Roddy has been on Kidmore End Parish Council since May 1991 and is currently Vice-chairman of the Council and Chairman of the Playing Fields Committee. Raising funds for the New Pavilion and overseeing its design take up much of his time. His hobbies include travelling, gardening and socialising, but the local community and the beautiful countryside in our Parish remain two of his greatest pleasures.

If you would like to talk to Roddy about Parish matters, especially playgrounds and sports facilities, he can be contacted on **972 2097** or at roderick46@fsmail.net.

Gardening Notes

The most polite word that I can think of about the weather at the moment is changeable. However, it is nearly time to put the tools away in the tool shed until the spring to watch changeable weather from the comfort of your sitting room is bliss.

I have one important piece of news to report. As many gardeners are aware, there has been a problem this year with compost and farmyard manure which have been contaminated with the agricultural weed killer, aminopyralid. Such contaminated products have ruined the crops of many vegetable growers. Particularly sensitive crops include potatoes and tomatoes. It is important to know the provenance of any compost or farmyard manure that you intend to put on your vegetable patch, and to talk to the supplier to ensure that it is free of aminopyralid. If you have any compost or farmyard manure that you are unsure of, it is quite safe to use these products on woody plants (trees and shrubs). In addition, if you have treated your lawn with Verdone Extra or Vitax Lawnclear 2, the clippings should not be composted because they will contain clopyralid. Reading the instructions on the box will let you know when the clippings are safe to compost.



Lawn Care. Keep off your lawn if it is wet or water logged. This will save you hours of work in the spring. Mow or rake up fallen leaves. Fallen leaves are gold dust for gardeners. Put them into old compost bags with a little bit of water and hide under the hedge or behind the shed for a year to 18 months. The leaves will turn into leaf mould, one of the best soil conditioners there is!

Weeding. An hour's weeding in the winter is worth 4 hours in the summer, so any weeding that you can do will save you a lot of time in the spring.

Colour. I have been admiring the wonderful trees all around the village. They will not last much longer, so put some winter pansies into a pot which you can admire from the house. These amazing plants will lift your spirits in the cold of winter, and bridge the gap until the first bulbs flower in late winter or early spring.

Beginner's Veggie Patch. On a dry day, tidy up the area by removing supports, dead plants and plants that have 'gone over' (set seed or now taste so horrid that they are inedible). Leave bean and pea roots in the soil as they will improve soil fertility. Dig out the roots of pernicious perennials and watch out for the dreaded chickweed: carefully remove the whole plant with roots and bin or burn. Add compost or farmyard manure to the patch and lightly dig in (walking backwards so that you do not compact the freshly dug soil). If you are being traditional, leave the patch for the winter frosts to work their magic on the soil. If you don't have much time to spare for digging, then cover the area with a weed-suppressant membrane until February (my method!) which prevents any weed growth and also has the benefit of warming the soil in the spring. Have you noticed that you are no longer a beginner at growing vegetables, and next year you will have leeks, winter greens, sprouts and parsnips in your veggie patch to keep you in vegetables over the winter!

Happy gardening!
Caroline Aldridge

Chiltern Edge Horticultural Society

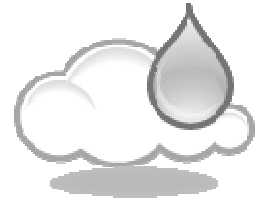
The Society's Annual General Meeting, to be followed by cheese and wine, will be held in the Lecture Room at Chiltern Edge School, at 7.15 pm on **Wednesday 10 December**. Visitors will be welcome, but are not entitled to vote.

Two meetings are scheduled for the New Year. On **Wednesday 14 January**, Stuart Lees will give a demonstration entitled "Adventurous Container Planting" and on **Wednesday 11 February**, Paul Williams will give an illustrated talk on "Greys Court and the National Trust". Both these meetings will take place in the Audio-visual Hall at Chiltern Edge School.

Janet Evans (Programme Secretary; phone 972 3245 for information)

Local Weather Report: Year 2008

	Average Minimum Temperature		Average Maximum Temperature		Rainfall	
	Cel	Fahr	Cel	Fahr	mm	in
August	12.4	54	20.6	69	95	3.7
September	8.9	48	18.4	65	71	2.8
October	3.3	38	13.5	56	76	3.0
Rainfall, 3 months to end of October					242	9.5



Total rainfall during the previous 12 months (November '07 to October '08)

861 33.9

The annual total is 25 % above the normal average twelve month figure of 685mm (27 in) or 57 mm (2 ¼ inches) per month.

There were four separate dry weeks in the past three months, one at the end of August, two in the last half of September and one during the middle of October. However, there was 76% more rainfall than in the same quarter of 2007, which was a relatively dry spell, with only 136 mm (5.3 in) of rain.

Lowest and highest temperatures during the last 3 months

	Lowest		Highest	
August	6.8C	44F (15 th)	27.0C	80F (30 th)
September	4.1C	39F (20 th)	21.1C	70F (20 th)
October	-3.2C	26F (29 th)	21.4C	70F (12 th)



The average daily temperatures for August and September are slightly up on last year.

There were colder nights with earlier frosts in October, which have reduced average night time temperatures for the month by more than 2.5 C (3.8F) compared with last year. Is this a sign of the winter to come?

Derek Brown (972 3895)

Bonfires

Comments have been made recently about the continuing nuisance of bonfire smoke drifting across properties in the Parish.

Whilst the evocative smell of the leaf bonfire is one of the joys of the British autumn and the burning of garden rubbish as a way of disposal certainly has its attractions, consideration should be given to neighbours and other houses downwind of any fire.

It is also important to ensure that there is no plastic rubbish to be burnt as this produces very unpleasant smells and toxic fumes.

A careful check on the wind direction should always be made before lighting a fire, to ensure that no offence is caused, thus helping to maintain good relations and a happy neighbourhood.

The New Pavilion Appeal

Perhaps you looked at the leaflet that came through your letterbox with the September Newsletter, asking for contributions to the New Pavilion, and thought that you would like to give something, but never quite got around to it?

Here is another opportunity!

Please complete the form below and post it with your cheque, made out to "Kidmore End Playing Fields Committee", to The Clerk to the Parish Council, Mr Roger Penfold, 30 Venetia Close, Caversham, RG4 8UG.

DONATION FORM

Details of Donor

Title _____ Initials _____

Surname _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Please accept my gift of £ _____

in aid of the New Pavilion at Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground.

GIFT AID

If you are a UK taxpayer, please sign and date the declaration below.

I wish Kidmore End Playing Fields Committee to treat all my giving to their Appeal as a Gift Aid donation.

Signature

Date

Registered Charity, number 304326

