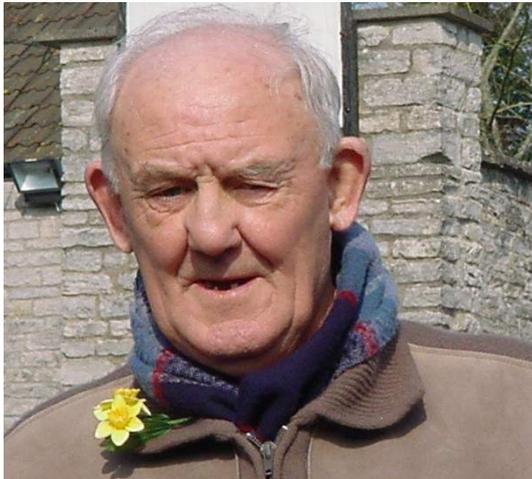


The Kingsdon Chronicle

Issue No. 6

March 2008



Kingsdon bids farewell to Tom Harris

There was standing room only on Friday 22nd February at the Crematorium for the Thanksgiving Service in memory of Tom Harris who had passed peacefully away on Saturday 16th February at St. Margaret's Hospice, Yeovil. The very moving service was conducted by The Reverend Alan Symonds with the Address given by John Lowe who also read a most poignant loving poem.

Tom was born on 25th September 1930 in Mountain Ash, South Wales, where he was brought up. When he was 18 years old, National Service called and the next 2 years were spent with the Royal Welsh Fusiliers in Berlin. After National Service he joined the Territorial Army and returned to Mountain Ash, working as a bakery assistant on the night shift in Abercynon and as a projectionist at the Palace Cinema in Mountain Ash where he met Ethel, she was an usherette. They married on the 1st. March 1952 and lived with Tom's parents until they moved

to Kingsdon August 1954. Tom's first job was a farm labourer at Langlands Farm, working for Jo Hilborne. Two years later when Alan was born, the family moved to another cottage and Tom worked for Mr. Attwell senior for the next eleven years. His next move was to the county council highways department where he was a supervisor. Tom took early retirement and had a twelve months break before starting at Kingsdon Manor School in 1986. During the years in the village Tom could be found at the pub at Christmas and New Year playing his mouth organ; working tirelessly helping villagers with their gardens, managing a stall with Ethel, running raffles/bottle stalls etc to raise funds for the church and KMS and not forgetting his love of model making and furniture making and restoration.

Just five years ago Tom and Ethel celebrated their Golden Wedding with a memorable party in the village hall. This last Christmas, many people missed his spectacular display of lights, a sight that so many enjoyed.

To My Beloved

You had a talent for bringing special meaning to life,
It was a pleasure to be your Wife.
You helped me to grow and realise
The fullness and the beauty in our lives.

Every day I counted my blessings,
Then God called, and you went away,
Out of this World, into a brighter day.
Suddenly my life of gladness,
Turned to utter sadness.

My grief wears me down, I shed so many tears,
As I recall your love and devotion through the Years.
For your sake, and in memory of your name,
I pray for strength to do the Same.

To reach out, to fill the Hours with Useful Ways,
To comfort, to cheer and have no more empty days.
I try to console myself – It was God's Greater Plan,
So, I must accept it, if I can.

You moved away to his splendid home above,
If there is Life after Death,
I know you will be waiting there for me,
With Love.

Though Heaven and Earth divide us, and the distance is so great,
I count my blessings for the years you were my husband,
I will live my life remembering, while you wait, slumbering,
My Beloved - May you Rest in Peace.

Ethel would like to thank John Lowe for his help with the readings. Ann Baldwin, Ann Leahy, Jean Toole, Freda Curtis, Carol Locke for their help with the buffet. Mike Scanlon & Paul Flitton for setting up the tables and chairs and Gill Carnall for the flowers.



Tom & Ethel running their Tombola Stall

A Plea from residents of Middle Street - Scoop the Poop

Would all dog owners who walk there canine pets along Middle Street please sign up to the Poop-Scoop Pledge and make the residents there, happy.

Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1966

Failure to clean up after your dog is a criminal offence. Anyone observed by the dog warden failing to clear up after their dog will be served with a fixed penalty notice or reported for a potential prosecution. If you are aware of specific individuals allowing their dog(s) to foul, please report them to the (South Somerset District Council) dog warden either by email or by calling 01935 462462

Land to which the Act applies

Land which is open to the air and to which the public are entitled or permitted to have access (with or without payment).

This Act does not apply to land of the following description, namely;

- a) land used for agriculture or for woodlands;
- b) land which is predominantly marshland, moor or heath; and
- c) common land to which the public are entitled or permitted to have access.

The above is meant as a guide and should not be relied on as being totally accurate.

The Poop-Scoop Pledge

I promise as I walk here and there with my best pal
I will proudly carry a scooper to remove all residual
I will not allow my neighbourhood duty to go awry
I promise to be readily observant as we stroll by
I will not harm others with the faecal bacteria group
So, when pal squats to drop piles of poop
I will quickly remove it with a clean swoop
'Cause, I actually care about the public safety, that's no doubt
Believe me; I am so ashamed that it took this long, to shout it out
From this day forward, I will use considerate, discipline
I promise, I'll be a responsible animal lover, thru thick and thin
And, I will encourage others to avoid, committing the same, poop sin
This solemn oath, I will never renege, dilly-dally nor hedge
For, today, I faithfully agree to the crucial, Poop-Scoop Pledge

Kingsdon Ladies Club Meeting - 12th February 2008

Lynne Davies welcomed 14 members to the monthly meeting. Freda Curtis was the only birthday girl who was presented with a plant and thanked for providing the posies for this past year.

It was decided to give up providing lunches and teas for Mrs Marrows gardening groups. No organisation in the village wanted to take over so a person from Wincanton was pleased to do so. Lentern Lunch would be served in the village hall from 12 noon till 1.45pm on Friday 15th February by the village school. Tickets for 'Take Art' were on sale for the performance of 'The Mad Woman in the Attic' to be performed in the village hall on Friday 22nd February.

The Guest Speaker, Sally Gregson titled her talk 'Shady Ladies and Damp Damsels' and brought along many plants that do well in shade, bog and ponds. Her own favourites and which she specialises in at her nursery at Wookey Hole are Hellebores & Hydrangeas. She also showed some delightful slides that she had taken over the years. The vote of thanks was given by Joyce Limon. Teas were provided by Freda Curtis and Edna Gordon. The flutter prize was won by Shirley Singleton. The meeting closed at 9.30pm.

Kingsdon Seniors Club Meeting

The meeting took place at the Village Hall on Feb 13th. 27 members attended. Sir Donald Limon took the Chair, and as there no notices to give out., he introduced the Speaker Mr Gerry Masters, who is the brother of Jim Masters, a faithful member of the Club for many years.. The speaker today told us some of the history of Ilchester, This started about 2000 years ago, it was the last town at the end of the Somerset Levels. Trade was carried on at an international level, even at that date, especially with lead, tin and wool. The Emperor Claudius commanded the first Roman Invasion of Britain, and Ilchester was on the first easy crossing on the way to London, and the Romans built the bridge crossing the River Yeo, making a very straight Roman Road.. The Romans finally left in 408 A.D. King Athelstan started a Mint in Ilchester, to produce the coins, of which there are some still surviving. Ilchester was the second largest town in Somerset, and became a Borough , with 2 M.P.s elected. . At the time of the Domesday Book there were 197 voters in the town, as only people who owned land were allowed to vote. During the 14th Century the Plague was rife , and decimated the population. There were a large number of Quakers in the town, who were put in prison in the town gaol. at the time of the Monmouth Rebellion. There were many complaints about the treatment of prisoners in the gaol, and it was finally closed . The last candidate , Sir William Mannering was defeated , although he had tried to bribe people to vote for him. At that time any woman who had an illegitimate child was sent for by the Master of the prison and had to tell who the father was. One such woman appeared and when asked, said it was the Master's. and the family like to think that is perhaps how they started in Ilchester ! He urged us to try to find time to visit The Museum in Ilchester with its many articles of interest. The Vote of Thanks was given by Sir Donald, and tea was provided by Shirley Wilson and Joyce Lough.

Street Name Plates for Kingsdon?

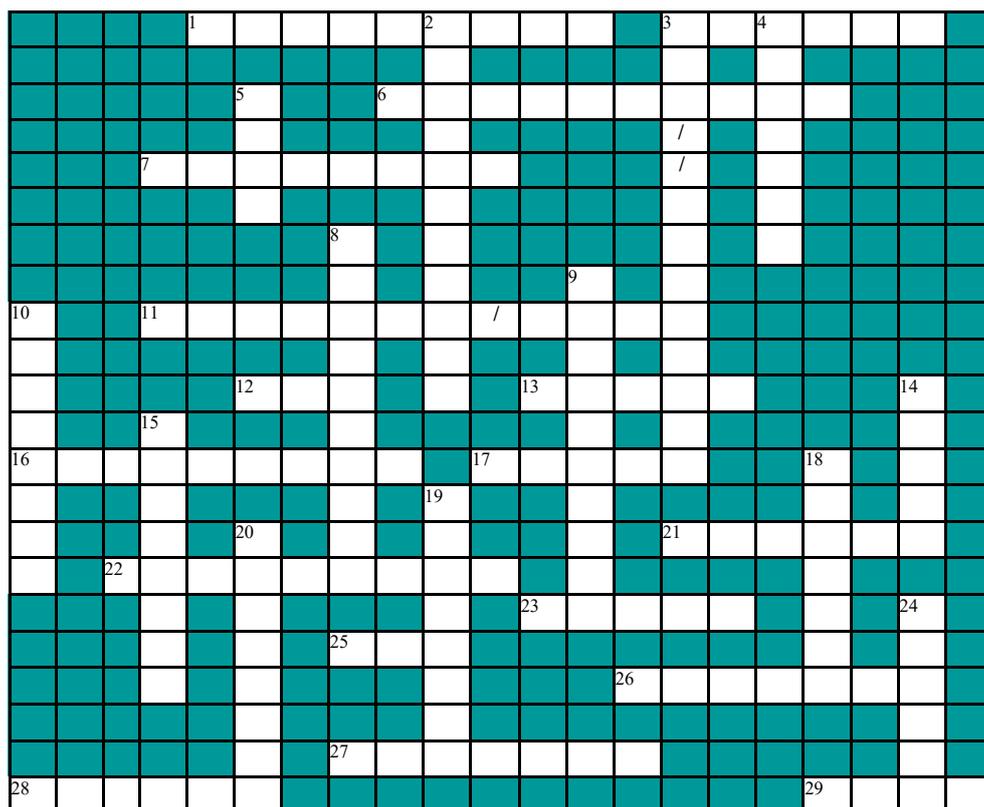
It has been brought to my attention that South Somerset District Council intend to install street name plates in Kingsdon. They will be coloured green on white. This apparently has arisen because of a note of communication received by the district council from the emergency services regarding the lack of street signs in Kingsdon. The parish council have been invited to assist the district council engineers in the location of the signs.

I understand that this has not gone down well with certain members of Kingsdon parish council, who in 2005 voted against my proposal for such signs on the grounds that (a) the signs would not be in keeping with the village (b) because they wished to protect its rural character, and (c) because the absence of signs would frustrate unwelcome intruders, because anyone looking for a particular target will be forced to ask around if they could not locate it.

I would like to make it perfectly clear that, contrary to what some people may think, I have had no communication with the district council prior to receiving this information. It is however my contention that saving life is more important than having the rural idyll slightly marred by a street name sign at the end of my road

It is my understanding that street naming and numbering is a statutory function. The relevant powers for local authorities are contained in Sections 64 and 65 of the Towns Improvement Clauses Act 1847, and Sections 17, 18 and 19 of the Public Health Act of 1925. Both Acts are still in force even though they exceed 150 years and 75 years respectively. The legislation requires the Local Authority to prepare street naming and numbering schemes and to maintain a good standard of street nameplates. Both are essential for the efficient functioning of postal and emergency services as well as for the convenience and safety of the general public.

A Kingsdon Crossword by John Barker



Across

1. A great aid to the computer user (9)
3. Type of roof (6)
6. They are growing in popularity (10)
7. Vehicles seen in profusion (8)
11. Meeting place (8, 4)
12. Link to the outside (3)
13. This fisherman does not use a rod (5)
16. Road hidden in forest (9)
17. Large plants (5)
21. These collection of plants afford shelter for wildlife (6)
22. Taken for granted nowadays (9)
23. A well supported game (7)
25. Complete absence of this substance (3)
26. Not concerned with the church (7)
27. Inhabitant (7)
28. A club that meets once a month (6)
29. Weather---- (4)

Down

2. A dedicated team (4 _ 7)
3. Summer Visitors (3 _ _ 8)
4. Common village surname (7)
5. Seen at certain times on high (4)
8. Has same name as more famous house (10)
9. This person looks after wildlife (10)
10. A machine that manipulates data (8)
14. Always in evidence in daylight hours (5)
15. Village life is thus (8)
18. Not analogue (7)
19. Where we live (8)
20. Seen from village shop by looking up (8)
24. A sandy resident of Kingsdon ?(6)

Answers on page 10

Helping the emergency services find you.

There has been some concern recently regarding the emergency services' ability to find properties in Kingsdon because "satellite navigation doesn't work here". *It most certainly does work in Kingsdon* as it does for any position on the earth's surface land or water! The only local exception would be in tunnels, in cities with very high buildings obscuring the satellites, in a deep canyon or in a very dense forest. None of these applies to Kingsdon.

Satellite Navigation devices use GPS (Global Positioning System) and some complex software with maps to allow the user to know exactly where on the surface of the planet they are (at least to within 30 feet/10 metres). This position is then transferred on to a map held within the Sat Nav device. Then, rather than take you in a straight line to your destination, the Sat Nav software plots a route following the roads on this map, which in practice generally proves less injurious to property or person and is probably quicker!!

GPS works by triangulation. Triangulation is the method of determining a location on a map by using three or more points through which lines of known directions are drawn. There are some 20 satellites in stationary orbit between 10,000 and 12,000 miles above the earth surface. As long as the Sat Nav can "see" at least 3 of these satellites it can plot its position, although 4 or more will give you greater accuracy.

So let's look at the problem again.

The emergency services claim that they are apparently unable to locate the exact address of the emergency using Sat Nav.

I suspect they are given a postcode to locate the address they are attending. Most modern Sat Nav map databases have additional information overlaid on the maps, such as postcodes. Many of us will remember that postcodes were introduced some time ago (I think in the 70's) to speed the delivery of the post. Whether this has worked is perhaps open to debate, but they were certainly not originally intended for use with satellite navigation, as Sat Nav for civilian purposes had yet to be developed.

Every property in the UK has a postcode, but a postcode may have more than one property associated with it. In cities or for business premises there maybe a one to one correlation but in rural areas it is common for properties to share postcodes. *A postcode is therefore not a unique address.*

I suspect that during the last 30-40 years there has been significant redevelopment and in-fill in Kingsdon and these extra properties will have been allocated to existing postcodes thus diluting the accuracy with which an individual property can be found. I know that "my own" postcode is shared by around 20 properties and is therefore not unique to Stoneleigh Farmhouse.

Whilst it is true that satellite navigation does work in Kingsdon, a postcode is not a unique reference for finding a property in the village.

It has been suggested that investing in road name signs would assist the emergency services. I moot that this would not have the slightest benefit to the responder as they will already know which road they are on. The Sat Nav will have already told them!!

Ironically, putting up road signs would help visitors without Sat Nav; this might be no bad thing - but would be a wasted investment for this particular problem.

So what are the solutions?

We could ask the Royal Mail to re-code the village. But I cannot see them undertaking this lightly, and one might also expect a significant level of objections from local residents who have grown used to their current postcode.

We could give more explicit directions when calling the emergency services such as "the house with the red door" on "the corner of Kingsdon Hill and Top Street" or "opposite the telephone box". This may not be easy in an emergency and the caller may not be local.

We could stand in the road to await the emergency services, but this may not be practical as the caller may be assisting the patient or tackling the fire.

So if not these what else?

If you are worried about the emergency services finding you there is one rather "geeky" solution which will ensure that anyone can find you. Longitude and Latitude coordinates are unique for any point on the earth. Sat Nav is accurate to within 30 feet for any point on the earth. If you are able to give them the unique coordinates for your address there is no reason why anyone using a modern Sat Nav could not get to within 30 feet of you.

How do I find my coordinates?

Borrow a hand held Sat Nav, stand outside your property and read off the coordinates. I would suggest that this is an activity best undertaken before the emergency!!

Nigel Stone, Stoneleigh Farmhouse, North 51.03304, West 02.69100

The Humour Page

Terminal Humour

A man was sitting in the bar at Heathrow Terminal 3 and noticed a really beautiful woman sitting next to him. He thought to himself....."Wow, she's so gorgeous she must be an air hostess. I wonder which airline she works for. " Hoping to pick her up, he leaned towards her and uttered the Delta Airline slogan, "Love to fly and it shows?" She gave him a blank, confused stare and he immediately thought to himself: " Well, she obviously doesn't work for Delta." A moment later, another slogan popped into his head, so he leaned towards her again and said, "Something special in the air?" She gave him the same confused look, and he mentally kicked himself, while scratching Singapore Airlines off the list. He thought "Perhaps she works for Thai Airways..." and said, "Smooth as Silk?"

This time the woman turned on him and said, "What the **** do you want?"

The man smiled, slumped back in his chair, and said - "Ahhhhh, Ryanair !"

More from the 'Howlers and Bloomers' Book of Kingsdon Manor School

Boy - "What would you do if I killed you?"

Teacher - "Nothing"

Boy - "Why, wouldn't you be angry?"

Teacher - !!!!!!!!!!!

Teacher listening to boy reading aloud when the word 'panic' appears. "What does panic mean David?"

David - "It's what you do when someone's coming to stay in your house and you have to tidy up"

Teacher - "Does anyone know what a lullaby is?"

Boy - "Yes, it's when you can prove you weren't where the police say you were".

Observation by Mick Conway on seeing that the staff meeting will be cancelled due to panto rehearsal -
" I fail to see the difference!"

Church Notices (Thanks to Jean Toole)

Miss Charlene Mason sang "I will not pass this way again", giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.

For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.

Next Thursday there will be tryouts for the choir. They need all the help they can get.

Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24th in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.

Hearing Test

I had been fearing Marilyn's hearing wasn't as well as it used to be and thought she might be in need of a hearing aid. Not quite sure how to approach her, I called on our Doctor to discuss the problem.

The Doctor told me there was a simple test I could perform to give him a better idea about her hearing loss.

"Here's what you do" said my Doctor, "stand about 40 feet away from her, and in a normal conversational speaking tone see if she hears you. If not, go to 30 feet, then 20 feet, and so on until you get a response".

That evening, Marilyn was in the kitchen cooking dinner, and I was upstairs in our bedroom. I say to my self, "I'm about 40 feet away, let's see what happens". Then in a normal tone I ask, "Darling, what's for dinner?"

No response. So I move closer to the kitchen, about 30 feet from her and repeat, "Darling, what's for dinner?"

Still no response. Next I move downstairs, about 20 feet away from her and ask, "Darling what's for dinner?"

Again I get no response. So I walk to the Kitchen door, about 10 feet away. "Darling what's for dinner?"

Again no response. So I walk right up behind her. "Darling, what's for dinner?"

*

*

"Wally, for the FIFTH time, CHICKEN!"

New Wine for Seniors

California vintners in the Napa Valley which primarily produce Pinot Blanc, Pinot Noir and Pinot Grigio wines have developed a new hybrid grape that acts as an anti-diuretic. It is expected to reduce the number of trips older people have to make to the bathroom during the night.

The new wine will be marketed as Pinot More.

For Sale

Electric Rotary Lawnmower ----- £12
in good working order.

Combination Microwave -----£10
in good working order.

Phone 01935 840763



Birthday Greetings

Happy 76th Birthday to **Margaret Hill** on 16th
March.

With love from all her family.

Margaret has lived all her life in Kingsdon.
She was born at 17 Middle Street, Kingsdon,
where she lived for many years before marry-
ing Cecil.

Birthday Greetings

Happy Birthday to **Marilyn Elliott** on
11th March.

With love and best wishes from Wal-
ly, Richard, Kirsty, Zoë, Sam,
James, Josh & Harvey

FOR SALE

Metal Sofa Futon Bunk Bed Upper bed con-
sists of a standard bunk with mattress included
(rarely used). Lower sofa can be pulled out to
form a double bed. Large blue thickly padded
sofa cushions included. New £350 - £5 to
take away : Phone 01935 841444



Neighbourhood Watch

There have been reports from the Shepton Mallet area, which could equally affect this area, of black plastic bags being taken from wheely bins. This may allow an opportunity for identity theft; therefore it may well be pertinent to remember to shred or otherwise destroy any items containing your personal details before discarding them in the rubbish bins.

There have been a number of reports of cold callers to the door selling paintings and other items. From reports received it would appear that what is offered as original paintings and prints are in fact copies. The callers appear to be from Poland and on occasions purport to be both deaf and dumb. Many of these callers will imply that they are out of work or working on behalf of a charity. Please remember the previously given advice that any cold calling at the door presents an opportunity for a crime to be committed. The advice from the Police is to deal only with known persons at the door and never let any uninvited cold callers into your home. If you do decide to purchase items from cold callers then use the same criteria to determine the validity and quality of the item as you would from a street trader and always close your door while you go back inside your property to collect any money. It is important that all suspicious cold calling is reported to the police using the 0845 456 7000 number and use the 999 system if the caller becomes abusive or refuses to leave. It is also worth remembering that deception can occur when a cold caller engages someone at the front door in conversation and an accomplice will enter via an insecure rear door.

Kingsdon Lottery

It is proposed to run a Lottery to raise funds to meet some of the costs of maintenance and repairs required by the 5 yearly inspection of the church. The lottery will be based on the Bonus Ball drawn in the National Lottery each Saturday and the prize will be £25.

Participating members will choose a number between 1 and 49 and that will remain their number for the whole of the year or for however long they remain participants. The cost will be £1 per week payable in advance of the draw. To cut down the effort required to collect the money, a minimum contribution of £10 will be requested but participants may pay any sum above that up to the annual cost of £52. Arrangements can be made to pay by standing order if required, otherwise a cheque or cash will do.

There will be no roll over and the Wednesday draw does not count. Should the winning number not be allocated, the money will remain in the pot. In the event that the number of participants does not reach the minimum required to make the organisation worthwhile or should the number fall below that minimum during the year, the lottery will be suspended and any money paid in advance will be refunded.

The first draw will be on Saturday 5 April 2008 so if you would like to choose your lucky number early, please contact David Beswick (01935 840795) with your first instalment. Remember, your number could come up more than once, so you may win more than £25 in any one year!

Defibrillator for Kingsdon

As requested by our parish council I have commenced planning for the installation of a defibrillator in Kingsdon. Jill Waters, Lynne Davies and Martin Singleton have agreed to be on a working party.

I have made contact with South Western Ambulance Service asking for their cooperation and assistance. This will take some time as they do not have the systems in place at present to accommodate our project. At Chew Valley, where the defibrillator scheme is already operating, their ambulance service is run by Great Western Ambulance Service.

The latest communication from our ambulance service is printed below.

Dear Wally,

I apologise that you have not yet had a reply; unfortunately we are awaiting a further clarity and IT solutions from a number of exploratory discussions between the Clinical Hub and Community Engagement Team as this is a new concept for us the setting up of an effective system to support such a project will always take a longer period of time than simply expanding a current one.

I have copied in the Clinical Hub Manager and your Community Engagement Manager for Somerset Tony Stokes.

I understand your frustration as you are very keen to progress this project, and thank you for your patience.

Nick Spence (Community Engagement Manager).

I have also received a phone call from Tony Stokes who tells me that they hope our project will be the for-runner of a county wide defibrillator programme. If they had the money there would be a defibrillator on every street.

A central suitable site within the village, has been identified and communication with the owner is being undertaken by Jill Waters. This location cannot be disclosed until permission for use of the site has been obtained

An update report will be published in the next issue.

Kingsdon Cricket Club - New Ground after 25 Years.

At the Annual General meeting held on 17th February it was agreed that the club should accept an offer made by the Kingsdon Estate, pending suitable legal conditions being obtained. I am now able to confirm that acceptable conditions, both to the Club and the Estate, have been agreed and that the club will commence leasing the field, known in years gone-by as the 'Football Field' situated to the rear of 7 to 10 Underwood Road, as from 1st April 2008, with a view to commencing playing there at the start of the 2009 season.

This decision to move to a new ground has come about due to the impending closure of Kingsdon Manor School from 31st August 2008. Until the final decision is made on the closure, probably in March, the site will not be declared surplus and the process of disposal cannot begin. The site is not expected to be sold before the end of September, hence Bristol City Council have granted permission for the club to continue using the Manor School field for the 2008 season up to 31st August, after which, licensed use may be permissible for September.

Kingsdon Parish Council have been informed, as well as the residents whose homes back on to the field in Underwood Road in order that any queries they may have can be responded to.

The club has spoken with South Somerset District Council regarding the question of planning consent being required for use of the field as a cricket pitch. They have informed us that for using the land for only 10-15 times a year no consent is required (Permitted Development).

The Estate have no objection to a small pavilion or secure area being installed, subject to appropriate consent being obtained from the Local Authority.

The club will be holding a further meeting at 7.30pm on 9th March in the Kingsdon Inn to commence discussion on the way forward for development of the new ground.

The Friends of Kingsdon Manor School Cricket Club was formed 25 years ago. It came about, as some of the best ideas do, over a pint in the Kingsdon Inn one cold winter's night. Of the founder members, only three remain with the club. Capt. H.A. (Florrie) Ford, who was our first President and fixtures secretary; Ben Carlisle was our Chairman; and myself, unofficial groundsman, a job I am still doing today. Pam Ford volunteered to do the teas, which she did for the next 11 years and Marilyn Elliott was our scorer until being promoted to her present job as Umpire. In our first season we only won one match, things have changed since then!

Kingsdon Parish Council Meetings in the Village Hall

Planning Meeting - 6th March at 7pm in respect of application No. 08/00738/FUL — Proposal: The conversion of barn to a single dwelling and erection of a garage at Langlands Farm, Frog Lane, Kingsdon, Somerton, Somerset.



Bi-Monthly Meeting - 13th March at 7pm

Welcome to Kingsdon

It has always been nice to welcome new people to Kingsdon, this occasion was no exception, when I popped in to meet Iris Bradshaw who recently moved into 21 Kingsdon. Iris originates from Berkshire but has lived in the west country for many years and came to Kingsdon from not many miles away at High Ham. With her love of the countryside and all things rustic she already feels very much at home in her cottage. Her hobbies include a great love of music, art and painting whilst a visit to the swimming pool 3 or 4 times a week keeps her in trim, and makes up for being a bit of an epicurean at heart.



All Saints Church, Kingsdon Services for March

- 2nd 11am - Family Service (Mothering Sunday).
- 9th 9am - Eucharist.
- 16th 11am - Eucharist.
- 6pm - Evensong.
- 17th 2pm - Kingsdon C of E Primary School Service.
- 20th 7.30pm - Maundy Service.
- 21st 2pm - Devotional Service.
- 23rd 11am - Eucharist. (Easter Sunday).
- 30th 11am - Eucharist.
- 31st 7pm - St. Michael and All Angels, Somerton.
Licence Service for Wendy Griffith

Easter Lilies

Lilies in Memory of loved ones.

If you would like to join us, please put your donation in an envelope, mark Easter Lilies and put from whom, so the names can all go on cards together. Please deposit envelopes in Norma Black's post box by 7th March

In next months Chronicle

Planning

Planning decisions are amongst the most obvious and controversial issues at local level, where the wider needs of sustainability and economic growth meet the local need for conservation and quality of life.

This is your opportunity to voice your opinions, either as someone who is involved in planning matters or where planning decisions have had an impact on you and your family or from a casual observers point of view.

The Closure of Kingsdon Manor School

Memories from residents of their time spent working at the school in years gone by.

Defibrillators

The latest news.
If you have any comments you wish to make on any subject concerning Kingsdon or announcements, items for sale, or Birthday Greetings, then please forward to: Wally Elliott, 4 Manor Close, Kingsdon. TA11 7LW. Phone 01935 841444 email walleyelliott@hotmail.com

Crossword Answers - Across. 1 Broadband. 3 Thatch. 6 Allotments. 7 Tractors. 11 Village Hall. 12 Bus. 13 Her on. 16 Underwood. 17 Trees. 21 Hedges. 22 Telephone. 23 Cricket. 25 Gas. 26 Secular. 27 Denizen. 28 Ladies. 29 Vane. **Down 2** Bell ringers. 3 The Swallows. 4 Attwell. 5 Flag. 8 Chatsworth. 9 Gamekeeper. 10 Computer. 14 Birds. 15 Peaceful. 18 Digital. 19 Kingsdon. 20 Peacocks. 24 Martin.

Babs celebrates 25 years at the Manor

It is 25 years since a cheeky young lady by the name of Babs Conway started work at Kingsdon Manor School as a kitchen assistant. I remember it well, as I stood out in front of the dining room servery trying to get 60 very boisterous boys to be quiet in order to say grace, and behind me in the kitchen, I could hear this voice saying "look at his clench". Babs had a good sense of humour then, which was just as well as it led her in good stead to become a care assistant back all those years ago, a job she is still doing today. There was a time when in the evenings Babs would take boys gardening as an activity.



*Photograph courtesy of the Western Gazette,
en by staff photographer James Dadzitis*

tak-

One year Babs was one of the lucky staff to take a group of boys for a weeks sailing on board an old Thames sailing barge called Thalatta, and whilst under sail on the Thames near where it meets the North Sea one of her young charges asked, "What we doing tonight Babs, gardening"? On the same trip another boy who was, to say the least, extremely large, fell out of his hammock one night. She tried to get him back up, an impossible task due to the movement of the barge in quite a heavy sea but in gave Heather Napier a good laugh as she watched their antics from her hammock.

Not all trips out were fun, a descent down a pot hole is one she did not enjoy. When, with Ian Birrell 300ft down with a group of boys, one of them panicked, went berserk throwing large rocks everywhere. For an hour they had to restrain him before getting him back to the surface. Another occasion taking a group cycle riding down Cheddar gorge. Babs brought up the rear with one boy, not a proficient cyclist who took ages to go down the road with his brakes per-

manently on, hence, so where hers, resulting in her fingers being almost locked onto the brake handles by the time she got to the bottom. There are many other humorous incidents she can recall, but come under the 'adults only' title and not for this publication. (perhaps we might do a special edition for them)

Despite all the ups and downs of 25 years at the Manor, Babs says she has enjoyed it all, it has given her a perspective of life she would otherwise not have had, one that most people do not have or can easily perceive.

Working with the myriad of difficulties that come with the boys has opened her eyes to a world outside of the beautiful and tranquil village of Kingsdon. It is a shame that after 25 years, her life, along with that of her colleagues at the Manor is to change so drastically with its impending closure at the end of July. Babs believes that Kingsdon Manor has been a major influence on so many lives, helping children overcome their difficulties, a major employer for so many Kingsdon people over the years and a facility for the village that can never be replaced. The picture of Tom & Ethel at a fete in the Manor grounds says it all, this what we are going to lose.

Theatre comes to Kingsdon

It must be many years since a theatre production was seen in Kingsdon. On Friday 22nd, a near full house at Kingsdon Village Hall were treated to the Boiling Kettle Theatre Companies presentation of 'The Mad Woman in the Attic' starring Sally Sanders who has toured extensively in numerous rep productions as well as making many appearances on TV. Her superb portrayal of the aging Pat coming to terms with modern technology whilst being suppressed (old people should be seen and not heard) by a younger generation was a moving and hilarious performance of an inspired play written by Sian Williams who has lived and worked in Somerset for over 20 years. Sally was given rapturous applause at the end of her performance and afterwards told me how pleasing it had been to play to such a warm audience. Many thanks to Martin Singleton, the man behind all the 'Take Art' presentations in our village hall.

Kingsdon Post Office - Proposed Closure

Post Office Ltd have announced their intention to close their branch here in Kingsdon. The document concerning this proposal has been issued by the Post Office Ltd and is enclosed with this issue of the Chronicle. So much for Post Office Ltd wanting us to believe it is 'The Peoples Post Office'.



I ask on behalf of Richard and the

half of Richard and the two Angela's for everyone's support in fighting this intended closure of our Post Office. The best way this can be achieved is for **all** residents who do not wish to lose the Post Office to write a letter outlining your objections, comments or questions. Please send it via FREEPOST to 'Network Development Manager, Post Office Ltd. C/O National Consultation Team, FREEPOST CONSULTATION TEAM. Or email: consultation@postoffice.co.uk.

Should anyone require help in writing, then our Post Office staff or myself will be only too pleased to assist.

The immediate observations on the enclosed document concern those Kingsdon residents who have mobility problems. Whereas now they have a short distance from their home to the post Office /Stores, in future they will have the same distance, then struggle onto a bus to take them either to Ilchester Post Office and a 330yd walk to the Post Office and then back or take the bus 2.9 miles to the Market Square, Somerton and a walk of 415 yards to the Post Office at The Triangle and then negotiate the step up and then walk back to the bus stop These distances are somewhat different to those in the closure document issued by Post Office Ltd..

If you are fortunate to be less than 60 years old, then another consideration is the cost of taking the bus to Ilchester or Somerton and return. I am informed the fare to Somerton is £3.20. For those having reached 60, then you can use your free bus pass, or use some of that overpriced fuel for your cars and increase your carbon footprint.

The document also lists other Post Offices in the area. I would suggest not going to the one at the RNAS Yeovilton unless you are in the forces as clearance to enter the base takes quite some time!

Will the shop survive if the Post Office closes? Richard intends to keep the shop going as long as possible but he has made it perfectly clear he will not go into insolvency just to stay open, and who can blame him. So there you have it, it is down to us residents to keep the shop going by using it more than we are doing at present. Never has the saying 'Use it or Lose it' been more apt.

The following is a message from Christine Dawson, Headteacher of our village Primary School. It has been added to Issue 6 of the Chronicle as an extra item due to its importance to our community.

Kingsdon Church of England Primary School

Last May our school was judged by Ofsted to be a good school with an outstanding curriculum and offering outstanding care and guidance to our pupils. Our good reputation draws children from the village and as far away as Yeovil and Curry Rival.

We regularly achieve good results in our SATs and our school consistently produces happy, hard working, reliable, confident children who are able to leave the small school and are well prepared for the challenges of Secondary School. There is an important place for small schools; we provide an essential service to the local rural community, and a safe but challenging haven for those pupils who need the extra attention a small school can provide.

We are at the heart of the village community here in Kingsdon and we take great pleasure in working closely with All Saints Church. We have committed and supportive parents, staff and Governors and, with the announcement of the possible closure of the village Post Office, the local community will join together to oppose these proposed closures that would devastate village life.

Our school has been in the village since 1872 and the staff and governors will do all in their power to make sure that the school is kept open for future generations.

Christine

Kingsdon Parish Council on learning of this proposed closure through the press, have contacted the office of David Heath M.P. As one would expect, they too, had not been informed of this news. I have been asked by our Parish Council to inform everyone in Kingsdon that they are in contact with our County Councillor and will do everything in their powers to fight this closure as well as that of our Post Office.

The next issue of the Chronicle is planned for 1st April, this will be brought forward should events dictate otherwise.

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