

# The Kingsdon Chronicle

Issue No. 10

June 2008

## Residents turn out to support Kingsdon Primary School

There was standing room only for the Local Authority consultation meeting held on 21st May at the Primary School. Alan Carnall, Chair of Governors, welcomed everyone and introduced the consultation team from the County Council. The meeting was chaired by County Councillor Gloria Cawood, a member of the Executive Committee of Somerset County Council with a portfolio for Education. The purpose of the meeting was to gauge from pupils, parents and the residents of Kingsdon how important the school is to them but also to communicate an understanding of the issues that the schools in rural communities face and the impact of this on pupils' educational entitlement.

Many of those present who spoke were unanimous in extolling the schools virtues. There were comments on how the school had given so many a fantastic start to their educational lives, thereby enabling them to go on and blossom in higher education and then careers. Residents spoke of the pleasure that is derived from their involvement in various school activities to which they are made exceedingly welcome. There was praise for the way the school has been able to succeed and help children with special needs through the friendly caring and all embracing approach. Praise was also given to the Headteacher, Christine Dawson, and her staff for the support given to the families of service personnel during overseas postings. From parents who live outside the village came praise for the way they have been made welcome, not just by the school but by the whole community.

A survey had been carried out of present pupils asking what they thought of their school, some extracts were read out by Alan Carnall which demonstrated their total happiness and love for the school and its staff.

The visiting team were told of the other consultations the village have faced and how any further loss within the village would be the final straw. They had also been made aware of the huge support given by the community when over 220 had attended the public meetings back in March at the Village Hall.

There was a question concerning the catchment area for the school, Lytes Cary, which is within safe short walking distance of the school is actually in the Charlton's catchment area, a school not possible to walk to safely and much further away.

The school was anticipating the number on roll to be over 40 for the next academic year. Whilst the marketing had attracted some new pupils many others came to the school from outside of Kingsdon after hearing good reports by word of mouth, this has been the case for many years.

A synopsis of the meeting was made by Council Principal Officer, Steve Gale.

Councillor Cawood, closing the meeting as time was running out, thanked everyone for making them feel welcome and commented on the friendly way everyone had participated in a very informative meeting. The Kingsdon Inn was also thanked for the food they had supplied. *Ed.*

### Response from Alan Carnall

"On behalf of the Staff and Governors of Kingsdon Primary School I would just like to offer a heartfelt thanks to all the villagers (parents and otherwise) who turned up to the Consultation meeting at the school on 21.05.08. It was an excellent turnout, and the questions and comments were all relevant and appropriate, and asked in exactly the right spirit. I decided that the best way forward was to let the excellence of the school shine through, and if strength of feeling, resolve and character are to be measured, then we have nothing to worry about. Your support was invaluable and much appreciated by us all".

*Alan Carnall - Chair of Governors*

PS If you were not able to attend on the 21.05.08 (or if you did attend but have thought of something you want to ask/say, don't forget the drop-in meeting, also at the school, on Tuesday 3rd June from 15.40 to 17.40

## QUIZ NIGHT in Memory of David Brettell

Friday, 16th May saw the Village Hall filled to capacity for this special event. David died of Motor Neurone Disease in April. This is a cruel disease, for which at present there is no known cure. Some research into finding a cure is already under way, but much more money will be required, if there is eventually to be a breakthrough. David's family were more than ready for our village to make a contribution to this cause. A host of helpers rose to the occasion. As well as the Quiz itself, there was an excellent supper. In the interval there was an Auction, with many enthusiastic bidders, resulting in the raising of just short of £1,000. A goodly sum was also raised on the Raffle, with fifty prizes up for grabs. Together with the sale of tickets and sundry donations, we were able to hand over to the organisers of the main fund, who are David's firm, Henshaw Inflatables of Wincanton, the wonderful total of £2,370 with a few extras still to come in. There was an excellent atmosphere in the hall all evening, the winners of the Quiz being the Optimists, made up of the families, Clapperton, Conway, Scanlon and Moore. David's son, Ben, thanked all responsible, especially Wally Elliott and his family and the large posse of ladies who helped him with the supper. Wendy and Ben's own team came second in the Quiz, by the way. One relatively new resident remarked that the event showed once again - like the meetings on the Post Office and the School - what an excellent community Kingsdon is. As twelve year old inhabitants, Joyce and I can only agree. Thank you, everyone. *Donald Limon*

### Kingsdon Cricket Club Match results

Saturday 19th April Away - v - Long Sutton, match abandoned.

Sunday 27th April Away - v - Draycott, match abandoned.

Sunday 11th May Home - v - Whitham Friary. Kingsdon won by 6 wickets

Whitham Friary 144 - 5 (J. McComas 62 n.o. D. Heath (M.P.) 32 n.o. B. Carlisle 4-0-8-5)

Kingsdon 145 - 4 (O. Bell 59, K. Morgan 27)

Sunday 18th May Away - v - Alford. Kingsdon won by 50 runs

Kingsdon 188 - 8 (K. Morgan 73, L. Hampson 27 n.o., J. Schofield 25)

Alford 134 (S. Rumbles 5-1-14-3)

Sunday 25th May Home - v - Ditcheat, match abandoned.

#### Fixtures for June

1.6.08	Sunday	Pairs competition	Home
8.6.08	Sunday	Whitham Friary	Away
15.6.08	Sunday	Barton St David	Home
21.6.08	Saturday	Kingsdon Open Golf	Home
29.6.08	Sunday	Langport	Away

### The Ultimate Crazy Golf Competition

The Kingsdon 'Open' will be played over the weekend 21st / 22nd June. (Saturday 10am till dusk, Sunday 11am till 6pm), starting from The Kingsdon Inn. The event is organised by and on behalf of Kingsdon Cricket Club for club funds. (greatly needed towards the cost of the new field)

The course will be set up across the village field in front of The Kingsdon Inn, and Kingsdon Manor School sports field.

The competition will be run under normal golf rules with some local rules included; all will be explained on the day. A round will take approximately 2 hours to complete, you are welcome to have as many goes as you like. Scoring will be  $\frac{3}{4}$  Stapleford, strangers to this system of scoring need not worry; your score will be worked out for you on return to the club house (The Kingsdon Inn)

Golf clubs and all that you need to play with will be available on loan.

Entrance for a full round: - Adults £5, children (under 16) £2.50 - There will be various prizes. If you haven't time for a full round then why not have a go at just the first hole where you can bet on hitting the green!! - You can play this hole as many times as you like whilst you have money in your pocket!

This event is sponsored by *'The Kingsdon Inn'*  
Further details from Wally Elliott Tel 01935 841444.

## God's e-mail

One day God was looking down at Earth and saw all of the rascally behaviour that was going on. So he called one of His angels and sent the angel to Earth for a time.

When he returned, he told God, "Yes, it is bad on Earth; 95% are misbehaving and only 5% are not.

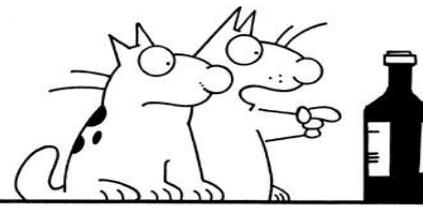
God thought for a moment and said, "Maybe I had better send down a second angel to get another opinion."

So God called another angel and sent him to Earth for a time too.

When the angel returned he went to God and said, "Yes, it's true. The Earth is in decline; 95% are misbehaving, but 5% are being good."

God was not pleased. So He decided to e-mail the 5% that were good, because he wanted to encourage them, and give them a little something to help them keep going.

Do you know what the e-mail said? .....see bottom of page



"Tomatoes, corn syrup, vinegar, water, salt.  
See, there are no cats in catsup!"

## Wrong e-mail address

A Minneapolis couple decided to go to Florida to thaw out during a particularly icy winter. They planned to stay at the same hotel where they had spent their honeymoon 20 years earlier.

Because of the hectic schedules, the husband left Minnesota and flew to Florida on Thursday, with his wife flying down the following day.

The husband checked into the hotel. There was a computer in his room so he decided to send an e-mail to his wife. However he accidentally left out one letter in her e-mail address, and, without realising his error sent the e-mail.

Meanwhile, somewhere in Houston, a widow had just returned home from her husband's funeral. He was a minister who had a heart attack and died.

The widow decided to check her e-mail, expecting messages from relatives and friends. After reading the first message, she screamed and fainted. The widow's son rushed into the room and saw the computer screen which read:

To my loving wife  
Subject: I've Arrived  
Date: October 16th 2004

I know you're surprised to hear from me. They have computers here now and you are allowed to send e-mails to your loved ones. I've just arrived and have been checked in. I see that everything has been prepared for your arrival tomorrow.

Looking forward to seeing you then! Hope your journey is as uneventful as mine was.

P.S. Sure is flipping hot down here!

## The last of Jean Toole's Church Notices

- The pastor would appreciate if the ladies of the congregation would lend him their electric girdles for the pancake breakfast next Sunday.
- Low Self Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7pm. Please use the back door.
- The eighth-graders will be presenting Shakespeare's Hamlet in the church basement Friday at 7pm. The congregation is invited to attend this tragedy.
- Weight Watchers will meet at 7pm at the Presbyterian Church. Please use large double door at the side entrance.
- The Associate Minister unveiled the church's new campaign slogan last Sunday: "I Upped My Pledge - Up Yours."

# KINGSDON VILLAGE SCHOOL

By Peter Crowter

Our old village school, it stood solid and proud  
Surrounded by swifts, flying fast, screaming loud.  
The rough stony playground with two big old trees  
Was not very friendly towards small boys knees.  
On guard in each corner the two copper beech  
Were 'owned' by the kids, boys and girls had one each.  
The teachers were strict with their no-climbing rule  
But this didn't count during time out of school.

I used to be known as a free outdoor lad,  
They sent me to school; I was terribly sad.  
And on my first day I just sat down and cried,  
My sister consoled me, well leastways she tried.  
Of course this was silly, my friends were there too,  
And I soon found out there were fun things to do.  
Brush paint on each other and ink pots to fill  
And then came the playtimes, much better still.

There were two lady teachers training our minds  
And if we were naughty might smack our behinds.  
But if t'was a girl would probably warn her  
Do that again and you'll stand in the corner.  
We learned all our tables and I'm pleased to say  
I still find them useful even to this day.  
We also made things we could take home to mum  
Like raffia baskets and things stuck with gum.

Some time in the morning our milk ration came  
But not in small bottles no, nothing so tame.  
A farmer came round with two pails on a yoke  
A smile for the teacher and maybe a joke.  
The milk would be poured into large china jugs  
Then Miss served our ration in colourful mugs.  
On cold winter mornings when north winds did blow  
The milk in a bucket on hot stove did go.

The lavvies were outside with nothing so plush  
As soft toilet tissue or even a flush.  
Things had to be emptied and so it was said  
A local allotment was really well fed.  
The part where the boys peed was minus a roof  
And therefore of course it was not waterproof.  
When mischievous boys grew sufficiently tall  
They sprinkled girls heads who were over the wall.

At last the time came that we had to move on  
The days at our small friendly school were all gone.  
Came that dreaded exam, we all had to sit  
And go to the big school they thought we would fit.  
My best friend and I had to go different ways  
Would this be the end of our long carefree days  
But we still had evenings and weekends as well  
And lots of new stories each other to tell.

I wondered if our school was thriving today  
I looked on it's website and I'm pleased to say  
They now have three teachers where we had just two  
And forty four pupils, we had twenty two.  
But now just in case it should come to some harm  
There stuck on the wall is a burglar alarm.  
There's grass in the playground but I cannot see  
Is there in each corner a copper beech tree?

## Who is Peter Crowter?

Peter Crowter was born in Brighton in 1935 but when war broke out his father joined the navy, got his commission and was posted to Yeovilton when Peter was 4 years old and that is how he came to live in Kingsdon. Peter writes:

We lived there from 1940 - 1954 with a 2 year break during the war when father was posted to Cheshire and then back to Sussex. After the war we loved Kingsdon so much we moved back.

We lived in rooms in 4 different houses. First with the Parkers at 32 until we moved to Cheshire. When we returned we stayed with the Threshes at the Post Office, then with Mrs. Thresh senior, then with Miss Chappell and finally rented our own house from Charlie Marrow till we bought a house in Yeovil in 1954.

Peter was sent a copy of issue No 9 of the Chronicle to which he replied: " Thank you for the Chronicle. I found it extremely interesting. I had been told about the death of Hubert Lampert. I knew him and especially his wife Sis, because I worked for her brother Leslie Attwell for 10 years from 1951-61.

The Lampert wagons and trailers were magnificent. I went on Sunday School treats in their horse drawn wagons and they were like Cutty Sark's of the farmlands - beautifully constructed. The 4-wheel trailer in the photo is very familiar from my Cooks Cary days.

Robin Attwell and his twin John were about 2 when I went to Cooks Cary to work and I don't think Andy was born. I see Sir Walter Jenner's name mentioned. Frank Attwell senior bought his old car - a rather splendid Morris 25.

I did not know Tom Harris had died, I worked with him at Cooks Cary, when I knew him he lived in your neck of the woods.

Another familiar name is Jenny Gamblin. I knew her and Barry and worked for her dad Percy once during a school summer holiday.

Tony Masters I know well. He and I both went to Yeovil Boys School, though he was a couple of years ahead of me.

I remember when Winslow Bassham was born. My Mum & Dad were a bit surprised at the name because of The Winslow Boy. (continued on page 5)

continued from page 4

Margaret Hill I am guessing is a daughter of David or Cecil.

I played for Kingsdon Cricket Club a few times but I'm afraid I don't recognise any names there. We used to play in a field below the manor field that belonged to Joe Hilborne.

I was sorry to read Kingsdon Manor School is closing and I certainly hope the Post Office and the school don't suffer the same fate.

Just after the war Kingsdon Manor was up for sale and empty and it was our playground. Many of the village children were friends of the Neal girls and we all had great fun not only in the grounds, but we had the run of the house as well.

When it became a school my father taught there for a while. I was interested to read about the 'Grey Lady' (I don't remember hearing her called that) My father, who did not really believe in ghosts, was walking up the manor drive late one night when he saw a lady walking down the flagstone path that runs alongside the kitchens. It was moonlight and he saw her clearly and said goodnight but she did not answer. When she got to the end of the path which leads nowhere she disappeared. He discovered later that at the end of the path there used to be a door leading into the building but it had been blocked off many years ago.

I was interested to read that the Good Friday walk is now such an organised event.. We always walked to Kingsdon Woods on Good Friday but not as an organised group.

Thanks again for a very interesting read, it brought back lots of memories and good luck with the P.O. and the school."

Peter has always been a prolific writer of poems, plays, stories and articles. He had a weekly column in the Dorset Evening Echo.

In the late 70's and early 80's he had three of his plays produced for Radio 4's "Thirty Minute Theatre". These were:-

"Down the Bristol Channel" - a telling tale of West Country folk.

"The Sweet Smell of Success" - a West Country farmer finds a new use for his pig muck.

"John Peel and the Old Devil" - a country shoot has a tricky dilemma on its hands when the main guest is a Master of Fox Hounds.

### **BEFORE/AFTER SCHOOL CHILD-CARE IN KINGSDON**

**For 2 very well behaved boys (6 and 4)  
Mondays and Tuesdays  
From September 2008  
Within the village, to/from Kingsdon CofE Primary  
School**

**Interested??  
Please call Juliet on 07810 826769**

### **Kingsdon Ladies Club**

Lynne Davies welcomed 16 members to the May meeting. Members were reminded of the Quiz night on Friday 16th and the meeting at the village primary school on Wednesday 21st May. Stella Thompson was now home after her fall and flowers had been sent. The speaker for the evening, Mickey Fitzpatrick titled her talk '9 - 5 No Thank You'. She told a very amusing story of her life, married to a musician

and travelling a great deal, home and abroad, never staying in one place for very long. She had many jobs from being a Blue Coat at Pontins to selling shoes. Looking very glamorous and a good actress she kept everyone well amused.

Lynne gave the vote of thanks. Refreshments were provided by Ann Leahy and Edna Gordon.

At the June meeting the guest speaker will be Janet Dale from Glenda Spooner Farm who will talk on Horse Rescue Work.

Anyone who would like to join the Ladies Club or come as a visitor will be very much welcome.

Meetings take place on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

### **Kingsdon Inn - Staff wanted**

The Kingsdon Inn has vacancies for the following positions:-  
Washer-up, Waiting Staff and Bar Staff..

For more details phone Algy at The Kingsdon Inn. Tel 01935 840543  
Can you smile? then come and join the happy friendly team at the Kingsdon Inn.

## The Kingsdon Inn

I have been asked by Linda to thank everyone for the support given to Martin and herself during their year managing the Kingsdon Inn. It is with much regret that they are moving up to Cheshire due to Martin 'overdoing it'. Linda did carry on for a while but it was not to be and despite the assistance from Algy, her 'right hand man' and chief cider taster, it was a sad day for her when she handed over the reins to him. Linda and Martin wish Algy all good luck in his new post.



**WorldHorseWelfare**

*the new name for the ILPH*

### Glenda Spooner Farm at Kingsdon 'World Horse Welfare' to be the new name for the International League for the Protection of Horses (ILPH)

#### Publication of a 'Roadmap' for World Horse Welfare

The International League for the Protection of Horses (ILPH) has announced that it has changed its name to World Horse Welfare.

It had long been felt by many that the name 'International League for the Protection of Horses' or 'ILPH' no longer sufficiently reflects the breadth and depth of the charity's activities and its desire to focus its efforts on the root causes, as well as the effects, of horse cruelty. In addition, it was felt that the word 'League' was outdated, that the name was cumbersome and that it needs to be clearer and sharper to engage with new and wider audiences. The decision followed a strategic review and a year long consultation with the charity's supporters and staff. The Trustees have unanimously agreed the change.

The charity's vision of 'A world where the horse is used but never abused' remains at the heart of its philosophy, which is reflected in today's publication of a charity roadmap that affirms the strategic framework for its three areas of activity: UK Welfare, Campaigns and International Training.

The roadmap is founded on the achievements of the ILPH over the past 81 years; it seeks to build on these successes, but acknowledges the path the charity has increasingly been taking in recent years, and where it intends to go over the next decade. In practice this means:

For UK Welfare:

Establishing a way to define the major causes of horse welfare abuse in the UK and to propose practical solutions.

- Focusing on education as a means to tackle the known major causes of horse welfare problems, such as horse obesity.
- Maintaining the charity's position as the premier organisation for the recovery, rehabilitation and re-homing of horses, through its network of Field Officers, and Recovery and Rehabilitation Centres.

For International Training:

- Developing a more regional outlook to the charity's training projects, like its current focus on Central America and Southern Africa, to enable it to maximise the use of native trainers on all its courses.
- Establishing a network of affiliates in all countries where it works, to ensure it has a practical link to these countries after it has moved on.
- Expanding its projects to include associated skills to make a lasting difference, such as business training.

For Campaigning:

- Completing a job that was the charity's founding campaign, namely the abolition of long distance transportation of horses for slaughter in Europe
- Integrating Campaigns further into its UK Welfare and International Training Operations, in order to provide comprehensive solutions for the challenges to horse welfare; as is happening with the charity's current project in Romania
- Campaigning to change policy, practice and attitudes to promote the charity's vision for a world where horses are used but never abused.

The new name, and the over-arching roadmap, is a step change in the life of the charity; it develops the charity's outlook from an organisation that was once primarily focused around the 'protection' of the individual horse to one that supports the 'welfare' of the many.

## Church Notices for June

1st	11am	Family Service
8th	11am	Eucharist
15th	11am	Eucharist
	6pm	Evensong
22nd	11am	Eucharist
29th	11am	Eucharist

### Brass Cleaning

Freda Curtis

### Flowers

Sue Mackay & Kate Quinlan

## Kingsdon Church Fete & Car Boot Sale

As you can see by the poster, Norma will be hard at it with her band of ladies supplying wonderful cream teas and hot dogs will be available for the hungry Car Booters. ( if you would like to do a car-boot, please contact David on 840795 for availability and price.) We will have a display of Tai Kwon Do, presented to us by the

Somerton club, also Kingsdon Primary School have agreed to come with their 'Band' to unveil the children's skills in their sphere of music.



World Horse Welfare (formerly ILPF) at Glenda Spooner Farm have again promised their presence and all being well, will have with them as special guest 'Arnie'

There are numerous other stalls of interest and we also have a professional face painter!! Details of stall holders will be distributed nearer the time, please give generously and come and support us in the beautiful grounds of Kingsdon Manor School.

*Sally Clapperton*

## Kingsdon Seniors Club

The May meeting of the Seniors Club was held on May 14 at the Village Hall. 24 members attended. Sir Donald Limon took the meeting. He told us that the outing to Castle Drago had been arranged for a Tuesday, but he had since discovered that the Castle was closed on Tuesdays, so it was now altered to Wednesday June 25 instead. Sir Donald then introduced the Guest Speaker , Mr Richard Kay from Lawrences of Crewkerne, who spoke on the subject of art and pictures. We were told that we were to have a little test as an adjunct to the talk. Mr Kay then showed us 20 pictures by different artists, some watercolours and some oils. He gave us some information about the artists , and asked us to guess how much they would fetch at auction. It is not recommended to have pictures cleaned or restored , if you were wanting to sell , as you would not get your money back. One of the pictures was by Aubrey Beardsley; this was an original in the form of an invitation to the Opening of the Golf Club in Mitcham in 1894, which was very exciting for Lawrences to have in their auction. A picture by Loius Wain was of a cat, a subject which he painted continually, but sadly he had a mental problem and thought he was a cat, and so ended his days in an asylum. We were shown a picture signed John Constable, but it was not an original and it was not by John Constable, although it had earlier been thought to be. We were then given the results of the test on the values of the pictures, and were very surprised at the high prices suggested. Frank Wilson won the competition with the score or 7 out of 20.

Richard Kay then discussed the pictures that members had brought along. We were warned not to expect to make a profit out of selling pictures , as after they do not increase in value as they get older. We all learnt a great deal about these pictures, some were considered to be originals and were of some value, but some of the others were not worth very much. But if you like a picture to look at, then do keep it in your home, We had all been fascinated by the talk and Richard Kay's enthusiasm, which came over very strongly. Donald thanked him for an extremely interesting talk. Tea was provided by Jean Frost and Peggy Cypryp.at the end of a pleasant afternoon. *Yvonne Barbor*

# Kingsdon Church Fete Car Boot Sale

Saturday 14th June 1pm - 4pm  
at

## Kingsdon Manor School

Entrance via school playground - follow the signs

Hot  
Dogs

Face  
Painting

Cakes

Bottle Stall

Plant  
Sale

Books

Games

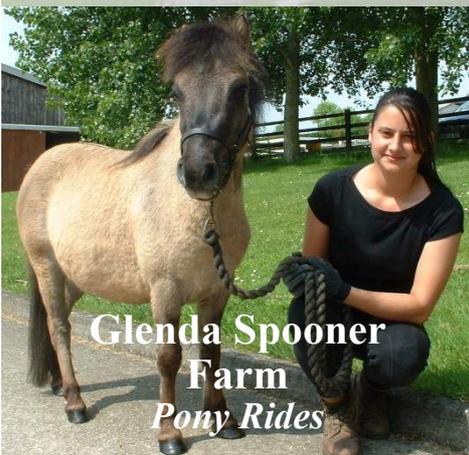
Tae Kwon Do  
Display

School Band

Unwanted Gifts

Raffle

Cream Teas



Glenda Spooner  
Farm  
Pony Rides

More Information from Sally 841140 or Babs 841811

## Kingsdon Parish Council

### Planning meeting 1st May

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.

Matters arising:

**Street Signs:** Councillor Leahy showed the meeting the possible street signs that are available for the village. The cheapest signs that the District Council would fund are plastic at £50 each. The aluminium signs start at £79.50, the difference would have to be funded by the parish. It was agreed to have a village referendum and a viewing of the types of signs available.

**Kingsdon Manor Playhouse:** An offer to the council from Kingsdon Manor School / Bristol City Council for the playhouse that was erected a couple of years ago at a cost of £6,000 at the school has been examined and financial implications assessed. Councillor Clode said the cost of moving the playhouse from the Manor to the village field would cost in the region of £4,000 with a further £2,000 for a rubber base. An inspection would cost £150 with a further £200 p.a. required. H & S had inspected the playhouse and had some concerns with its design. The council unanimously rejected the kind offer from the Manor School.

**Application for four dormer windows at Langlands Farm:** After discussion and listening to views of parishioners the response is as follows. Kingsdon Parish Council rejected the application on the grounds that 1) The introduction of four dormer windows with associated guttering and rain water pipes to accommodate windows that break through the eaves does not reflect the industrial heritage of the building. 2) The style of the proposed windows does not conform with the Kingsdon Design Statement. 3) the large arched window, approximately 4 metres high on the adjoining gable end of this building is not existing and is unacceptable since it invades the neighbours' privacy.

Please Note Councillors are concerned that certain features on the plans are declared **EXISTING** when in fact they are not. They expect plans submitted for planning application to be accurate and not misleading in any way and are rather surprised they have got past your scrutiny.

**Parking in Top Street** The unfortunate obstruction of the bus service by vehicles parking in Top Street by persons attending funerals and weddings is being addressed by the P.C.C. with the acquisition of 'No Waiting' cones.

### Annual General Meeting 8th May

**Present:** Tony Masters, Richard Hollaway, Adrian Balhetchet, Mel Clode, Brian Turner & Patrick Leahy.  
Apologies from David Morris.

The following councillors were elected / agreed to responsibilities:

Chairman - Tony Masters  
Vice-chairman - David Morris  
Village Hall - Richard Hollaway  
School Governor - Mike Overd  
Footpaths - David Morris  
Trees - Brian Turner

The accounts were presented and approved.

Dates for Parish Council meetings:- 10th July, 11th September, 13th November, 8th January (2009) 12th March  
9th April (Parish AGM) 14th May (AGM)

Councillor Balhetchet announced that he would be standing down from the council as from 10th July due to working away.

Design Statement: has been inspected by the planning office. Approval for the statement is not required.  
10 copies to be purchased for the council and a CD copy.

### Planning Meeting 22nd May

Present: Tony Masters, Richard Hollaway, Patrick Leahy, David Morris, Mel Clode & Adrian Balhetchet  
Apologies: Brian Turner

Minutes of the previous planning meeting were read and agreed.

Matters Arising: No decision on Langlands Farm by Planning. Street signs - legal advice to be sought. KMS Playhouse - Council would prefer cash for future children's project. Parking - Police Ok'd use of 'No Waiting' signs. Council to pay £126.48 for a dozen signs at next meeting

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Planning Application 08/01915/FUL 21 April 2008 Springfield House Brincil Hill Kingsdon Somerton Somerset TA11 7LA

Proposal: Demolition of existing garage/ancillary building and the erection of a replacement garage/covered parking building incorporating swimming pool, plant room and the formation of a swimming pool (GR 351235 / 125726)

After considerable discussion and views from parishioners the proposal was recommended with a proviso that the wall in front of the courtyard was not to be built, voting was 3 - 2

### Mike Overd competes in the Tour of Wessex

Just to let the Chronicle know that I completed Stage 1 of The Tour of Wessex last Saturday. Around 800 riders left from Ansford and followed the 95 mile route through Bruton, up Alfred's Tower Hill, around Stourhead, back through Bruton and Shepton Mallet, up the Old Bristol Road from Wells, over the Mendips, back up Burrington Coombe, down Cheddar Gorge and back across the Moors. All with a 25 mph head wind. Phew. I did it in a little over six and a half hours and definitely wasn't last given that there were riders finishing 2 hours after me. The photo is the best Jane could manage because I was going up Burrington Coombe so fast (in my dreams). Thanks to every who sent their good luck messages. *Mike Overd*

### THE NATIONAL TRUST Lytes Cary Manor events in June

15th June (Fathers Day)

11am - 4pm

#### Croquet Day

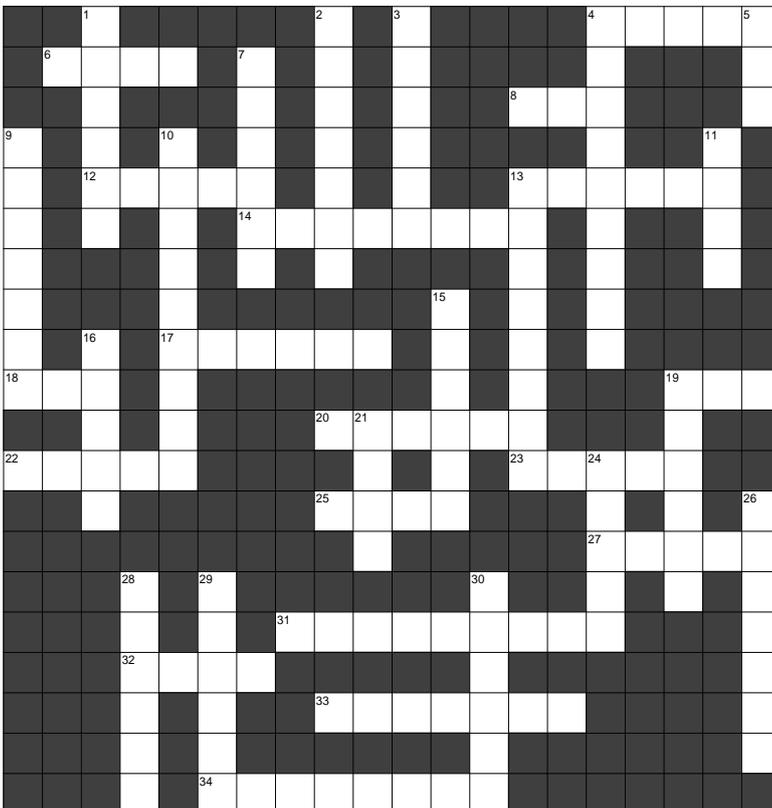
Enjoy the noble but ruthless family game of croquet.  
Expert tuition provided.



### John Barker's Crossword No.3

#### Across

- 4. A sleeveless Arab Garment (5)
- 6. A clever saying (4)
- 8. Tall conical cap (3)
- 12. Bitterly pungent (5)
- 13. Lozenge to sweeten the breath (6)
- 14. In the open air (8)
- 17. A seabird (6)
- 18. Vineyard of Quality (3)
- 19. Vessel holding consecrated bread (3)
- 20. Caper excitedly (6)
- 22. Capital of Tibet (5)
- 23. Choose by vote (5)
- 25. World's longest river (4)
- 27. Habitual residence (5)
- 31. World's largest island (9)
- 32. An Indian 4 stringed instrument (4)
- 33. Wading bird of the Heron family (7)
- 34. An animal that chews the cud (8)



#### Down

- 1. Capital of Alaska (6)
- 2. A leguminous plant (7)
- 3. A rich shellfish soup (6)
- 4. A state of misery (9)
- 5. Marine diving bird (3)
- 7. Like a tail (6)
- 9. Temporary camp shelter (7)
- 10. Woman giving birth for the first time (9)
- 11. Lump of chewing baccy (4)
- 13. Bend or fuse together (8)
- 15. Deep red garnet (6)
- 16. Relating to the ear (5)
- 19. Non venomous snake (6)
- 21. Largest continent (4)
- 24. The largest antelope (5)
- 26. Wind borne (7)
- 28. Strict or rigorous in attitude (6)
- 29. A large vulture (6)
- 30. Watch chain with a bar at one end (6)

Answers on page 12

The order of things..... "The only place success comes before work is in the dictionary."

## **Bristol City Council's Consultation on the Disposal of Kingsdon Manor School Playing Field**

As you may be aware, Bristol City Council is preparing to close and sell off Kingsdon Manor School. This includes the playing field. To do this they require permission from the Department for Children, Schools and Families. As part of the formal process, interested parties have the opportunity to make comments on the disposal of the playing field.

When I met with an officer from Bristol City Council back in April he told me that the field was of little value as nothing could be built on it. Since then it has become clear that there would be an attempt change the status of the playing field. On 11th May I had a conversation with our M.P. David Heath, who told me that those responsible for the sale of the property including the playing field would be in neglect of their duty if they did not do their utmost to obtain maximum financial gain for the Council, this would obviously include an attempt to change the use for development. The chances of this happening are not for me to comment on, no doubt other will in due course have their say.

A joint representation document on behalf of Kingsdon Parish Council and other interested parties is in the process of being formulated as an official response for the consultation process. If you would like to have your comments included in the document please forward them to the Chronicle. We have identified various uses the playing field has had over the years: Cricket, Football, Rugby, Golf, Camping by various organisations, Fetes, Wedding Marquees. Etc. If you can think of anything I have missed out I would love to hear from you.

For your information the following is an extract from the South Somerset District Council's Local Plan Objectives and adopted policy: *ed*.

### **LOCAL PLAN OBJECTIVES**

11.4 The Local Plan has the following objectives in respect of recreation:

1. To enable the provision of new recreation facilities and opportunities across the District through the inclusion of enabling policies which: a) Support the provision of such facilities, and b) set standards for the provision of both formal and informal recreation/open space for new developments of substantial scale.
2. To protect existing recreation facilities, both formal and informal.
3. To improve on existing opportunities for access to the countryside, including the selective development of footpaths, bridleways and the creation of recreation routes.
4. To promote and enable access to facilities and the countryside for people with disabilities.

To enable the development of varied recreation uses in the countryside in a manner sensitive to the needs of the environment and other users.

### **POLICIES**

#### Existing Playing Fields/Recreation Areas

11.5 Existing outdoor playing space, recreation fields and recreation areas are an important community resource which the Local Plan seeks to safeguard in accordance with PPG17 (Sport and Recreation).

#### Policy CR1

Development which would result in the loss of playing fields will only be permitted where:

Sports and recreation facilities can best be retained and enhanced through the redevelopment of a small part of the site;

Alternative provision of equivalent community benefit is made available;

There is an excess of sports pitch provision and public open space in the area, taking account of the recreation and amenity value of such provision.

11.6. 1 In accordance with legislation, the District Council will consult Sport England as statutory consultees on any application which:

- a) Is likely to prejudice the use, or lead to the loss of use, of land being used as a playing field,
- b) Is on land which has been:
  - i) Used as a playing field in any time in the five years before the application and which remains undeveloped,
  - ii) Allocated for use in as a playing field in a development plan or in proposals for such a plan or its alteration or replacement,
  - iii) Involves the replacement of the surface of a grass playing pitch with a synthetic turf pitch.

11.7 For the purposes of consultation, a playing field is defined as the whole of a site which encompasses at least one playing pitch which in turn is defined as 0.4 hectares (the recommended size of a junior playing pitch).

11.8 As explained in the chapter on the Historic and Built Environment, recreation areas can also serve an important visual role in towns and villages and many recreation areas are also designated as "No Development Areas". As such they receive additional protection from development under Policy EH10, paragraph 4.31

## Answers to Crossword

### Across

- |              |               |
|--------------|---------------|
| 4. Abaya     | 20. Cavort    |
| 6. Quip      | 22. Lhasa     |
| 8. Taj       | 23. Elect     |
| 12. Acrid    | 25. Nile      |
| 13. Cachou   | 27. Abode     |
| 14. Alfresco | 31. Greenland |
| 17. Petrel   | 32. Vina      |
| 18. Cru      | 33. Bittern   |
| 19. Pyx      | 34. Ruminant  |

### Down

- |               |              |
|---------------|--------------|
| 1. Juneau     | 13. Conflate |
| 2. Alfalfa    | 15. Pyrope   |
| 3. Bisque     | 16. Aural    |
| 4. Abjection  | 19. Python   |
| 5. Auk        | 21. Asia     |
| 7. Caudal     | 24. Eland    |
| 9. Bivouac    | 26. Aeolian  |
| 10. Primipara | 28. Severe   |
| 11. Quid      | 29. Condor   |
|               | 30. Albert   |

## A Letter from Parish Councillor Patrick Leahy

Before I became a parish councillor I used to think that I lived in a quiet, almost bucolic village. Nothing much happened and the world passed by on the roads around us. Then, I joined the Parish Council. My, my! How my view has changed since then. To say that we live in changing times could not be truer. In the last nine months the village has very much been standing on the cusp of some enormous adjustments for us all.

First in September came the news that Kingsdon Manor School may close by 31st August 2008. This was a shock to us all as it had recently been highly rated during its inspection. There was further concern raised by the number of jobs that would be lost to the village, and the impact that that would have upon those involved. The Parish Council contacted the leader of Bristol Council regarding the lack of consultation and the impact the closure would have upon us. It has made little difference, of course, to the outcome. Bristol Council has its financial concerns, as indeed we have our own. We will all be sorry to see the school close, but must now look to the future of the buildings and grounds.

You will all have received a letter from Bristol Council regarding the disposal of the Kingsdon Manor School site. They have indicated that they would like everybody's comments regarding the sports field, as indicated on their map. We have used the site for village and school events and as the Cricket Club pitch for many years. Under the forward plans that SSDC have formulated, there is provision for playing fields to be kept and enhanced. We need to, all of us, make our views known and need you all to fill in the form to forward to Bristol. The Parish Council will have a co-ordinated view with those concerned with the loss of these facilities and will make representations to Bristol.

It is, of course, incumbent on Bristol Council to sell the whole site for maximum gain to their council tax payers, so there will almost certainly be an attempt at plans with a change of use for development put forward by them. This would be the least that we could expect. Again under the SSDC future review, Kingsdon is not expected to change its building line and this site is currently outside of the development area. According to the review we will have what may be termed organic growth – basically infill. The review is available at [southsomerset.gov.uk](http://southsomerset.gov.uk)

Remember that the school will not close until 31st August 2008. We cannot be complacent in our views of likely scenarios for the site, and will be constantly reviewing all avenues open to us as a parish council.

Next in February, came the most unwelcome news of the consultation on closure of the Post Office. As you will know, we are all still awaiting the outcome. Perhaps the recent news about the Government report on the Post Office privatisation and competition may yet course a change minds on the part of those who lead us. At least we should be proud of the fact that over 100 people attended the two meetings held at the village hall, with Annunziata Rees-Mogg the prospective Conservative candidate for the area, and our MP David Heath. We as a council, and I am sure all who attended, were very grateful for their support and efforts on our behalf.

Two days later, we heard more unwelcome news, namely that Kingsdon Primary School is also going to undergo a review and consultation by SCC. We attended the County Council meeting along with the chair of governors and headmistress. At the same time, your editor had been approached to do interviews by the BBC for local radio and The Politics Show on television. Since he was unavailable, I stepped in, and we all hoped that what came from it may have helped in some way. We certainly generated some publicity for what was transpiring here.

As you will all have received a questionnaire from SCC regarding your views of the school, perhaps now is the time to remind you that we need your support to convince SCC to keep our school alive. We need to remind them that it very much plays a major part in our community – it brings and keeps young life here – the future. We should all be the poorer without it and the children. So let me remind you to return that questionnaire. Your views really can be life or death to the school. Let's all pull together and ensure that it has a bright and long life ahead of it. Don't forget the meeting to air your views on 21st May from 7 – 9 pm. You have up to the 6th June to complete the form. Again, the more that attend the stronger the message to SCC.

One of the things that cause parishioners major concern is planning, and the issues that it raises. Mostly I suppose "if I need planning consent, why doesn't he need it". We, as a council, take these issues seriously – you wouldn't be happy if we didn't. If necessary, we take these cases to our district planning officers. Life would be very easy if everybody followed the rules but, of course, we all don't, all of the time! You maybe

interested to know that we currently have a major development under consideration at Glenda Spooner Farm on Brincil Hill. The property was purchased in 2006 by the ILHP, a charity, and they wish to develop the site to include a visitor centre. This will also involve new entrances to the site and the widening of Brincil Hill from the A372 – Langport Road, to their existing entrance. The project will expand their present building footprint from about 2500 square metres to approximately 7300 square metres. A new arena will cover approximately 3000 square metres. The plans are currently in abeyance whilst the Environment Agency reviews possible flood risks and produces an assessment.

The ILPH also plans to use the facilities for events. According to their traffic review based on averages, they intend to increase vehicular access from approximately 30 cars per day on the site to over 100. On their annual open day they expect 1000 vehicles to arrive within a 2 hour period. Viewing their website for Snetterton, Norfolk, another of their properties, they show approximately 150 events and open days over a seven month period. So it would be fair to say that this would have a major impact on our village with existing traffic patterns. Since there is already a review of the A372 and B3151 this will have an overview upon traffic management for Red Post and the junctions of Brincil Hill/Rocky Hill/A372 Langport Road.

If you wish to see the plans for this project they are, of course, always available to view via Tony Masters, the Chair of the Parish Council or through the SSDC website at southsomerset.gov.uk

Kingsdon PCC has recently been approached by the Parish Council to review the parking on Top Street, particularly during weddings and funerals. Recently there was a problem which caused a 25 minute delay to the 377 bus through the village. Naturally everybody wishes to preserve our public transport but does not wish to interrupt solemn services with requests to move cars to allow free flow of traffic. The PCC agreed that there was a problem and hopefully it is now resolved with the use of traffic cones placed to prevent cars blocking the thoroughfare. So everybody is now happy.

Whilst on the subject, it would also help traffic flow if we could all try to keep our cars off the front of Kingsdon Post Office between 5 to the hour and 5 past the hour. The buses need room to get through the village and, of course, this little bit of it is a pinch point.

Last but not least, the Parish Council was approached by SSDC regarding street name plates, after a complaint by one of the emergency services. They complained of difficulty finding addresses even with the aid of satnav equipment. We had a meeting here in Kingsdon with two representatives of SSDC engineering and Property Services. They have a statutory duty to provide name plates but commented that they would take note of our views if, as a village, we decided not to have them. They propose 24 signs to be erected and have provided a map indicating where they would be sited. As you will have read in the Kingsdon Chronicle recently, there are different views as to the necessity of these signs and many feel that the emergency services have not had too many problems in the recent past. The Parish Council have decided that we need a referendum on the issue. We feel that it is not correct for us alone to make a decision. We are told by SSDC that if the populace vote to decline the name plates, that will absolve them and the Parish Council from any litigation arising from delay to the emergency services. It will be for everyone to come to their own decision. We will hold an exhibition of the plates on offer to us at the village hall on a Saturday in June (yet to be decided). We will also show you the map for placement of them. If you decide you want them, you will also get the chance to vote for the style that you would like. The plates must be erected on plastic posts provided, and cannot be attached to walls or buildings, so are stand alone items. The standard signs are made of recycled plastic and are green and white.

As a note, we have in the Kingsdon Village Statement made a point of reducing unnecessary street signage, to remain in keeping with the original estate village character of Kingsdon. You will have to decide all the issues for yourselves. *Patrick Leahy*

## Late News

### Brass Lessons in Kingsdon

Are you interested in learning to play a brass instrument,  
Trumpet, Trombone, French Horn & Tuba in Kingsdon.  
If so contact Keith Thomas at No 35 Kingsdon  
or phone 01935 840555



## KINGSDON MAN HONOURED

Well known resident Martin Singleton has been elected and installed as President of Somerton Probus Club for 2008-9 at the Club's Annual meeting held at the Unicorn Hotel in Somerton recently. He is currently also the Club's Outings Secretary too.



Martin follows in the footsteps of Michael Frost of Lytes Cary who was President in 2000-1 and also held the post of Outings Secretary for 9 years.

The Club currently has 40 members nearly reaching its capacity, and meets monthly at the Unicorn Hotel for lunch and a Speaker. They also have Outings and occasional functions which their wives can attend.

Probus is a thriving organisation promoted to create friendship for retired Professional and Businessmen, with Clubs throughout the UK and abroad.

*Michael Frost*

## Kingsdon Medical News

It has been a busy time for the ambulance service in Kingsdon this month. An elderly customer at the Kingsdon Inn, before entering pointed out to his son, the sign warning of the steps, he then entered the Inn and promptly fell down the steps, splitting his head open. Fearing he may have a spinal injury the crew of the first ambulance called a for a specialist unit, which also attended. Later that day Algy received a call from the injured man's son that all was well and he did not have anything more serious than a cut.

Last Saturday Muriel Pring was rushed into Yeovil District Hospital suffering with a perforated duodenal ulcer and peritonitis. I am informed she is making progress, if what slowly. Despite having tubes everywhere she was able to sit up for while on Wednesday. She remains however in the intensive care unit but is off the respirator. I know I speak for everyone in wishing her a speedy recovery.

It was nice to hear from Freda Curtis, another Kingsdon casualty. Freda tripped in Frog Lane 10 days ago fracturing her left shoulder. The surgeons in Yeovil have done their work and Freda came home last Sunday, along with Margaret Close who had also been in for a couple of days for a blood transfusion.

It also nice to hear that Stella Thompson, after her fall is now well enough to spend some time in her garden.

Another resident who was taken in to YDH last Tuesday is Barbara Clode, we wish her a speedy recovery from her bout of pneumonia.

It was nice to hear Pat Green was now out of Hospital, but is still having to go back visiting Tony! I know we all wish them both a Hospital free time a.s.a.p.

# The Kingsdon Chronicle

## Kingsdon Post Office to Close

It has been announced today, Thursday 29th May, that our Post Office here in Kingsdon is to be closed. This news confirms what we suspected from the start: that the Post Office consultation was a complete farce and the Post Office had no intention of listening to what local people had to say and was nothing more than lip service.

None of the branches earmarked for closure in south and east Somerset have been reprieved. Post Offices in Bayford, Bower Hinton, Holcombe, Keinton Mandeville, Sparkford and Yeovilton will all suffer the same fate as Kingsdon.

It is my belief that we in Kingsdon did all that was humanly possible in our attempts to persuade the Post Office Ltd to reprieve our Post Office, but we were obviously banging our heads against a brick wall. I endeavour to remain non political with all issues I write on for the Chronicle, it has stood out very clearly however that one political party has been very conspicuous by its absence in all attempts, both here in Kingsdon and other villages in the area, to save our Post Offices. *Ed.*

The following comments were made this morning on the sad news:-

**Richard Kersley:** “It is no more than I expected, when the government said we were to go, then we knew they would close us. I will keep the shop going as long as we can make a go of it, as long as it holds it own then we will try to provide a service.”

**Angela Saunders:** “ Whilst the news was to be expected, I still feel devastated. It is so sad that after all the effort put in by so many it has been to no avail. On behalf of Richard and Angela I would like to thank all those who were involved in organising the community consultation document that was sent to the consultation team and everyone else who sent individual responses.

**Angela Attwell:** “Oh \*\*\*\* I have worked here for over 18 years, we went through the motions but I think we already knew the outcome”.

**Nicholas Allan:** “This is a really sad day for the village”.

**Barry Gamblin:** “ I think it’s terrible, another loss to the community”.

**Tony Masters:** “I have lived in the village for 70 years, this is the saddest day for the community I can recall. We did all we could”

**Mary Whitehead :** “ I am devastated, it is going to be a great loss, its going to be really inconvenient having to go out of the village to pay my bills etc.”

**Beth Waller:** “ I think it is all wrong, it will make it a dying village”

Full details of the decisions and the issues raised during local public consultation are available by visiting [www.postoffice.co.uk/networkchange](http://www.postoffice.co.uk/networkchange) or by writing to Post Office Ltd at Freepost Consultation Team (no stamp needed) or by emailing [consultation@postoffice.co.uk](mailto:consultation@postoffice.co.uk)

**Our new reporter at the Western Gazette, Sam Forrester would like as many residents as possible to meet him at Kingsdon Post Office on Friday 30th May at 3pm.**

