

MINUTES OF KERSEY ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 13 APRIL 2015 AT 7.30PM IN KERSEY VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT

Chair – John Hume, 4 Parish Councillors, Jenny Antill - Suffolk County Councillor, Robert Lindsay – Babergh District Councillor, PCSO Amanda Coleman (for part of the meeting), 14 members of public and Sarah Partridge - Clerk.

The Chair welcomed all those present and thanked them for attending the meeting. He gave a particular welcome to the new head teacher at Kersey School, Mrs Linda Bowman.

APM 1/15 APOLOGIES were received from David Griffiths, Adrian Blyth and Neville Whittell.

APM 2/15 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS PARISH MEETING held on 7 April 2014 were signed as correct.

APM 3/15 CORRESPONDENCE

Suffolk's Police and Crime Commissioner, Tim Passmore is staging a series of seven public meetings across the county. The Babergh meeting will be held at Hadleigh Town Hall on 10 June. The meeting is an opportunity for the public to ask questions of the Commissioner and the Temporary Chief Constable and to find out more about policing in Babergh. Each meeting will involve a quick overview from Tim Passmore and Gareth Wilson and then the public will have an opportunity to ask questions. There will be a senior police officer, responsible for policing in the local area, to add operational context. All meetings start at 6.30pm and there is no need to book.

APM 4/14 REPORTS

Full Reports are all appended to these minutes.

Police – PCSO Amanda Coleman gave her report, answered questions and then left the meeting.

Suffolk County Council, Jenny Antill gave her report and answered questions.

Babergh District Council, Robert Lindsay gave his report and answered questions, many of which related to housing, sustainability of new homes and empty homes.

Kersey Parish Council, John Hume gave his report.

Kersey Parish Council Working Groups and Representatives:

Footpath Working Group, John Maltby gave his report

KCPC Working Group, Jonathan Marsh gave his report.

Jubilee Steps and Vale Lane Footpath Link Working Group, Giles Hollingworth gave his report.

The Chair thanked all the volunteers on the working groups of the Parish Council, their work and support is much appreciated.

Millennium Book Fund, John Maltby gave his report.

A query was raised about whether the Millennium Book Fund was a trust and separate from the Parish Council so should be listed in its own right, rather than under the Parish Council heading. The Chairman said the matter would be resolved outside the meeting.

Forget-Me-Nots, Veronica Partridge gave her report.

Franey Rand and Pest House Charities, Nora Ryde gave her report.

Friends of the Fabric & Bells of St Mary's Church, a report from Neville Whittell was read.

Grays Trust, Joan Hatrick gave her report.

Kersey CEVCP School, Linda Bowman gave her report and answered questions.

Kersey Playing Field Association, Ian Hatrick gave his report.

Kersey Society, Ian Hatrick gave his report.

Lewis Mowles Trust, Norah Orriss gave her report.

Neighbourhood Watch, Giles Hollingworth gave a brief report.

Nightingale Trust, a report was read from David Griffiths.

St Mary's Church PCC, Linda Newbigging gave her report and answered questions. The PCC are looking for new ways to encourage parishioners to become more involved in the life of the church. The church needs to be supported and used on a regular basis for it to survive and continue to remain open. Any ideas would be most welcome. The PCC produces the village newsletter which is circulated to all households in the parish and keeps everyone informed about village life, contact information and dates for events. They are seeking a new editor who will be able to produce 10 editions a year with the support of an editorial team.

Table Tennis Club, a report was read from Adrian Blyth.

Tuesday Club, Rachel Wells gave her report.

Village Hall, John Maltby gave his report.

Village Produce Association, Rachel Wells gave her report.

APM 5/15 PARISH PLAN REVIEW UPDATE

The aim is to update the Kersey Parish Plan every 5 years. Two public consultation events took place on 5 and 7 April 2014, attended by 27 people and questionnaires were returned from village organisations. The Parish Council reviewed the resulting information on 27 September 2014, using the Draft Parish Action Plan as a template. The updated Plan, based on the provided feedback, will be published by September 2015 and will cover Housing, Planning and Development, Facilities, Voluntary Activity, Transport, Traffic, Parking, Shopping, Environment, Information Access and Local Democracy.

APM 6/15 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Chair noted that within most of the reports received at this meeting there was a concern about how the various organisations, clubs and societies were to survive mainly due to a lack of participation. This is an important subject and somehow more younger people need to get involved and take an active role in village life for Kersey to continue to have so many active village organisations. Most of these organisations, which if they were lost, would be sorely missed and it would be to the detriment of the rich physical and social fabric of village life.

A concern was also raised about the lack of interest in the Parish Council; there has been a vacancy for a Parish Councillor for over a year.

No solutions were put forward for how to encourage parishioners to consider becoming a Parish Councillor or how to encourage more residents to get actively involved with village life.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.05pm.

There are 14 sheets appended to these minutes.

Appended Reports for Kersey Annual Parish Meeting 13 April 2015

Police Report For Kersey Annual Parish Meeting

13th APRIL 2015

1st April 2014 to 31st March 2015.

There have been **3** crimes reported of which **0** were detected compared to 17 reported and 3 detected last year, (see attached for break down).

Burglary dwellings are still occurring across Suffolk with Jewellery being the main target, residents are being asked to be vigilant and report any vehicles or persons in the area they deem to be suspicious, we would rather send an officer out to check someone has a legitimate reason for being in the area rather than later find out someone has been a victim of crime.

Heating Oil Thefts and Catalytic Converters Thefts are still an issue across Suffolk however reports of these have also decreased over the past year within the Babergh area.

If anyone would like more information on home or outbuilding crime prevention, or indeed any other crime prevention please contact the Babergh East Team e-mail: -

babergheast.snt@suffolk.pnn.police.uk

Last year the Babergh area was taken over by Inspector Danny Cooper, he came over from the Ipswich area having been a response and custody sergeant before promotion to Inspector; he replaces Inspector Paul Crick who has gone to work at headquarters as part of the Community safety team.

I will still be your main point of contact along with PC Matt Thomas (until June, when we will either get PC Matt Paisley back from his Temporary Sergeants Post or a new PC to cover the area). Full list of new areas will be sent out to the Parish Clerks in due course for notice boards.

A full list of team members and where they cover can be found at www.suffolk.police.uk or via one Suffolk web page www.onesuffolk.net

Please also find attached an updated leaflet 'Meeting the savings challenge' to update you on Suffolk Constabulary's plans to meet the financial challenges ahead (if you have already seen/received this then please ignore/discard)

Regards, Mandy

Pcso 3108 Amanda Coleman, Babergh East SNT

REPORT FOR KERSEY ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

PERIOD: 01.04.14 – 31.03.15

Crime	Details	No. of Crimes Previous year /	No. Detected
Burglary	Other Building	10/ 1	
	Dwelling		
Criminal Damage	Dwelling	1/	
	Other	1/	
	Vehicle		
Theft	Other	2/ 1	
	From Motor Vehicle/Of Motor Vehicle	1	
	In Dwelling		
	From Shop		
	By Employee		
Vehicle/Driver Related	Interference with Motor Vehicle (Tamper)		
	Driving Motor Vehicle with Excess Alcohol		
	Driving Whilst Disqualified		
Drugs	Possession of Controlled Drug	1/	
Assault	Common		
	ABH		
Other	Arson		
	Dangerous Dog Causing Injury in Public Place		
	Message letter e-mail etc		
	Wound with intent		
	Minor Wound Without Intent		
	Violent Disorder		
	Harassment Alarm Distress	1/	
	Acquisition Possession Proceeds of Crime Act	1/	
Total		17/ 3	3/ 0

County Councillor's Annual Report to Kersey Annual Parish Meeting. 13th April 2015

The Budget

The financial position of the county council remains very difficult. We have managed to set a budget for the next financial year that reduces expenditure by almost £40m from that spent in the current year

We hope that the assumptions made for the 2015/16 budget will prove to be robust. The main source of savings is a series of transformation programmes through which we hope to be able to deliver services more efficiently and reduce demand for our services in a number of different areas.

We are now starting to try to work out how further savings can be made to bridge a budget gap that approaches £80m over the following two years, around 18% of next year's total budget. This will prove very challenging and it is probable that by 2017/18 if our expectations of reduced funding remain the same, there will be no option but to cut some services which are discretionary and which we are not obliged by law to deliver, and to reduce the quality of services elsewhere.

We do not expect any changes in Local Authority funding after the General Election in May.

However it is becoming increasingly clear that the current way in which Local Government is financed is unsustainable. This was recognised recently in an independent report commissioned by the Local Government Association and CIPFA. They stated that many councils are facing a 'cliff edge', and that unless a future government takes the matter of reform seriously and simply continues to reduce funding many services that are taken for granted will come under threat.

Education

The small improvements in educational standards that were discernible last year have continued to be seen this year. Progress is slow, but the appointment of a senior OFSTED inspector as an Assistant Director has seen a step change in our approach to addressing school standards. This has not been universally welcomed.

Adult Care.

Our provision of adult care is the area in which we are seeing the most pronounced financial pressures. It is likely that in the current year the Directorate will overspend by some £2m, a sign that increased demand for our services and reduced budgets is taking a toll. Over the past year we have been trying to extract our share of the government's Better Care Fund from the National Health Service, to support the provision of care in the community to relieve hospitals. This is proving very difficult since the Fund does not represent new money and the NHS is running at a deficit.

On a more optimistic note, the transformation programme, Supporting Lives, Connecting Communities, which aims to give a better, more personalised form of care to those still living at home, is working well with both customers and social workers. The aim of the scheme is to make the best use of care options in the community with the aim of keeping people in their homes for as long as possible.

Highways

The pothole experience has, I understand, been better this year than last, and winter gritting has been carried out on priority routes as and when necessary. This has been achieved with the help of a state of the art pothole mending machine a fleet of new and refurbished gritting machines. There is however an issue with a long list of minor works that are outstanding in a number of areas. The backlog, which was very long a few months ago, is being steadily worked through, although I think it is fair to say that some parishes in Cosford have been waiting an excessively long time for work to be done. I have done my best to continue to chase up these, sometimes with success, sometimes not.

Suffolk County Council has recently launched a new online reporting tool. The new system is map based, which means that provided you know where you are, you can plot exactly where the fault can be found. This is a key issue for our engineers, who previously, it seems, sometimes could not work out where the problem was situated. A link to the online tool can be found on the front page of the CC website.

Despite budgetary problems there have been a number of good news stories from the County Council over the last year.

One of these was the opening of the MyGo youth employment centre in Ipswich which is the first employment centre in the UK specifically for 18 to 24 year olds.

The council has been very successful in bringing in grants for specific projects, including funding to merge fire stations with police facilities and also to encourage co-operation between the Districts and the County Council in a number of areas

Finally the Better Broadband project is reported to be slightly ahead of schedule, and additional funding has been found to extend high speed broadband from 85% to 95% of the county from 2016.

Kersey

Requests for help from Kersey in the past year have been related to minor road issues. Overgrown hedgerows on the road between Wickerstreet Green and Boxford were recently drawn to my attention. This is the responsibility of the adjacent landowners and so far requests to do something about the overhanging hedges have not been complied with.

It has been a great pleasure to represent Kersey at the County Council over the past year. I am aware that this is the end of the current Parish Council term and that there will be a new council next time I visit. I would like to thank you all for working with me over the last two years, and I look forward to continuing to represent the village during the next two.

Jenny Antill

Report for Kersey Annual Parish Meeting by Robert Lindsay 13/4/15

There are negatives and positives to my first 11 months as an elected councillor.

Babergh's prime directive at the moment is to deal with the fact that its revenue support grant will be cut to zero over the next four years. One of the negatives for me, is that it has decided to maximise revenue from new homes bonus.

This I think is wrong. Housing policy should be based on the needs of local people not on the need of a district council for new revenue. I have made this point several times at council meetings.

However the positive side to the council's need to seek new revenue it that is quite determined to build new council houses. This will generate new revenue and with 1,200 on the waiting list is clearly a local need. I support this and have also been pushing for any new homes we build to be so energy efficient that they do not need central heating. This means tenants save money on energy bills and are able to pay the rent.

Looking forward to the next five years, Babergh is also trying to maximise revenues from renewables and it is looking to expand the solar panel installation programme from council house roofs to roofs of commercial buildings. This I can and do wholeheartedly support.

The council also has a plan to invest in building homes for private rent. Because Babergh can borrow more cheaply than the private sector, rents should be a bit lower than the usual private sector. I believe that if we are to build such homes, they should be in response to local need and they should be exemplary in terms of build quality, sustainability and energy efficiency.

The most positive experience for me from my 11 months has been the discovery that there are some individual councillors from Conservative, LibDem, Labour, and independent groupings who have been prepared to co-operate and help me in various specific initiatives, even if their party grouping as whole does not. I am pleased to say that Cllr Jenny Antill is one of that small group of enlightened councillors.

KERSEY PARISH COUNCIL - CHAIR' S REPORT 2014-15 for the Kersey Parish Meeting 13 April 2015

This is my second Annual Report since becoming Chair in May 2013. I wish again to record my thanks to my fellow Councillors and to our Parish Clerk, Sarah Partridge for another year of valued contribution to our Parish Council. I also thank the many members of our Parish for their service to our community through their membership of formal groups, societies and social networks and by providing neighbourly support. These activities maintain the physical and social fabric of our village life and make Kersey such a special place to live and visit. Much of this work goes unrecognised but is highly valued and appreciated.

Kersey Parish Council is a body formed to represent local opinions to the District and County Council and is the first tier of government. The Parish Council is committed to represent the interests of the residents of Kersey, enhancing well-being and security. All Parishioners are encouraged to raise matters which concern them, either with individual Councillors or the Parish Council as a whole or by attendance at Parish Council Meetings. The constructive, informative contribution of those who regularly attend these meetings is welcomed and adds useful insights into decisions made. My fellow Councillors and I would, however, like to see even more attendance and participation.

During the year, Ian Fidell rejoined the Parish Council. The existing Councillors, whose contact details are given later and also appear on the Kersey Parish website are Ian Fidell, Giles Hollingworth, John Maltby, Yvonne Martin, Veronica Partridge and me. I wish to thank John Maltby for chairing meetings in my absence in November and December. We currently have one Councillor vacancy and have been actively seeking candidates who are interested in representing and serving our community.

Jenny Antill, our Suffolk County Councillor and Robert Lindsay, our Babergh District Councillor and PCSO Mandy Coleman, Community Support Officer have all regularly attended Parish Council Meetings to report on relevant matters and to take up issues on behalf of the Parish Council and individuals. I thank them for their time and support.

During the year, the Parish Council has considered 16 Planning Applications of which 15 were supported. We have looked at a scheme to provide safer pedestrian access between the centre of the village and Vale Lane, with progress limited by lack of technical support from Suffolk County Council. Funding will have to be addressed when the technical specification is agreed and quotations obtained. An Emergency Plan has been prepared to mitigate the effect of a serious event. The Plan will shortly be submitted to Babergh District Council for approval. The Parish Plan was re-examined and the outcomes will be reviewed by the Parish Council and published by September 2015. The Clerk regularly liaises with Suffolk County Highways Department to request road repairs. Following much publicity in the Parish Magazine, I am pleased to report that complaints about dog-fouling are much reduced, although general litter, particularly on the approaches to the village is worsening.

Your Parish Council remains financially strong, with funds in the bank. Parish Council expenditure in the year ending 31 March was within budget.

The precept for the year 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2015 was £6,604, making the Council Tax £ 37.16 for a Band D property, the same as for the previous year. I am pleased to confirm that your Parish Council has agreed that Council Tax will remain at that level for the year ending March 2016. Details of the financial status are attached to this report.

Councillor John Hume, Chair, Kersey Parish Council, April 2015.

Kersey Parish Council Budget and Precept

	2014/15	2015/16
	Budget/ Precept 2014/2015	Budget/ Precept 2015/2016
Post/Tel/Stationery	£100.00	£100.00
Allow £100 for copier cartridge	£35.00	£35.00
Clerk's computer/working from home	£120.00	£156.00
Hall Hire:Parish Council 10 @ £5	£50.00	£50.00
Annual Parish Meeting @ £10	£10.00	£10.00
Footpath Group 3 @ £5	£15.00	£0.00
SALC subscription	£158.00	£162.00
Community Action Suffolk subs	£30.00	£30.00
Suffolk Preservation Society subs	£0.00	£0.00
Local Council Review Magazine	£0.00	£0.00
Audit	£100.00	£0.00
ICO Data Protection registration	£0.00	£35.00
Sub total for Admin	£618.00	£578.00
Clerks Salary	£3,551.00	£3,845.00
Training/Meetings	£200.00	£250.00
Street Lighting	£265.00	£210.00
Street Light ILS conversion repayment	£75.00	£0.00
CAS Suffolk Insurance	£590.00	£480.00
Glebe Insurance	£50.00	£50.00
Hedge Cut - The Glebe	£80.00	£83.00
Playground Safety Inspection	£85.00	£85.00
Dog Litter Bin emptying charge	£43.00	£43.00
Kersey Guide booklet printing	£10.00	£0.00
St Mary's Church	£380.00	£400.00
Chairman's Allowance	£0.00	£0.00
Election costs	£25.00	£25.00
Church Walk future maintenance	£130.00	£130.00
Footpath Map printing reserve	£50.00	£75.00
Contingencies:	£300.00	£300.00
Tax base fluctuation fund	£152.00	£146.00
	£6,604.00	£6,700.00

The precept for 2014/15 was £6,604 plus a Council Tax support grant from Babergh of £129.25.
Council Tax for a Band D property was £37.16.

The precept for 2015/16 will be £6,700 plus a Council Tax Support Grant from Babergh of £86.17.
Council Tax for a Band D property will be £37.16.

KERSEY PARISH COUNCIL CONTACTS

Parish Councillors:

John Hume (Chair)	Ayres End, The Green, Kersey IP7 6EB	01473 810098
John Maltby (Vice Chair)	Pax, 7 Church Hill, Kersey, IP7 6EE	01473 828383
Mrs Yvonne Martin	Row View, The Street, Kersey IP7 6DY	01473 828361
Mrs Veronica Partridge	Chestnuts, Kersey, IP 6EL	01473 823188
Giles Hollingworth	Chapel House, Church Hill, Kersey IP7 6DZ	01473 824663
Ian Fidell	The Cottage, Church Hill, Kersey IP7 6DZ	01473 828887
Vacancy		

Clerk:

Mrs Sarah Partridge	Bridges Farm, The Tye, Kersey, IP7 6HB	01787 210859
	Email: kerseypc@gmail.com	

For more information about Kersey Parish Council, including contact information, ordinary meeting dates, agendas and minutes of previous meetings please see the Kersey website www.kersey.suffolk.gov.uk

Footpath Working Group Report for Annual Parish Meeting 2015

All paths are walkable, with no obstructions reported other than the ploughing of a headland path at Gosling Green. This will, if required, be referred to the County authority. County payment for class one paths continues at 5p/metre when cut, normally twice annually. The group now has an estimated reserve of £1,250.43, sufficient to cover normal expenditures and maintenance of the mowers. The footpath map, produced with county help, has sold well and is currently under discussion for a reprint.

John Maltby 13 April 2015

KCPC working Group Report for Annual Parish Meeting 2015

Maintenance continues through the year, this year the bark needs replacing under the swings. Following the repairs last year to the cricket net it is now back in action and the moss has been treated. Thanks was offered to Linda Newbigging who has recently retired as secretary to KCPC, she has done this for many, many years and without her support the recreational facilities would not be what they are today. Jonathan Marsh has temporarily taken on this role until a new secretary can be found. The working group is well funded at present.

Jonathan Marsh 13 April 2015

Jubilee Steps and Vale Lane Footpath Link Working Group

Progress with the plans for the Jubilee steps is extremely slow and little real progress has been made since this time last year.

It is clear that the proposed site of the steps follows the route of various utilities but the information regarding their exact location and depth is very limited and I think the only way to obtain accurate information is to have a series of trial holes dug to expose the pipes.

In this regard I have had a meeting and various telephone discussions with a chap from Suffolk Highways, Steve Merry, but, to date, due to other pressures of work lack of funding and so on he has not been able to indicate whether we can expect any help or assistance with this project. I have recently obtained a contractor's verbal estimate of £300 for the digging of 2 trial holes but have not, to date, taken matters any further.

Insofar as the estimated cost of the construction work is concerned, Steve Merry from Suffolk Highways has suggested various amendments to my original proposal in order to improve the stability of the structure and this will undoubtedly add to the construction cost. I hesitate to suggest a revised estimate but I am still hopeful that our initial guess of £5000 will hold good.

Needless to say, having made so little progress with the steps to date, I have done nothing at all with regard to the second phase of the plan, that is the path from Vale Lane to the Church path. One step at a time!!

With reference to the funding of the project, the working group currently has funds of £771.56. This is primarily thanks to the generosity of Rosanna and the late Kim Gaywood who very kindly donated the proceeds of a successful dance evening here in the Village Hall to the scheme.

Giles Hollingworth, 13 April 2015

Millennium Book Fund

The account in the Ipswich Building Society now stands at £2836.23, plus some £3.00 of interest still to be confirmed. Money from the fund can be made available for educational and similar projects in the village, at the discretion of the Parish Council.

John Maltby 13 April 2015

THE FORGET ME NOTS

Firstly, we all wish to thank Bridget Allen for all her help over the last two years, but unfortunately due to other priorities, Bridget has had to resign from the running of the group. We all miss her.

The Forget Me Nots have had a good year, we have 13 members and one or two local residents who attend our outings whenever convenient. We were very sad to lose our only male member, Dr Webb and would be very pleased to invite more gentlemen to join us for our outings.

We are very well entertained by the local residents at regular coffee mornings and afternoon teas, and we wish to say how very generous they are with opening up their homes and baking the most delicious cakes for us all. Thank you to you all.

We meet once a month, dates provided in the Newsletter, and we are often found dining out at hostelrys near and far. There is always room for more members, and if a lift to a venue is difficult, then we will be happy to collect and return you to your home.

For more information please contact:

Veronica Partridge 01473 823188

Franey, Rand and Pest House Charities

Kersey has had no recipients this past year, but we gave a donation to Riding for the Disabled at Shelly.

Nora Ryde 13 April 2015

Friends of the Fabric and Bells of St Mary's Church

Report for Kersey Annual Parish Meeting

More ringers are needed; the group would appreciate more people joining their ranks. Practice nights have been maintained throughout the year on Thursday evenings from 7.45pm until 9.15pm, to which beginners, learners and experienced bell ringers are most welcome. There have been the occasional missed Sunday morning services due to a lack of ringers. They have a constant stream of visitors through the year and rang at several wedding last year.

Neville Whittell

13 April 2015

Report to the Parish Annual Meeting – April 2015.

GRAYS' TRUST, KERSEY

For the last ten years the Trustees have given gifts to the children leaving Kersey School which were specifically chosen for them to use at secondary school. In July 2014 we gave Scientific Calculators to the 5 children leaving the school. In previous years they have received book vouchers, atlas's or dictionaries.

In 2014 we were able to give financial assistance to university students and students taking A levels at Sixth Form colleges. Two mature students have also received funding for further education courses, two children were given some support for music and one village organisation received support. In the past we have received applications from Kersey School for financial assistance to fund the purchase of text books, educational equipment and special projects and we have been pleased to be able to support them. We did not receive any requests from them last year but the Chairman of the Trust will contact the present head teacher, who only came to the school in January, to acquaint her with the educational objects of the Grays' Trust and discuss how we can help.

The object of the Grays' Trust Charity is to promote the education of persons who are resident in the parish and surrounding area of Kersey. Applications to the Trustees are invited, via the Newsletter, annually in September, and if funds are available, again in January.

Joan Hattrick, Trustee

13 April 2015

Kersey CEVC Primary School

Annual Report to Kersey Parish Council – April 2015

We pride ourselves on being a small, friendly school where individual needs are met and all involved in our school are listened to and respected. On a daily basis this ethos is seen through a calm learning atmosphere that gives all children the opportunities to succeed.

The children are fundamental to our school and throughout the year the school council continues to meet regularly, the children facilitate and clerk the meeting, with the help of a Governor and teacher, very effectively taking into account the views of the rest of the school. The School council will be reorganised this term to become a learning council concentrating on the children's learning mindset, which is a focus for our development.

We enjoy celebrating achievements, both in and out of school and weekly assemblies allow the children to share their skills and knowledge. The children have had opportunities this term, to share their learning with their parents and the community during class assemblies, a Eucharist and Easter performance, which were very well received.

Our school roll is currently at 81. This is the biggest our school has been since anyone connected with our school can remember! Our school continues to enjoy great popularity and we currently have a full quota of reception children registered to begin this September.

The pupils have enjoyed several educational visits this term including a trip to Framlingham Castle; a memorable performance at Snape Maltings, and a whole school visit to Pipers Vale Gymnastics Centre. There are several other visits planned for the summer term. All classes participated in a local area litter pick, supporting the community and our eco-status. The Friends of Kersey continue to support the school purchasing educational equipment and providing transport to and from events. They organised a very enjoyable and successful Easter egg hunt on the last day of the Spring term.

A number of children have represented our school this term in Able, Gifted and Talented events, a swimming gala, a cross country tournament and a basketball event. We are very proud of their performances and achievements.

We continue to discuss with our families the parking situation in the morning and at afternoon collection and we thank the Bell Inn for their recent offer to use their car park allowing parents and pupils to walk up to school and help to reduce the congestion problems. We are also keen to develop our facilities by building a school hall. This would improve and extend the learning environment for our pupils. At present we are investigating all possible options.

The school continues to have a committed team of individual staff and other stakeholders working hard to do the very best for all pupils, so that we can all work together and learn to achieve our potential. I am keen to hear about new ways we can involve ourselves in the community of Kersey.

Thank you to all those regularly involved with the school. Please let us know if we can support the community further. Thank you all for your continued support, in making this another successful year for our school.

Linda Bowman (Headteacher)

Kersey Playing Field Association Parish Meeting April 2015

Weather permitting the school enjoys regular use of the field during term time. Last summer it was pleasing that the Blyth family should choose to hold their wedding reception on the Glebe. Would that more of you would follow their lead – no need to get married but do remember it is there for your recreation. Again this year the moles have been the most active form of life.

Ian Hatrick

Kersey Society Report Parish Meeting April 2015.

In the last year the Society arranged or participated in five events – talks by a former Chelsea Show judge and a former Chairman of the Essex Historical Buildings Group; a guided tour of Otley Hall; WWI memorabilia exhibition in conjunction with the Church and the Christmas wreath making class.

More importantly on this coming Saturday 18th April at 8.00 pm James Burt of Leys House, formerly a Yeoman of the Royal Cellars will give a talk entitled “A Year with the Royals” in which he describes a typical year in service to HM The Queen. More details are set out in the April Newsletter. Admission is £5 including refreshments.

On Saturday 16th May Andy Hulme from the Suffolk Owl Sanctuary is coming to talk to us about the work of the Sanctuary and will introduce us to two of the owls. Older children are very welcome to this talk. Further details are in the Forthcoming Events section of the April Newsletter.

Finally a possible trip to the National Arboretum on 24th. October is being explored

Our aim is to have as varied a programme as possible so we are always open to your suggestions. Contact details are in the Newsletter.

Ian Hatrick

Lewis Mowles Trust

A quiet year for the Lewis Mowles Trust. No expenses and only income from interest on our savings of £45.70 making a total sum of £11,130 now in our account.

Norah Orriss, 13 April 2015

Neighbourhood Watch

There is little to report, a few notifications come through from the Police and these are passed on as appropriate.

Giles Hollingworth, Neighbourhood Watch coordinator, 13 April 2015

REPORT FROM THE NIGHTINGALE TRUST

The standard of cultivation and housekeeping on the allotments is generally very high, and tenants have again very successfully contributed to their own class in the Village Produce Association show. We have to remind the general public that the allotments are private land, and do not contain any public footpaths, so should not be used for dog walking, and visitors to the allotments should be by invitation of allotment tenants or the Trustees only.

David Griffiths

Short report of St Mary's PCC for Kersey Annual Parish Meeting 13th April 2015

Revs Tim and Trish French and our Elder, Julie Boast, continued to provide a regular pattern of services including Mini Messy Church, Communion, Morning Prayer and a Benefice service every 5th Sunday. We are grateful to the retired clergy and other elders who help with services. We are delighted that the school continued to use the church on a daily basis and that there is a close and effective working relationship with the Head teacher.

The Revs French would also like to thank the many local people who helped clean the church, provide beautiful flower arrangements, served during our services and helped with fundraising. We are particularly grateful to our two church wardens whose daily care of the church means the doors are always open; and to the rest of the PCC for their help with the day to day business and management of the church as a building and place of worship. In 2014 Ian Hattrick continued to play the organ during our many services for which we are most grateful.

As an important part of our Christian ethos we were once again able to make charitable donations to: Independence Age, British Legion, Suffolk Historic Churches, Samaritans, Water Aid, Christian Aid and Teenage Cancer Trust.

We held several fund raising events during 2014 including the Plant Sale, two concerts, cream teas and the Gift Fayre and the buffet supper. St Mary's depends heavily on the profits of these events to help fund its day-to-day expenses, overheads and activities. The Church of England does not receive financial support from Government and we are therefore very grateful to all of you who help to make each event a success both financially and socially. A full financial report will be available at our own APCM on Wednesday 15th April

Looking to the Future 2015 and beyond

St Mary's church is a stunning, visual focal point to the village which is visited by many tourists and residents during the year. More importantly, it is currently a living place of spirituality, peace and nurture.

Many of us go to church for weddings, christenings, funerals and possibly attend services for the main Holy days throughout the year: Easter, Christmas, Remembrance and Harvest never doubting for one moment that it will always be available to us if and when we need it. But we do need help from you all to help keep our church a living building. We need your help so that it is always there for us and future generations as a place of worship, national celebration and important rites of passage. We need your help so that it does not simply become an historic building open only occasionally to the public.

Please consider how you could help us to grow the church as a place of regular worship. Tell us about a type of service you would like to attend or how the times and days of the services could be altered to increase the numbers attending. Would you consider being on the PCC or one of the sub-committees and help develop ideas for worship, or look after the fabric of the building or help with the fundraising.

Help Tim and Trish and the PCC at St Mary's to create a vibrant and living place of worship here in Kersey for another 2000 years.

Kersey Table Tennis Club - Report for the Year ending 31st March 2015

During the last two months of last season (May and June 2014), attendance dropped significantly and the club's future looked in doubt.

Fortunately from the start of the new season, numbers have picked up to an average of 7 players per session. We need 5 players to meet the basic operating expenses.

Although the club was founded on feedback from the Parish Plan, most attendees come from outside of the village.

The club operates from Kersey village hall on Thursday evenings between 7:30 and 9:00pm. Players may elect to play either one hour or the full session at a cost of £1.50 or £2.00 respectively. Juniors are charged £1.00 irrespective of the duration. Fees will remain at this level provided operating costs are unchanged.

The season runs from September to June.

The purpose of the club is for social and recreational purposes and all abilities are welcome.

The accounts for the year 1 st April 2014 to 31 st March 2015 will audited by Natalie Blyth.

Adrian Blyth
01473 827805 adrian.blyth1@btinternet.com

Tuesday Club

A varied programme included 'A Walking tour of the Isle of Man' Applique, Working at Bressingham, From Field to Fork. The club continues to sponsor Rockey at The Shelley Centre. Grateful to the Grays Trust for their continued donation.

Rachel Wells

Kersey Village Hall Committee report for the Annual Parish Meeting on 13 April 2015

The major event in the past year has been the recent celebration of the hall's opening in January 1935. This was attended by 80-90 people, mostly villagers and was followed by the traditional spring lunch on 12 April, for which all tickets were sold. Improvements to decoration and lighting continue, much appreciated by users of the hall. School use of the hall is now funded by the county. Use of electricity is now monitored to check over use. There is an accident book in the kitchen to record any minor incidents, so avoiding any unreasonable outcomes. Finances are healthy, and the AGM will be held on 20 April this year.

John Maltby 13 April 2015

Village Produce Association

In 2014 the marquees were let out 18 times. There was a full coach for the outing to Loseley Park Garden Show in July and we had a successful flower show in September. Donations were given to help the Nightingale Trust, Churchyard, Newsletter and Floodlights. There is a balance of £9000 in the accounts.

Rachel Wells, 13 April 2015