

The Kingsdon Chronicle

Issue No. 16

24th November 2008

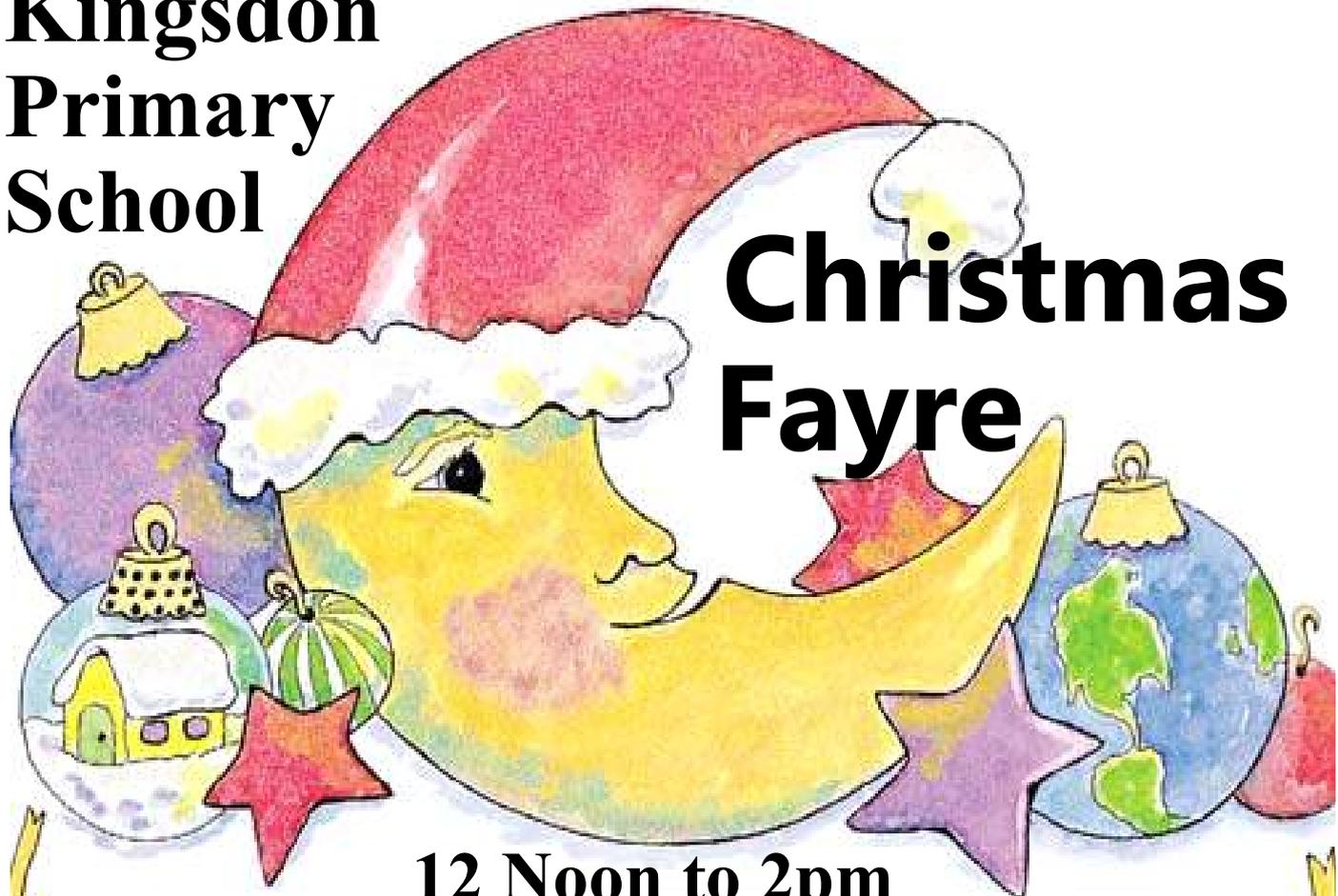


Sunset taken from Lytes Cary towards Kingsdon Hill - with the trees at the reservoir on the skyline.
Photograph by Michael Frost (Black & White does not do this picture justice)

Christmas Greetings in the Chronicle

If you would like to place a Christmas Greeting in the Chronicle instead of sending out local cards, thereby helping to save unnecessary waste of card and paper, then please send your message with your own design if preferred or we can design one for you. Please phone you message if you like. Over the last few years people also gave to their favourite charity the money saved by using this service.
Greetings will appear in our Christmas special which will be delivered on 22nd December.

**Kingsdon
Primary
School**



**Christmas
Fayre**

**12 Noon to 2pm
Saturday 6th December
Kingsdon Village Hall**

STALL

Christmas Raffle
Tickets now on sale at Kingsdon Stores
Many prizes including Christmas hampers.
The draw will be on the night of the School
Christmas play on the 12 December .

**Notelets
designed by the
children for sale**

REFRESH-

Money can't buy happiness but it keeps the kids in touch!

Kingsdon Primary School
present
A Christmas Play
Friday 12th December
at 6pm in the Village Hall



Carols around the Christmas Tree
in the School Playground
5.30pm on Monday
15th December

Christmas Service

at

All Saints Church, Kingsdon
19th December at 2pm

A pregnant woman gets into a car accident and falls into a deep coma. - Asleep for nearly six months, she wakes up and sees that she is no longer pregnant. Frantically, she asks the doctor about her baby.

The doctor replies, "Ma'am, you had twins! A boy and a girl. The babies are fine. Your brother came in and named them."

The woman thinks to herself, "Oh no, not my brother -- he's an idiot!" Expecting the worst, she asks the doctor, "Well, what's the girl's name?"

"Denise," the doctor says.

The new mother thinks, "Wow, that's not a bad name! Guess I was wrong about my brother. I like Denise!" Then she asks the doctor, "What's the boy's name?" The doctor replies, DeNephew.

A young boy asks his dad, "dad where does 'POO' come from?"

Dad answers, "Food passes down your oesophagus to your stomach where digestive enzymes induce a probiotic reaction in the alimentary canal to extract protein before waste products descend via the colon and through the rectum to emerge as Poo".

"Blimey" says the kid.

"So where the hell does Tigger come fro?"

THE COMPUTER SWALLOWED GRANDMA

The computer swallowed grandma.

Yes, honestly it's true!

She pressed 'control' and 'enter'
And disappeared from view.

It devoured her completely,
The thought just makes me squirm.
She must have caught a virus
Or been eaten by a worm.

I've searched through the recycle bin
And files of every kind;
I've even used the Internet,
But nothing did I find.

In desperation, I asked Jeeves
My searches to refine.
The reply from him was negative,
Not a thing was found 'online.'

So, if inside your 'Inbox,'
My Grandma you should see,
Please 'Copy, 'Scan' and 'Paste' her
And send her back to me.

This is a tribute to all the Grandmas who
have been fearless and learned
to use the Computer.....

We do not stop playing because we grow old;
We grow old because we stop playing .
NEVER Be The First To Get Old

A rather old fashioned lady, always quite delicate and elegant, especially in her language, was planning a weeks holiday in Sydney with her husband, so she wrote to a particular camping ground and asked for a reservation.

She wanted to make sure that the camping ground was fully equipped, but didn't know quite how to ask about the toilet facilities. She just couldn't bring herself to write the word "toilet" in her letter.

After much thought, she finally came up with the old fashioned term "Bathroom closet" but when she wrote it down, she still thought she was being too forward, so she started all over again, rewrote the letter, and referred to the bathroom closet as the B.C.

"Does the camping ground have it's own B.C." is what she wrote.

Well, the camping ground owner wasn't a bit old fashioned, and he just couldn't figure out what the old lady was talking about, so he showed the letter around a few of the campers and the only thing they could come up with was that B.C. stood for Baptist Church, so he wrote the following reply.

Dear Madam,

I regret very much the delay in answering your letter, but I now take the pleasure of informing you that a B.C. is located nine miles north of our camping ground, and is capable of seating 250 people at one time.

I admit that it is quite a distance away if you are in the habit of going regularly but no doubt you will be pleased to know that a great number of campers go there and many take their lunches along and make a day of it. They usually arrive nice and early and stay quite late.

The last time my wife and I went was six years ago, and it was so crowded we had to stand up the whole time we were there. It may interest you to know that there is a special supper planned there to raise money to buy more seats so that everyone will be able to sit in comfort.

I would like to say that it pains me very much not to be able to go more regularly, but it is surely no lack of desire on my part, just that I am so busy most of the time.

As we grow older, it seems to be more of an effort to go, especially in the cold weather. If you decide to come down to our camping ground perhaps I could go with you the first time you go, sit with you and introduce you to all the other folks.

Remember this is a very friendly community

VISION AID OVERSEAS COFFEE MORNING

A HUGE thank you to all who supported the fundraiser for VAO on Saturday 1st November. Despite the bitterly cold weather, a record number of people turned out to enjoy a hot cuppa, bought books, home made preserves, cakes, Christmas cards and plants and then had a flutter on the raffle. Thanks must go to Andy for the dozen fruit cakes he donated and to all who gave raffle prizes and brought books. Many thanks also to Linda and Jill for helping (again) and a special thank you to Ben for sorting all the books and standing out in the freezing cold for two hours while we sat in the warm! We made just over £300 - a fantastic result. These are some of the ways your money will be spent:- £3 could pay for an eye test and a pair of spectacles for a child in Ethiopia. £10 could pay for five pairs of spectacles to be glazed in Sierra Leone. £21 could pay for an hour's training of an optical worker in Zambia. £130 could pay for an entire day of sight testing in Ghana

I'm going to put away my preserving pan until after Christmas but then it will be business as usual so I look forward to seeing you all again next year. Thank you again.

Nina Carlisle

TAKE ART AT KINGSDON VILLAGE HALL

THURSDAY 29TH JANUARY 2009 at 7.30PM

'Song Roads'

Reg Meuross & Jackie Oates

A really cracking gig.. with a rising young folk star. Reg is a rural touring veteran and has been delighting audiences for years, nationally and internationally. His albums have won him awards and acclaim all over the world for his voice and writing. Jackie is a 2008 BBC Folk Awards Finalist - singer and fiddler - considered one of the finest singers and musicians on the current folk scene, together they promise a magical evening.

Tickets available in January from Martin Singleton 01935-841162 or Ann Leahy 01935-840502 but please feel free to register your interest before then. Adults £7 - Concessions and Children £6 - Families £18 Usual format - Tables, bring your own drink, glasses and nibbles - tea and coffee available



Kingsdon Seniors Club

The November meeting of the Kingsdon Seniors Club took place on November 12th at the Village Hall. 27 people attended, including several guests invited from the Services.

Douglas Higson took the meeting, and he reminded us that we should pay for our Christmas Lunch, £14 50, and also choose our menu. Lesley Higson corrected an error in the report from last month, the funds in the Club Bank were £770 not £171 as previously stated.

Yvonne Barbor then introduced the speaker, Captain Colin Lawrence, who had served in The Royal Navy for 37 years, and been in every kind of ship, from a mine sweeper to an Air Craft Carrier. He spent the last years in Brussels at N.A.T.O. H.Q. as intelligence officer, and had worked for SSAFA for 12 years. He is a volunteer and devotes his time to case working. He read a list of those who are eligible for help, which amounts to one quarter of the population of the U.K., luckily only 100,000 apply annually.! SSAFA has about 550 professional workers and 7500 volunteers, and can offer a variety of assistance to those in need. This can be case work, which is mainly undertaken by volunteers, and can be both practical and emotional help to the lonely, ill or bereaved, advice on financial matters and war Pensions and help with home adoptions and the provision of special equipment. It will also give help to ex-service men in prison, has various holiday accommodation and respite homes. Captain Lawrence concentrated on the case working aspect. SSAFA is organised in the U.K. into about 98 Branches, and some 700 Divisions. Here, we are in the South Somerset Division. This has 24 volunteers and 10 helpers, and has seen over 120 cases this year so far. He outlined the method used to get information from the client, and emphasised the necessity of gaining the client's trust from the beginning, and explained how the information was transmitted to the various Service Charities who would be able to help. He then told us about some amazing cases he had dealt with recently, showing the broad spectrum of need and how it was satisfied. He finished by saying that the audience could help in several ways, by leaving a legacy, or by becoming a volunteer or helper, but mainly by spreading the word among those eligible to ensure that they applied if in need. In answer to a question, he said that clients were ex-service men or their dependants. Douglas Higson gave a very enthusiastic vote of thanks for a most interesting talk. Elizabeth Berry and Ethel Harris provided the tea. The next meeting will be the Christmas Lunch on Dec 3rd, and the January Meeting will be the Members tea, with a talk by Jim Masters. We all went home having enjoyed a very pleasant afternoon. *Yvonne Barbor*

Kingsdon Ladies Club

Lynne Davies welcomed 13 members to the meeting held on 11th November at 7.30pm.

Notice was given that the Christmas Dinner is booked at the Ilchester Arms for 9th December. Bacon Buttie morning was on 15th November in aid of Church funds. The School Christmas Fayre will be on 16th December from noon till 2pm in the Village Hall.

A letter was read from Barnardo's thanking the club for a £20 donation.

Birthday girls were Jenny Gamblin and Margaret Close.

The entertainment for the evening was changed from Scottish dancing to a choir called 'Take Note'. All enjoyed the monologues and solos, but most of all joining in all the oldies. Lynne gave the vote of thanks.

Brenda Hodges and Margaret Hill provided the refreshments. The December meeting will be the Christmas Dinner meal. The next meeting in the hall will be on January 13th at 7.30pm when the guest speaker will be Graham Keating from Yeo Valley Products. New members or visitors are always welcome.

Carol and Christingle Services 2008 at All Saints Church, Kingsdon

The Kingsdon PCC has decided this year to separate the Carol and Christingle Services as a trial run and these will now take place as follows:

Kingsdon Carol Service

at 6 p.m. on Sunday 21st December 2008

Kingsdon Christingle Service

at 4.30 p.m. on Sunday 28th December 2008



Would anybody who has not Service before but would be interested in doing so, please contact Nick Allan on 01935 840878.

sung in the Choir for the Carol

No auditions are required and rehearsals are limited to three.

We do hope that residents will give great support to both services and all, including children, are most welcome.

Home Defence

By J.A. Spender

When we came to live in the village the 'Cold War' was still brewing. Obviously the Royal Naval Air Station, HMS Heron was a possible target. And Kingsdon was well within the 'fall out' zone. So it seemed important that we had some plan of defence.

I had some previous experience of N.B.C. (Nuclear, Biological, Chemical) planning having attended courses at Porton Down and elsewhere. Now I attended civil defence lectures in Yeovil.

The winter of 1977 had been vicious. We had been marooned by snow for several days. So this gave a starting point for our defence planning.

I set about recording details of our parish the aged - the elderly. The infirm, those living alone. Those who lived in solid stone houses which might stand blast and fall out and others in modern pre-fab houses which would not and some in caravan dwellings.

Those who cooked on electricity, oil or solid fuel - all of which might be interrupted.

I wrote to the water company, to the electricity company, to the telephone company to compare plans for an emergency. They weren't very co operative.

Most important was water. You can live for days without food (forty days?) but you don't last long without water. It was surprising to discover how many houses in the village had a well in their garden though long choked with rubble.

Our main supply came from a reservoir at Bristol but there was always the fear that the reservoir might be a target for poisoning. Water for the village was pumped up from a pump house below the road to the Charltons.

Whilst visiting this pump house I was somewhat disconcerted to hear a familiar tune on a radio near by, - 'We'll keep the red flag flying.' Was this an omen?

Then just as I was about to expound my plan -

The Berlin Wall came down.

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Neighbourhood Watch

In the last two weeks there have been 3 distraction burglaries across the South Somerset Rural policing area. You are advised not to let any unknown cold caller into your homes without first satisfying yourselves that the caller is genuine. Ask to see an identity card and take time to check it carefully. If need be contact their company to see if this person should be in the area. --- Fitting and using a door chain before opening the door is recommended, particularly for the elderly and vulnerable and remember "If in doubt - Keep them out" Remember also to report any suspicious caller immediately to the Police using the 999 system if necessary

If a thing is worth doing, it would have been done already.

THE CHRISTMAS FATSTOCK SHOW

by Peter Crowter

At Cooks Cary Farm as Christmas approached it was time to prepare for the shows.
The heifers and steers, and all of their peers, go along to the markets and pose.
It's fatstock show time, when beasts in their prime, are shown off by farmers with pride.
There's lots of rosettes, and maybe some bets, to be won by a few on the side.

For those in the know, will know that although, it might seem a bit of a doddle,
There's lots to be done, and it sure ain't all fun, before off to market you toddle.
They're fed fancy food, and also shampooed, to make them all curvy and sleek
And then you must hope, at the end of a rope, they will walk all well-mannered and meek

This part is no breeze, and it ain't done with ease, not leading a steer like a dog,
You put on the halter, and he doesn't falter, he leaps in the air like a frog.
Three men holding hard, get dragged round the yard, the language is not very sweet.
Mum says 'Oi, don't swear', the men do not care, they're trying to stay on their feet.

The beast quieten down, and are taken to town, and Tom in white coat leads them round.
Says judge 'They look fit', and slaps them a bit, and pokes them to see if they're sound.
Does he approve? We watch him remove, his bowler and then scratch his head?
And then we all clap, he's not a bad chap, we've won a rosette, shiny red.

From a farm in Kingweston I had to transport, some cattle and sheep to a show,
With all stock aboard, I shut the tailboard, the farmer said 'Right, off you go.
Now I'll see you there, go steady, take care, and Archie you ride in the truck'
So Archie and me, to Glaston-bur-y, set off with high hopes of good luck.

We had some surprises and won lost of prizes said farmer 'it's off for a snort.'
For me t'was bad luck, 'cause I drove the truck, but they drunk much more than they ought.
And then farmer's wife, prepared for some strife, said 'Derek, it's time we departed.'
'You carry on dear, we've not finished here, in fact we have only just started'.

'Oh well, you'll be sorry, ride home in the lorry,' and with that she left in a huff.
'It's Christmas you know! Oh, well let her go. We'll stay here till we've had enough.
We finally went, much money was spent, and Archie and Derek were frisky.
They started with beer, then moved up a gear, and swallowed a good deal of whisky.

'Now Derek old chap, can I sit on your lap?' And up in the cab he did leap.
'Hey, just watch my knees, it's too tight a squeeze, you ride in the back with the sheep.'
We loaded him up, like a lanky old tup, and then we drove back to Kingweston.
Among all the sheep, Archie lay fast asleep, cause he had some nice straw to rest on.

As Christmas got near, with all it's good cheer, and everyone feeling aglow,
In Kingsdon at night, with torches for light, around singing carols we'd go.
We used Attwell's wagon, with maybe a flagon, to keep all the choir fine and dandy.
Charles Marrow with me, was welcome cause he, had a flask of his fine Cherry Brandy.

Some sang fairly sweet, and others offbeat, some kind folk said that we were good ,
We had as our prize, some drinks and mince pies, for singing as best as we could.
We managed to stash, a tin full of cash, collected for some worthy cause,
Off home full of cheer, it's now getting near, to a visit from old Santa Claus.

A baby sitter is a teenager acting like an adult while the adults are out acting like teenagers.

Kingsdon Parish Council

Notes of the Council Bi-Monthly and Planning Meeting held on 13th November

Present: Councillors Tony Masters (Chair) Mel Clode, Patrick Leahy, Alison Hicks, Richard Hollaway, Mike Overt & David Morris. County Councillor Pauline Clarke and District Councillor John Calvert. Clerk to the Council Jenny Gamblin and 16 parishioners.

Minutes of the previous meeting were agreed and signed.

Matters arising: No further news on the street name signs, First Bus - There is a chance of progress in getting the 54C service and it is hoped the County will get it free. Grass verges - trying to ascertain who is responsible for verges other than those outside the Cary Way bungalows. The Manor School side of Lodge Rd. has been cut.

Recreation Field Play area suggestion - The Estate are happy with the proposal of an all weather play area. To go ahead will require fund raising. At termination of lease the field would be required to be returned to its present state.

Spacial Plan for Somerset - This has now been sent off together with a copy of our design statement.

A Complaint has been received from a resident in Frog Lane that that there had been dumping of stone and earth at the bottom of the recreation field and also that part of the field was totally overgrown. The dumped material will be removed in due course as a skip will be required to complete the tidy up.

Parish Precept: The present financial year the precept was £2,300. There was £4,500 in hand with some outstanding payments due i.e. Taunton Deane for field cutting, Insurance, SALC, Allotment and Hire of village hall. It was agreed the precept should be raised to £2,500.

Tree Warden: Alison Hicks agreed to take on this responsibility.

Langlands Farm: The fitting of velux windows which was believed to be unauthorised is in fact permitted due to the work having been commenced prior to the new regulations

Planning Meeting

Minutes: The minutes of the meeting held on 9th October were read and agreed.

Location: Springfield House, Brincil Hill, Kingsdon, Somerton, Somerset, TA11 7LA

Proposal: Replace chimney and other necessary work

Proposal: Engineering works and the formation of a wildlife pond (Retrospective application)

Proposal: Alterations to access to include construction of wing/retaining walls and railings, piers and installation of automated security gates (revised application)

After discussion the applications were approved

Location: 20 Kingsdon

Proposal: Erection of a conservatory

After discussion the application was approved.

Location: Glenda Spooner Farm, Brincil Hill, Kingsdon, Somerton, TA11 7LA.

Proposal: Proposed visitor centre, indoor arena, crew yard, isolation stables, hay barn and horse walker together with access road, car parking and improvement to Brincil Hill.

The Chair first invited comments from the floor. Mr M.Uttley of Catsgore Farm gave his reasons for being against the application stating the size of the project would spoil the view from his house, he had many other concerns including flooding of his land etc. etc.

It was announced that the Parish Council had been given 21 days from 4th November to make their response, advice was offered by District Councillor John Calvert to the effect that no extension to the time schedule would be given. It was the opinion of two councillors that a public meeting should be held to gain the feeling of residents before making the response to SSDC planning

There was then a prolonged discussion with each councillor giving his point of view with further comments from the floor. It was finally agreed to send a letter to planning with the concerns of the council and to hold a public consultation on 22/23 November in the village hall when the plans would be on display.

Complaints to The Chronicle

The Chronicle has received a number of complaints from persons present as to how the Church fund raising event in the Village Hall on Saturday 15th November was used by a Parish Councillor to voice his own opinions against the proposed development at Glenda Spooner Farm.

The Kingsdon Inn

Algy, Clive and all the Staff at the Kingsdon Inn wish you all a very beery Christmas and a New Year of health, good fortune and happiness.

Christmas & New Year Opening Times

Up to and including Wednesday 24th December (Christmas Eve) Business as usual

Christmas Day - 12 noon to 1.30pm Bar service only
Closed Christmas Day evening

Boxing Day - 12 noon to 3pm - Lunch served 12 noon to 2pm
Closed Boxing Day evening

27th to 30th December Business as usual

New Year's Eve Lunch time - 12 noon to 3pm - Lunch served 12 noon to 2pm

New Year's Eve - Set Dinner (Bookings only served from 7pm to 9.30pm)

New Year's Day - 12 noon to 3pm - Lunch served 12 noon to 2pm
Closed New Year's Day evening

January 2nd onwards - Business as usual

Advance Notice of Events in 2009 at the Kingsdon Inn

Burns Night - January 25th

Valentines Day - February 14th

Cricket Club Quiz Night - March 1st

Watch out for full details of these and other exciting events in 2009
in the next issue of The Chronicle

Kingsdon Stores - Christmas and New Year Opening Times

Normal Shop Hours - 7.30am - 1pm, 2.15pm - 5.30pm

Christmas Day Closed

Boxing Day - 7.30am - 1pm

Saturday 27th December - 7.30am - 1pm

New Years Day - 7.30am - 1pm

Ilchester Post Office - Christmas and New Year Opening Times

Wednesday 24th December - Open till 1pm

Closed Christmas Day and Boxing Day

Saturday 27th December - Open till 12.30pm

Wednesday 31st December - Open till 1pm

Closed New Year's Day

Friday 2nd January - Normal Opening

Christmas Postal Dates

Make sure you don't miss the last post to get those cards and presents sent!
(Please note that the last date for all international surface mail has now passed.)

International Airmail

Friday 7th December: South and Central America, Caribbean, Africa, Middle East, Asia, Far East (except Japan), Australia, New Zealand.

Monday 10th December: USA, Canada, Japan, Eastern Europe.

Thursday 13th December: Western Europe.

Last UK post dates

Wednesday 14th December: Standard parcels

Monday 17th December: Second class

Thursday 20th December: First class

Friday 21st December: Special delivery.

New Year's Eve Celebration Dinner at The Kingsdon Inn

A Glass of Bubbly on Arrival

Fresh Cream of Asparagus Soup

Spicy Meatballs in a Rich Tomato & Pepper Sauce

Mussels in White Wine, Cream & Garlic

Leek & Goats Cheese Terrine

**Escalope of Veal in a White Wine, Cream &
Mushroom Sauce**

Seared Sea Bass Fillet on an Orange Citrus and

Spring Onion Sauce

Chicken Cordon-Bleu

Grilled Rib-Eye Steak with Mushrooms

Vegetarian Option on Request

Choice of Desserts

Coffee and Mints

Fireworks at Midnight

Price £30.00

Please note this menu needs to be pre-booked and a non-refundable deposit of £5.00 per head is required with each booking. Cheques payable to the Kingsdon Inn. Deposit to be received at least 7 working days from date of booking.

The Kingsdon Inn, Kingsdon, Nr Somerton, Somerset, TA11 7LG
Tel: 01935 840543 enquiries@kingsdoninn.co.uk www.kingsdoninn.co.uk