# KERSEY PARISH NEWSLETTER April 2023



# 50p\*

# www.kersey.suffolk.cloud

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# **CONTACT NUMBERS**

#### Parochial Church Council –

Vice Chairman: Lucy Oldham
Church Warden: Rachel Wells 01473 822230
Bellringers – Bell Captain: Neville Whittell
Forgetmenots – Organiser: Veronica Partridge
Tuesday Club – Rachel Wells 01473 822230
Table Tennis Club – Adrian Blyth 01473 827805
Parish Council –
Chairman: John Hume
Clerk to the Council: Sarah Partridge
Footpaths – Chairman: Kevin Pratt
Kersey Community Playground Committee – Jonathan Marsh 01473 822927
Neighbourhood Watch – Vacant
Village Hall –
Chairman: Veronica Partridge
Secretary and Bookings: Natalie Blythnablyth1@gmail.com or 01473 827805
Treasurer: Norah Orriss
VPA (Village Produce Association) –
Chairman: Peter Partridge01473 827231
Secretary: Rachel Wells 01473 822230
The Lewis Mowles Trust Fund – Secretary: Rachel Wells 01473 822230
Grays Trust –
Chairman: Peter Martin 01473 828361
Secretary: Philippa Harris
Nightingale Trust/Allotments – Info: Natalie Blyth
School – Joint Headteachers: Jess Damant and Claire Dunnell Paley 01473 823397
Kersey Playingfield Assoc. (Glebe) – Mark Pertwee
Kersey Community Website
Hadleigh Health Practice01473 822961
West Suffolk Hospital (Bury St Edmunds)
Ipswich Hospital NHS Trust
<b>Police</b>

Please let us know of any changes.

Defibrillators – There are two AEDs located within the parish at The Bell Inn, Kersey IP7 6DY and Kersey Mill IP7 6DP.

# PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

## **Church Warden:**

Mrs Rachel Wells 01473 822230. and vacant position.

**Weddings:** For all enquiries regarding weddings at St. Mary's Church please contact adrianwaller@mac.com or phone 01473 652561.

### CHURCH CLEANING

Week beginning: 8th April	– All hands please to spring clean and
	decorate for Easter.
10th April	– Sarah Partridge and Jenny Partridge.
24th April	– Bridgett Allen.

### PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

The Parochial Church Council met at Quiet Waters on 15th March 2023. Paperwork for our APCM was agreed. We hope to welcome many villagers to the meeting on 5th April 2023 at 7pm in church.

The advertisement for a new Priest in Charge has been placed in the national paper and we await applicants for interview on 17th (open meet and greet day) and 18th April (interview panel).

Some of our Parishioners will be attending the basic safeguarding course on 22nd April.

The Quota for 2023 has increased and the PCC discussed how to meet its obligations to pay that whilst maintaining the church.

Projects for FoSM to consider for funding were discussed.

Volunteers for churchyard maintenance have stepped forward and responses about the flagpole received.

The Summer Fayre is being organised for Sat 17th June and helpers will be welcomed. A service for the King's Coronation will be held at 11am on Sunday 7th May followed by the village picnic on the Glebe.

### MEMORIAM

Patricia Grace Jennifer Kerr – known as Jenny, has sadly passed away after a short illness. Jenny lived in what is now known as Primrose and Cowslip cottage during the mid 1980's to the early 90's. She worked as a radiographer at Ipswich Hospital until failing eyesight forced her into early retirement. She loved living in Kersey, enjoying a glass of red wine at The Bell and meeting with friends from the village. She moved to St. Ives in Cornwall where many of her friends visited her for a break by the sea. Whilst preparing for her move she kindly donated many household items to the auction held in the Hall to raise funds for the Playground equipment on the Glebe. Her funeral takes place on the 28th March.







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# PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (cont.)

# KERSEY SUMMER FAYRE SAT 17TH JUNE 10AM-4PM

The PCC at St Mary's are holding their summer fayre fundraiser and we very much hope that you would like to be involved in some small way. It does follow hot on the heels of the Open Gardens but I am sure you will have some energy left!

Are you able to help with any of the following:

Make cakes, prepare refreshments, serve refreshments, welcome people on the door, help to set up on Friday or clear up on Saturday, sell tombola tickets. Additionally, I am planning to hold a BOTTLE TOMBOLA stall, so if you think you have a bottle of ANYTHING that we can put on the table please do let me know ie perfume, washing up liquid, booze (obviously), olive oil – anything at all in a bottle or jar.

If you would like to be part of the team please contact: Lindanewbigging@btinternet.com or 07905731431.

### WELCOME

To Grace Jennifer Grannell, who arrived into this world on 28th March. A granddaughter to Colin and Ruth.

### CHURCH FLOODLIGHTS

If you would like the church floodlit to celebrate a birthday, anniversary or in remembrance etc. the cost is £10 per night. Contact **Rachel Wells** 01473 822230.

# **PARISH NEWS**

## **TUESDAY CLUB**

At the first meeting of 2023 members welcomed Yvonne Martin from the village who came to talk about researching and writing her book "Kersey through the Centuries". Over the years she had collected a lot of information about Kersey and during lockdown she decided to put it all together which culminated in the book being published last year. It was very interesting to hear how and where she gathered all the information from.

Competition: "Something Kersey related" was won by Tony Jacobs with some water from the stream.

No meeting in April we will meet again on 2nd May for our annual meal at Kersey Bell. **Rachel Wells.** 

## **KERSEY OPEN GARDENS 2023**

A reminder that Saturday June 10th is Kersey Open Gardens! We have over 25 gardens opening to the public between 11.00 and 5.00, with refreshments being served throughout the day in the Village Hall. As last time, we are putting out an appeal for all you wonderful cake bakers to make us a cake or two! We are also

# PARISH NEWS (cont.)

putting together a rota of helpers in the Village Hall, washer-uppers and servers! Please let us know if you'd care to join us for a two hour stint!

Our ad is on the back page of this Newsletter and as always our email address is: kerseyprojects@gmail.com.

### FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S – EVENTS

**Saturday 18th March** – we held a wonderful jazz evening in the church with the Chris Ingham Trio, who were brilliant as ever. Thank you to everyone who attended and to our sponsors, Nevelli Designer Home Heating & Interiors. A special thank you to all of the Trustees of FoSM as well as Linda Newbigging and Jackie Rigby for working so hard



to ensure the evening was set up and the church dressed and then cleaned after the event. The church looked stunning with red cordless table lamps supplied by TDC Cordless Lighting and the band lighting was very kindly provided by Tom Gordon. We raised just over  $\pounds$ 700 for the church.

**Sunday 2nd April** – Chris and Sarah Partridge are hosting another of their popular Bridges Farm Open Days. Come and join us for a fun family day out from 11am to 3pm. See all the farm animals, join in with some farmyard games and enjoy a BBQ or cream tea. All proceeds very kindly donated to the Trust by the Partridges.

**Sunday 2nd July** – The Kelvedon Singers return to Kersey. They are celebrating! This year sees the 80th birthday of maestro, Chris Phelps and they will be performing The Messiah with orchestra and professional soloists on Sunday 23rd April at St Peter's, Coggeshall at 6pm. His birthday year will continue with a summer concert at St Mary's, Kersey on Sunday 2nd July. The choir will be singing some of Chris's own arrangements, as well as a varied programme of music for a summer evening, ranging from madrigals to jazz, and from English part-songs to pop! There will be something for everyone and they aim to send you all home with joy in your hearts and a tune in your heads! As this is going on sale across Suffolk, please register your interest early to fosmkersey@gmail.com.

## FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S – AGM

The Trust's AGM was held at the Bell Inn, Kersey on Wednesday 1st March. Total income after expenditure for the previous year was reported by the Treasurer, Mark Pertwee at £5,596.90. It was agreed that following donations previously of £5,000 for the renovation of the West Doors and area under the Bell Tower, the focus for

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fund raising going forward would be directed at the repair and renovations of both the South and North Entrances. The outstanding carpentry in the roof of the South Entrance requires attention and a report is being prepared to aid the application to heritage for these works.

Chris Partridge retired as a Trustee after four years and the Trustees would like to thank him for all of his support and tireless hard work in not only helping to set up the Trust but for his fund raising.

Claire McQuaker and Esme Chapman were welcomed as new trustees to the Trust.

A reminder that anyone may become a friend of St Mary's by registering on line at www.kerseychurch.org/fosm or by joining the 500 Club lottery, drawn monthly at the Bell Inn. Lottery numbers may be purchased at the above website. Prize winners of the draw are listed in the newsletter separately and our congratulations go to the three March winners.

For further information please contact Mark Rigby on 07484 649235 or email fosmkersey@gmail.com.

### THE NIGHTINGALE TRUST

During December 2022, winter payments were made to seven beneficiaries within the Kersey Parish totalling £700, helping towards their winter fuel bills and groceries. A donation of £500 was also made to Kersey Primary School towards their Gardening and Healthy Eating Club. This will enable the children to grow their own food, learn about the environment and lead a healthy lifestyle.

If you know of anyone that would benefit from some assistance, please contact me in the strictest of confidence – Natalie Blyth 01473 827805 /07487 816966 or email nablyth1@gmail.com.

All our allotment plots are let at present, but if you would like to be added to our waiting list, please contact Natalie.

<code>REMINDER</code> - We have also managed to include Kersey in the existing Hadleigh and Boxford Community Car Scheme – see article on p8 of June 2022 Newsletter for further information.

### **VPA OUTING**

The VPA are planning an outing to Hyde Hall on the 15th July. More details in the May newsletter. If you are interested in going please contact **Rachel Wells**.

## VOTER ID AT THE ELECTIONS

Everyone voting at a polling station on 4 May will need to show photographic ID in order to vote.

# ST. MARY'S CHURCH

#### Easter Message

#### My dear friends,

Last Sunday was the fifth Sunday of Lent, the clocks also went forward by one hour and we all lost an hour of valuable sleep. But it was also the official beginning of spring and Easter is only a few days away. Like Christmas Easter is celebrated widely around the world but unfortunately for many is more about the love of all things chocolate than its real meaning.

Easter Week or Holy week commemorates Jesus's journey to the cross, His suffering, his death and resurrection. Good Friday is remembered as the day Jesus was crucified on the cross and reminds us of the darkness that filled the skies when he died. As the sun begins to shine and light fills the day, we recognize that His death became life and light for all who believe and have faith in him. Many Churches mark Easter by showing a cross draped in a purple sash, which is typically the liturgical colour of humility, wisdom and reflection.

Easter Sunday is the day we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus from the tomb. This glorious event happened the third day after the crucifixion of Jesus. The bible tells in Isaiah 53 that the Messiah would be persecuted, die for our sins, and rise on the third day. The words "He is Risen, Risen Indeed!" are heard on Easter Sunday, as Christians rejoice in the Risen Lord. He conquered death, and He lives. Hallelujah!

Whatever your tradition during Easter, I hope that you all enjoy the occasion with your families and friends, spare a thought for those who may be suffering or do not have those things enjoyed by the rest of us and remember that the nice chocolate Easters eggs represent the empty tomb of Christ Jesus and a new life in him. May I take this opportunity to wish you all a happy Easter and I look forward to seeing you at our 11 o'clock Easter day service.

Yours in Christ Jesus

Adrian

#### **Revd. Adrian Waller**

Assistant Curate

The Benefice of Elmsett, Aldham, Kersey, Hintlesham and Chattisham. adrianwaller@mac.com

## FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S 500 CLUB LOTTERY

Latest **500 Club** draw results:

	February	March
1st Prize –	Jackie Rigby	Sarah Partridge
2nd Prize –	Joan Hutton	Neil Hutton
3rd Prize –	Mary Pearce	Mary Pearce
T.T. 11 1 . 11 . 1		

Well done to all the winners and thanks to everyone who has already joined the club.

Details of the **500** Club monthly lottery, plus all membership information can be accessed at: *www.kerseychurch.org/fosm* 

Or for further details please contact either *Mark Rigby* on *07484 649235* or *Mark Pertwee* on *07919 166782* or email *fosmkersey@gmail.com*.

# ST. MARY'S CHURCH SERVICES

2nd Apr 9am	BCP Holy Communion for Palm Sunday	Rev Janice White
9th Apr 11am	Holy Communion for Easter Sunday	Rev Adrian Waller
16th Apr 6.30pm	Evensong	Canon Roy Tricker
23rd Apr 11am	No service at Kersey – Holy Communion at Aldham	
30th Apr 10am	Benefice service	Rev Adrian Waller
7th May 11am	Service in celebration of the Coronation	n

# PRIDE IN OUR PARISH

#### Litter

This has increased on our roads and lanes. Please continue to encourage everyone to take their litter home, If you know those who dump their KFC or MacD leftovers in the hedges and verges, please have stern words with them or report them!

The Kersey Volunteer Group (KVG) do a great job in collecting litter around the Parish. If you would like to help with this initiative, please contact Sarah Partridge 01787 210859 or me on 01473 810098.

#### **Alan Dillingworth**

'Dilly' is retiring in May after 20 years with Royal Mail. He has been our village postman for the last 12 years, providing superb service to all Kersey residents. Please thank Alan for everything he has done and join me in wishing him a happy, healthy retirement.

#### Footpath and KCPC (playground) Working Groups

Kevin Pratt is standing down as chair of the footpath group. Thank you to Kevin and all the volunteers for the excellent work in maintaining the Kersey walks, footpaths and the playground. If you wish to join either of these teams please contact Sarah, as above.

#### King Charles' Coronation

Following consultation with residents it was felt it was too soon to hold another street party so it has been agreed to hold a Community picnic on The Glebe on Sunday 7 May at 12 noon. Please see the invitation delivered with this newsletter for more information.

John Hume Chair, Kersey Parish Council

### KERSEY PARISH NEWSLETTER

Do you enjoy reading the Newsletter? Would you like to produce it? NEW EDITOR REQUIRED – FULL SUPPORT PROVIDED

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Colin Grannell hawkcg@hotmail.com

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# **DIARY DATES**

5 Apr – Annual church meeting	St. Mary's church19.00
17 Apr – Annual Parish Assembly +	
short Parish Council	Village Hall
24 Apr – Village Hall AGM	Village Hall
2 May – Tuesday Club Annual Meal	The Bell
15 May – Parish Council Annual Meeting	Village Hall
6 Jun – Tuesday Club	Village Hall
10 Jun – Kersey Open Gardens	Around the parish 11.00–17.00
17 Jun – St Mary's Summer Fayre	St Mary's church

## **KERSEY CALENDAR ON-LINE**

We also have a Kersey Community *Google calendar* on the website: *https://kersey.suffolk.cloud/events/* 

If you are planning an event in Kersey please email the information to Sarah Partridge at *kerseypc@gmail.com* so it can be included.

(If you already use Google Calendar you can add this to yours.)

A meeting of the Parish Council was held on 6th March.

**Present** were J. Hume chair, four councillors, clerk, Babergh DC, internal auditor and a member of the public for part of the meeting.

The member of the public was asked to speak. He is the owner of Curtis Farm where concerns were raised about works being carried out without planning permission. He reassured the council that they had been working with Babergh and the heritage officer and all was correct.

Apologies were received from one councillor and Suffolk County Councillor.

**Co-option:** There is still a vacancy on the council although term of office would only run until May. Elections are taking place on the 4th May. All electors will need photographic identification in order to vote.

Accept members declaration of interest. One councillor declared an interest in the Leys House application.

**Reports:** County Councillor **Robert Lindsay** said the council are waiving the fee for road closures for those organising Coronation street parties. The Highways maintenance contract has been awarded to Milestone who will be responsible for maintenance of roads, pavements, rights of way, drainage, hedge trimming, construction of new road schemes, snow clearing and gritting. Also reported on was the Fire and Rescue services new risk management plan and the county budget.

District councillor **Leigh Jamieson** reported on Housing: a number of properties in Babergh were found to be failing Health and Safety compliance. Changes are to be made. He also reported funding for a single depot, the plan is to close the aging sites and have one single depot for waste services, building services and repair teams. Also in his report was budget news, the proposed Solar farm at Burstall/Flowton and May elections.

**Parish time:** The postman is retiring, he will be missed. It will be left to individuals how they wish to thank him. An increase in litter was reported particularly on the main roads. The current editor of the newsletter is stepping down.

Minutes were confirmed and signed as correct.

**Clerk's report:** The clerk had been in contact with the school, the eco committee were keen to join in the spring litter collection near the school. The clerk regularly updates the Kersey Google calendar on the website with details of events being organised.

**Correspondence:** All had been circulated to councillors, one item to note was Highways would be completing pre-surface dressing repairs to roads in Kersey Tye, Uplands and Williams Green areas between 15th March and 12th April. Diversions will be put in place as necessary.

Finance: Financial statement showing balances, receipts and payments were approved.

**Planning: Progress** – The clerk had spoken to the enforcement officer at Babergh about Curtis Farm. After investigation they found no case for action. All works had planning permission. The chicken run, coop and vegetable cage are not considered to be in the cartilage of the listed building. They are not large for their surroundings and they are the sort of thing you would expect in farmhouse surrounds and no action is to be taken.

Manor Farm, Williams Green. Erection of single storey rear extension. Councillors supported this application.

One councillor left the meeting.

Leys House, Church Hill. Application for planning permission without compliance of conditions. Councillors found this a difficult application to consider since the development had taken place. It was not in accordance with planning permission which was granted. The Parish Council do not want this to set a precedent for future non-compliance by other property owners. They agreed neither to support or object but to bring to the attention of the planning department their concerns. The size of the terrace is quite large, trees may have been removed and there is possible cont./

# PARISH COUNCIL (cont.)

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noise nuisance with the use of a hot tub which does not appear on the original plans.

The councillor re-joined the meeting.

Site visits were stopped during Covid. It was agreed that the need for a site visit would be considered on a case to case basis. There are times when a visit can provide a better understanding of the development than from documents.

**Footpath Working Group:** A report was received from Kevin Pratt. The paths under contract with Suffolk County Council had surface clearance work carried out twice last year. It is hoped to hold a meeting for volunteers at the end of March. The priority being that all paths have an allocated volunteer ahead of the new mowing season. The risk assessment has been updated and given to all volunteers. Kevin is going to stand down as chair in April. He thanked the volunteers for their work and support over the years. The council wished to pass on their thanks to Kevin for his excellent work as chair and that of all the volunteers for keeping the footpaths in Kersey in such a good condition.

**KCPC Working Group:** A quarterly inspection will be carried out this month and mowing rota and maintenance morning arrangements made.

**Consider progress** on whether Kersey should have a Village Emergency Telephone System. To date not enough volunteers have come forward for the system to operate. The defibrillator continues to be available at The Bell for use in an emergency. There is also another public access defibrillator at Kersey Mill.

**Consider a Coronation Celebration** for Kersey. It was suggested that a smaller event rather than a street party be held to celebrate this historic milestone. The Bell would like to get involved. It was agreed to hold a community picnic on The Glebe with everyone bringing their own picnic and seats. To be held on 7th May 12.00.

**Review effectiveness** of internal audit and internal control systems. The council reviewed and approved their internal control systems and also went through the review of effectiveness. The internal auditor said she would be happy to continue as auditor.

Review Risk Management Policy, Business Risk Register and risk assessments.

The council reviewed the Risk Management Policy, no changes were made to this policy. The council resolved to approve the updated risk assessments. These documents show there is effective management of risks facing the council.

**Consider progress on the Parish Review** and creating a public consultation questionnaire. The Babergh community's team are able to support this review but it will be delayed until after the election.

**Agree a content for newsletter** "Pride in our Parish" An article to be written thinking about our postman who is retiring. Also, a thank you to the playground, footpath and KVG volunteers for all their work during the year.

**Training:** SALC continues to offer online training. The clerk had attended a networking session and an election briefing.

**AOB:** The road sign at Williams Green has been reinstated following repairs. There had been very little interest in a Parish email update system, so it will not be pursued at this stage. The clerk confirmed footpath maps are available in the church. The Bell could possibly be another outlet.

The Annual Parish Assembly will be held on 17th April. This is an open meeting for all residents. Annual reports will be received from all village organisations.

Rachel Wells.

# FARMING NOTES

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#### Arable

After Ryan's rugby injury when he sustained a badly broken leg, we progressed with the arable work surprisingly well for the rest of February, completing the first dose of granular nitrogen and all of the base fertiliser. Since then however we have fallen badly behind – not due to staff shortages but the weather! February was one of the driest on record and March has been the opposite. There is now a backlog of herbicide application to the ploughed ground awaiting sugar beet, fungicide to the earlier cereal crops, secondary nitrogen application to the same and to the grass, to say nothing of the need to get the sugar beet land cultivated and drilled. The weather has simply been against us, and does not look very promising for the next week or so.

I do however have some good news. Ryan is making good progress after a slow and painful start and is now able to carefully move around on crutches but will not be able to drive for a while, so physical work is still out of the question. We wish him well. I am pleased to say that we have procured the services of Adam Sargeant who is doing a 3 day-a-week Agricultural Engineering course at Otley College and working for us in between. So far he has made very good progress and we hope to keep him on permanently, so that on Ryan's return I will be able to slowly take a back seat. As my eldest son Laurence has decided to follow his heart and leave farm work to further his building career, this all fits together well.

Other news: I heard very recently of the theft of some small farm equipment from a neighbouring parish, so vigilance around garden sheds and outbuildings is recommended, and number plates of any suspicious vehicles noted and passed to the Rural Policing Team.

#### Livestock

Lambing has been progressing a little more slowly than usual. This is because one of the stock rams let us down in the autumn. We use raddle paint on the rams so that we can see which ewes have been mated, once most of the ewes are marked we change the colour of the raddle, if the ram serves many ewes on a second cycle it suggests that there is a problem with his fertility. In this case I removed the dud ram and put in another one which resulted in the ewes getting in lamb, but rather than lasting four weeks lambing may drag on for six. The good news here is that there will be some nice young lambs for people to see at our open day on 2nd April.

Calving is also progressing and I hope to be turning out both sheep and cattle to grass fairly soon.

We were delighted recently when we did an embryo transfer flush on Royale, our most valuable British Blue heifer – she yielded nine embryos. These were implanted fresh into waiting surrogate mums so we hope to see several progeny from her in December. You could say it was a Royale flush!

#### Written by Rob and Chris Partridge

### WEATHER (for February)

Rainfall	
Maximum temperature	
Minimum temperature $\dots 3^{\circ}C(26^{\circ}F)$	
Thank you to Kate Banks who records the weather for us in Wickerstreet Green	

Thank you to Kate Banks who records the weather for us in Wickerstreet Green The rainfall amount sometimes varies in different parts of the parish.



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The newsletter is delivered **FREE** to properties within the parish 10 times a year and is also available to download from:

#### www.kersey.suffolk.cloud/our-community/newsletter/

The approximate production cost is 50p per copy (£5 per year). All contributions gratefully received – please pass via your distributor or to: **Rachel Wells, 1 Vale Corner, Vale Lane, Kersey.** 

Or make online transfers (or arrange an annual standing order) to: Kersey St. Mary PCC, 30-13-52 00694777.

For further parish details and events, please see www.kersey.suffolk.cloud

The next issue is **May 2023**. Please send items for inclusion well before the deadline of 24th April to:

Rachel Wells: 01473 822230 - rachel@kersey-village.co.uk

#### To advertise in the Kersey Parish Newsletter please contact: **Colin Grannell at hawkcg@hotmail.com or 01473 829074** <sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> page – £6.00 per issue, <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> page – £11.00 per issue



# **BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL**

#### **Budget News**

The current economic situation has put pressure on the Council to deliver a balanced budget this year. Like everyone the Council has been affected by the increase in inflation and other pressures that are driving the cost of living crisis. The net cost of delivering services is set to increase by almost 20% this year, from £10.43m in 2022/3 to £12.45m in 2023/24, while the cost of running and maintaining the council's housing stock has already increased by 50%.

It was a difficult decision to agree to this year's budget because while the Council has been able to use savings and investments to balance the books, next year's budget will see a 2.99% increase to the district council's share of council tax – the equivalent of an extra  $\pounds$ 5.30 a year, or 10p a week for residents in a Band D property. There will also be increases from county and the Police and Crime Commissioner that will be larger.

Council tenants will also see a 7% increase in rents to try to keep pace with increased costs and ensure necessary investment in repairs and maintenance across the council's social housing stock. This will mean average weekly social rent increasing by  $\pounds 6.68$  a week from  $\pounds 95.47$  to  $\pounds 102.15$ . For affordable housing, weekly rents would increase by  $\pounds 9.41$  from  $\pounds 134.39$  to  $\pounds 143.80$ .

Although the books were balanced this year, the outlook for the forthcoming years is much more challenging. At the moment significant deficits are predicted and a lot of work needs to be done to find ways of generating sufficient income. However, a lot has happened in the last twelve months and a lot could happen before next years budget is produced.

#### Housing

Following an in-depth review of the Council's Building Services the Council have self-referred themselves to the regulator for social housing. A number of properties were found to be failing Health & Safety compliance.

Detailed investigations showed that some of homes were not compliant, and urgent action is being undertaken to resolve the issues.

In Babergh, of 3,502 properties

- 116 did not have an up-to-date electrical safety report.
- Seventy-two were overdue a gas safety inspection.
- Thirty-two were overdue asbestos re-inspection surveys.

A Regulatory Notice was issued for this breach of compliance. This means it will now monitor Babergh and Mid Suffolk Councils and will meet with the Council regularly to ensure the necessary changes are made.

#### **May Elections**

The May elections will be the first where voters will be required to produce photo ID at the polling station. Many forms of ID can be used and even out of date driving licences and passports will be accepted as long as the picture is clear.

#### Leigh Jamieson (Cllr.)

leigh.jamieson@babergh.gov.uk – Mobile: 07548 156181

# Kersey Open Gardens

Saturday, 10 June 2023 11.00 am to 5.00 pm Adults: £5 (cash only), Under 16s: Free

Back at last a chance to see Kersey's beautiful gardens.



Refreshments will be available in the Village Hall throughout the day.

Proceeds will be shared between St Elizabeth Hospice in Ipswich and Kersey Projects for community events.

Contact us at: <u>kerseyprojects@gmail.com</u> for further details.

www.kersey.suffolk.cloud