

# KERSEY PARISH NEWSLETTER

June 2020



PHOTO: PHILIP HALL

50p\*

[www.kersey.suffolk.cloud](http://www.kersey.suffolk.cloud)

\* **WHERE SOLD.** Delivered FREE to properties within the parish.  
(50p is the approximate production cost per copy. All contributions gratefully received.)

# CONTACT NUMBERS

## **Parochial Church Council –**

Chairman: Jackson Crompton-Battersby .....	01473 657349
Vice Chairman: Lucy Oldham. ....	07753 626899
Church Warden: Rachel Wells .....	01473 822230

**Bellringers –** Bell Captain: Neville Whittell .....

01473 822616

**Forgetmenots –** Organiser: Veronica Partridge .....

01473 823188

**Tuesday Club –** Rachel Wells .....

01473 822230

**Table Tennis Club –** Adrian Blyth .....

01473 827805

## **Parish Council –**

Chairman: John Hume .....

01473 810098

Clerk to the Council: Sarah Partridge .....

01787 210859

**Footpaths –** Kevin Pratt .....

07854 390658

## **Kersey Community Playground Committee –**

Jonathan Marsh .....

01473 822927

**Millennium Book Fund –** Sarah Partridge .....

01787 210859

**Neighbourhood Watch –** vacant

## **Village Hall –**

Chairman: Veronica Partridge .....

01473 823188

Bookings: Norah Orriss .....

01473 827513

## **VPA (Village Produce Association) –**

Chairman: Peter Partridge .....

01473 827231

Secretary: Rachel Wells .....

01473 822230

## **The Lewis Mowles Trust Fund –**

Secretary: Rachel Wells .....

01473 822230

## **Grays Trust –**

Chairman: John Robinson .....

01473 823247

Secretary: Philippa Harris .....

01473 827079

**Nightingale Trust/Allotments –** Info: Natalie Blyth .....

01473 827805

**School –** Interim Head Teacher: Ian Belham .....

01473 823397

**Kersey Playingfield Assoc. (Glebe) –** Mark Pertwee .....

01473 810227

**Kersey Community Website** .....

[www.kersey.suffolk.cloud](http://www.kersey.suffolk.cloud)

**Hadleigh Health Practice** .....

01473 822961

**West Suffolk Hospital (Bury St Edmunds)** .....

01284 713000

**Ipswich Hospital NHS Trust** .....

01473 712233

**Police** .....

The non-emergency number to call if you want to contact the local police is 101 (when it's less urgent than 999) .

*Please let us know of any changes.*

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

# PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

**Church Clergy:**

Rev. Jackson Crompton-Battersby.  
01473 657349 rev@kind.church

**Church Wardens:**

Mrs Rachel Wells 01473 822230.  
and vacant position.

**Elder:** Mrs Julie Boast 01787 249511.

**Weddings:** For all enquiries regarding weddings at St. Mary's Church please contact the Benefice administrator 07706 188842 weekday mornings.

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## JACK STIFF

We were all saddened to hear of the death of Jack Stiff who passed away last month at the age of 90 years. Jack was Kersey through and through having been born in the village and lived here all his life. He attended the village school before going on to Sudbury Grammar School. On leaving school he joined the Stiff family firm which at that time was a big business with many different enterprises. He always said there was a time when the village shop sold everything except wet fish. People came from miles around to purchase their famous pickled hams and sweet cure bacon. For some years Jack was a member of the parish council. Even with health problems and deteriorating eye sight he liked to attend the council meetings as a member of the public. He was always interested in village life and would correct the newcomers if he thought they were wrong as he could remember so much about the village from years ago. Last year as one of Kersey's oldest residents he helped to open the schools new Early Years outdoor area.

As someone said "When The Bell re-opens it won't be the same without Jack in the corner". He will be missed greatly by his wife Jill, Chris and Dawn, Sally and Paul, grandchildren and great grandchild plus many from the village and the wider community. A thanksgiving service will be held later when restrictions are lifted.

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Jill would like to thank everyone for their cards, letters, kind messages and flowers following the death of Jack. They have been a great comfort to her and the family.

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## MARTYN RUDKIN

We also send our sympathy to Suzie on the death of her husband Martyn. Martyn died on 1st May. For years the Stour Valley has been his home, in Boxford then Polstead before he and Suzie came to Kersey in 2013.

Failing health notwithstanding he quickly proved to be a good humoured, generous and active member of the community. Perhaps he will be remembered best by many more than just his close friends for what has been described as 'his energetic and creative approach to dealing with litter'. Namely litter picking round the parish while seated on his invalid buggy'.



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# PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (cont.)

## SYMPATHY

To Keith Cowan (who cuts the churchyard grass) on the death of his wife.

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## WELCOME

To Alby and Beccy who have moved into Cherrywood, Kersey Tye.

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## THANK YOU

Thank you to Rev. Jackson who has continued to support the parish with a Sunday service and daily prayers via YouTube. These are much appreciated by many in these strange times.

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## OUTING

The VPA outing to Bressingham gardens has been cancelled. Try again next year.

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## BEEES

If you have a swarm of honey bees that need re-homing, please ring either Veronica Partridge on: 07595263111 or Tim Coll on: 07771723650.

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## ETON MESS CUPCAKES

With strawberry time coming an alternative to cream tea with scones: Whip some double cream, add crushed meringue and chopped strawberries. Take some plain cupcakes remove the top. Add a spoonful of Eton mess, then replace the top. Dust with icing sugar. Delicious, best eaten really fresh.

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## WEATHER

Rainfall for April . . . . . 25mm (1.0")  
Maximum temperature . . . . . 24°C (76°F)  
Minimum temperature . . . . . -1°C (30°F)

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The next issue will cover **July/August 2020**.  
Please send items for inclusion well before the deadline of 22nd June to:  
**Rachel Wells: 01473 822230 - rachel@kersey-village.co.uk or**  
**Viv Marsh: 07747 175858 - kersey@moonridge.me.uk**

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To advertise in the Kersey Parish Newsletter please contact:  
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# PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council Annual Meeting was held remotely on the 11th May.

Present were Chairman John Hume, four councillors, clerk and two members of the public. County and District councillors joined in for part of the meeting.

The chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. He went on to express his sadness on the death of Martyn Rudkin. Until ill health prevented him he was a familiar sight around the parish on his mobility scooter collecting litter.

**Election of chairman:** John Hume was proposed and he accepted.

**Election of vice chairman:** Andrew Rogers was proposed and he accepted.

**Apologies** had been received from one councillor. One other was absent.

**All appointments** for group representatives were confirmed as before.

**Minutes** of previous meeting were confirmed as correct.

**Reports:** Suffolk county councillor Robert Lindsay. His main points were that County Council meetings will be held remotely. Re-cycling sites are to reopen and Green waste collections to re-start. SCC are providing PPE to all primary care providers who are unable to source their own. SCC have received funding from the government to help with the corona virus response. It is proposed to try traffic calming measures to protect cyclists and walkers. The cost of mainstream post 16 school transport has been increased. A pay increase for children's social workers has been agreed.

District councillor Leigh Jamieson's report covered planning applications during the pandemic. The second CIL expenditure framework review has been approved. Councillors have agreed a £300,000 funding programme for small businesses in towns and villages across Babergh and Mid Suffolk. Car parking enforcement is being transferred to Local Authorities. They will prioritise the service to maintain access for emergency care, delivery, refuse and highway services.

**Clerks report:** Due the COVID 19 pandemic the annual parish assembly was not held. All reports from organisations will be published in the newsletter or on the website. Anglian Water and Highways have been working on the water problem on Cox Hill. The local policing team confirmed they carried out traffic data recording in Wickerstreet Green during March. All figures were noted. Councillors who live in that area felt that this had been sited in the wrong place.

**Correspondence:** Car parking enforcement has been transferred from the police to the Local Authorities. Brown bin waste collections are to resume. Suffolk recycling centres are to re-open by appointment.

**Finance:** All matters under finance were agreed.

Parish council accounts and governance statement for year ending 31 March. Councillors had all received a copy of the accounts.

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# PARISH COUNCIL (cont.)

**Planning:** Progress. Babergh had granted permission for four commercial units at Kersey Mill. One planning application had been received too late to be discussed. This is for a cart lodge at Old Mill house. An extraordinary meeting will be held to discuss this and any other applications.

**KCPC:** The playground is formally closed. The mower has been repaired and it is hoped it will last the season. Grass is being cut on an informal basis. After obtaining quotes for a disabled swing the group would like to go ahead and apply for a grant from Babergh. Other work also needs to be carried out on some of the equipment. The surface around the cricket net has been pressure washed.

**Footpaths:** Individuals are cutting paths whilst taking necessary precautions. Some posts need re-setting. Cyclists have been using the footpaths. This is not allowed.

**Review and adopt policies:** There were no amendments. All were re-adopted.

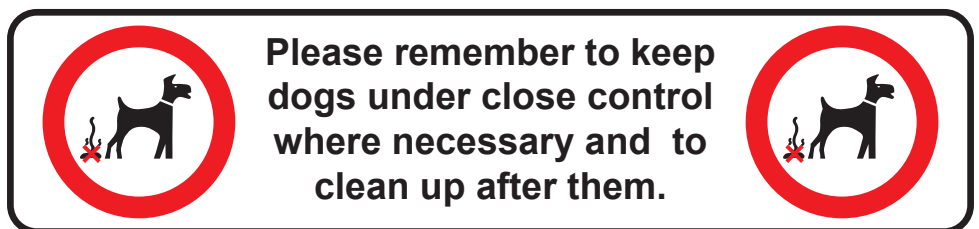
**Actions taken during the pandemic:** The clerk receives regular updates regarding the pandemic. A mobile testing unit has been opened at Copdock. The clerk has increased her working hours due to additional work created by the pandemic. The chairman thanked all volunteers who were providing support during this difficult time.

**Review and adopt the Emergency Plan:** All councillors had a copy of the final draft. The chair and clerk were thanked for all the work they had done putting the document together.

**AOB:** A concern was raised about the number of cyclists who fall off in the Splash. Some needing hospital treatment. The chairman would report to SCC who are responsible for looking after the surface.

*Kersey Parish Council will continue to hold Council meetings during the COVID 19 pandemic. These meetings will be held remotely using a video link. Links to the Parish Council meetings will be published on the Kersey website and the public are able to participate as they would usually at face to face meetings in the village hall. The Parish Council will follow the scheduled meeting dates as listed on the website.*

Next remote meeting 6th July.



# ST. MARY'S CHURCH

What's that curse again? Something like "May you live in interesting times". Well they're pretty interesting right now. I actually honestly slightly look back at lockdown with a wistful eye. Yes I know, crazy as lockdown was, it was straightforward, it had rules and felt very Old Testament like with its Ten Commandments – minus the instruction to go to church once a week obviously.

Now life is doing almost everything I used to do but with 2m social distancing and without the three things that used to sustain my wellbeing:

1. Praying together in church
2. Having a drink in the Bell
3. Shopping in TK MAXX

So I have to navigate this strange and not very brave new world accompanied with nothing more than a vague sense of unease that I'm too close to the other guy in the crisp aisle in Lady Lane Garage (strictly pork scratchings for me because crisps are not on the diet).

I've had, like everyone else, to learn an entirely new way of doing my job, and it feels like my capacity for learning new ways of doing stuff has diminished rather than increased. If someone suggests that we do church without singing or something they're going to get a very hard stare. Oh wait, I remember now, singing has actually been banned by the government before they've even allowed churches to open.

What I have discovered is three new ways of being sustained though:

1. Sitting on the bench outside St Mary's and chatting (socially distanced) with people as they walk past. I mean properly chatting, not a hi-and-bye because I was too busy
2. Starting each day with a time of quiet reflection
3. Getting a lot more exercise

God created us to grow, he made us the most adaptable creatures on the planet. We're capable of building submarines to live underwater for a year; of making rockets to visit the moon; and of devising new ways of connecting with our neighbour and our creator.

The next phase will be tougher than lockdown, the New Testament is tougher than the Old; it replaced laws with love and nothing is harder or more heart breaking than love.

Still we're in it together. I know, I know, I know it's an overused phrase but the thing is, in most other places it is just a phrase. In Kersey Parish, it means something.

Stay safe,

God Bless you,

Jackson

**Rev Jackson Crompton-Battersby.**

Vicar of Kersey, Elmsett, Aldham, Hintlesham & Chattisham

Telephone: 01473 657349

Email: [rev@kind.church](mailto:rev@kind.church)

All our Sunday services and other events are at [www.kerseychurch.org](http://www.kerseychurch.org)

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# ST. MARY'S CHURCH SERVICES

There will be no services in church until further notice, however our daily and Sunday services are online on YouTube – search for Parish Connection or use the QR code here:



You may also subscribe to the channel via YouTube – search “Parish Connection”. A lovely way to ‘visit’ our Benefice churches.

Please go to [www.kerseychurch.org](http://www.kerseychurch.org) for information.

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Please send items for inclusion well before the deadline of 22nd June to:

**Rachel Wells: 01473 822230 - [rachel@kersey-village.co.uk](mailto:rachel@kersey-village.co.uk) or**

**Viv Marsh: 07747 175858 - [kersey@moonridge.me.uk](mailto:kersey@moonridge.me.uk)**

# PARISH REPORTS

PARISH REPORTS which would normally have been read at the Parish Assembly. Full reports can be found on the Kersey website. (Others were included in the May newsletter.)

## **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT** *John Hume*

This is my seventh report as chair. The Parish Council aim to represent the best interests of our residents who are encouraged to raise matters of concern at meetings. I thank councillors for their contributions and support during the year. I would also like to thank the County and District councillor's for attending the meetings and for their advice.

During the year eighteen planning applications were considered, eleven of which we gave support to. The Emergency Plan has now been approved.

The volunteer group (KVG) was launched in February with sixteen people signing up.

The Parish Council has expressed concerns about the Crossroads. Minor improvements have been made but it is still dangerous.

COVID 19 has prompted changes in our lives. Parish Council meetings are being held on line using Zoom. The Parish Council set up a group of volunteers to assist with shopping, collecting prescriptions etc. We are grateful for their support. The clerk liaises with SALC, Babergh and CAS to share information.

Our clerk Sarah Partridge has been working in excess of her contractual hours. We are fortunate to have such an experienced and efficient clerk and I thank her for her contribution to the community.

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## **Kersey Parish Council Contacts**

### **Parish Councillors:**

John Hume (Chair)	Ayres End, The Green, Kersey IP7 6EB	01473 810098
Andrew Rogers (VC)	The Gables, Wickerstreet Green, Kersey IP7 6EY	01787 212242
Mrs Penny Calnan	Wickerstreet House, Wickerstreet Green, IP7 6EY	01787 210459
David Finch	1 Row Cottage, Priory Hill, Kersey IP7 6DX	07769 612933
Pascoe Gibbons	Kedges End, Kedges Lane, Kersey IP7 6RY	01473 822815
Mrs Philippa Harris	4 Ancient Houses, The Street, Kersey IP7 6EA	01473 827079
Kevin Pratt	Green Gables, The Green, Kersey IP7 6EB	01473 823028

### **Clerk & RFO:**

Mrs Sarah Partridge	Bridges Farm, The Tye, Kersey, IP7 6HB	01787 210859 kerseypc@gmail.com
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*Kersey Parish Council publishes on the Kersey website past minutes, financial information, ordinary meetings dates for the year and contact information. There is also a wealth of other useful information on the Kersey website.*

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## **Kersey Parish Council Budget and Precept:**

	<b>Budget/ Precept</b>	<b>Budget/ Precept</b>
<b>Parish Council</b>	<b>2019/2020</b>	<b>2020/2021</b>
Post/Tel/Stationery/copier cartridge	£135.00	£135.00
Clerk's working from home exp	£208.00	£208.00
Hall Hire: Parish Council 12 @ £5	£60.00	£60.00
Annual Parish Assembly @ £10	£10.00	£10.00
SALC subscription	£180.00	£185.00

## PARISH REPORTS (cont.)

External Audit	£100.00	£0.00
Data Protection	£35.00	£40.00
Website hosting	£100.00	£110.00
Sub total for Admin	£828.00	£748.00
Clerk's Salary & Staff Costs	£4,905.00	£5,400.00
Training/External Meetings	£250.00	£250.00
Street Lighting	£240.00	£275.00
Parish Council Insurance	£340.00	£370.00
Glebe Insurance	£50.00	£50.00
Hedge Cut - The Glebe	£80.00	£80.00
Playground Safety Inspection	£87.00	£90.00
Dog Litter Bin emptying charge	£45.00	£48.00
St Mary's Church	£420.00	£420.00
Defibrillator & Village Emergency Tel	£215.00	£215.00
Chairman's Allowance	£0.00	£0.00
Election costs	£25.00	£165.00
Church Walk future maintenance	£130.00	£130.00
Footpath Map printing reserve	£75.00	£75.00
Mowing The Glebe		£100.00
Contingencies	£300.00	£300.00
<b>Precept</b>	<b>£7,990.00</b>	<b>£8,716.00</b>
Other PC income	£64.54	
<b>PC Income</b>	<b>£8,054.54</b>	
Agreed spending from PC reserves:		
From the defibrillator and VETS reserve	£100.00	£100.00
<b>Total Budget</b>	<b>£8,154.54</b>	<b>£8,816.00</b>

The Precept for 2019/20 was £7,990. For a band D property the council tax was £44.83.  
The Precept for 2020/21 is £8,716. For a band D property the council tax is £47.88.

### **FOOTPATH WORKING GROUP** *Kevin Pratt*

Thank you to the volunteers and land owner representatives for all the help and co-operation given during the year. One long standing volunteer has retired and we are always looking for new helpers. If you find any issue with a footpath contact the FWG. I trust you will enjoy walking in the beautiful Kersey countryside on our footpaths.

### **KCPC** *Jonathan Marsh*

The playground continues to be a popular resource although currently closed. The quiz night raised £644. It is hoped another one can be held in November. The chestnut fencing was replaced in 2019. Quotes for a cradle swing were obtained, funding will be needed to help towards the cost. I would like to thank all those who help on the grass cutting rota and on maintenance days.

### **KERSEY VOLUNTEER GROUP** *John Hume*

The aim is to make Kersey a pleasant and safe place to live, work and visit. Volunteer residents were allocated specific areas to monitor. Collecting litter, reporting potholes or leaks. The volunteers are to be commended and thanked for their contribution to the community.

cont./

# PARISH REPORTS (cont.)

## **FRIENDS OF ST MARYS** *Mark Rigby*

The Friends was established early in 2019. By December £3,628 had been raised via a number of fund raising events and other donations. A number of events planned for 2020 have been cancelled, events planned for later in the year will be reviewed. The trustees remain very positive and excited about being able to help and support St Mary's.

## **SCHOOL** *Jess Damant*

My report comes at a very peculiar time for our school having been closed since March. Staff have been working tirelessly to ensure pupils continue their learning. The staff have continued to focus on areas for improvement raised in our OFSTED report last year. The whole school visited the Science Museum in London and also Colchester zoo.

Last year we opened a new early years outdoor area. We are pleased to report we have high numbers ready for admission in September. We are grateful to the Grays Trust for a donation towards a new school website.

The school continues to benefit hugely from Rev. Jackson's input in many areas of school life. The children have shared their learning with parents and the community during Discovery cafes, celebration assemblies, Science week and World Book Day.

The ECO council took part in the local litter pick.

Friends of Kersey school continue to support us by purchasing educational equipment and providing transport to events. We thank all the community for their co-operation and continued support.

## **KERSEY PLAYING FIELD** *Mark Pertwee*

I would like to thank Ian Hattrick for his many years of service, he has been a fount of knowledge in handing over his responsibilities. The Glebe continues to be a valued resource in the village. The equipment and playing area are in regular use by school children and parishioners. The Glebe is available weather permitting for events or for car parking for events in the village. We are grateful to the KCPC for maintenance of the facilities which they have installed and to Suffolk County Council for grass cutting.

## **MILLENNIUM BOOK FUND**

The Parish Council agreed this year to allocate the funds in the Millennium Book Fund towards a new piece of equipment at The Glebe.

## **NIGHTINGALE TRUST**

The Trust is responsible for twenty seven allotments in the parish. Seven residents in the parish received winter support payment and a donation was given to the local food bank programme. There is currently a waiting list for plots when available.

## **ST MARY'S CHURCH** *Linda Newbigging*

The business of St Mary's church would not be possible without the continued help and support from the people of Kersey parish. We would like to take this opportunity to thank you all.

This year three of our most long serving volunteers have decided to retire: Joan Hattrick who continued to support us by drawing up the cleaning rota even after she officially retired from the PCC; Dr Frances Moore served as a Governor and Foundation Governor at Kersey school for 20 years and Neville Whittell who wound the clock for many years.



# PARISH REPORTS (cont.)

The PCC met regularly and our minutes are published online whenever possible. There are vacancies on the PCC from this April and we would love to see someone in the role as the second churchwarden.

The PCC has undertaken work on the fabric of the building by restoring the chancel door, the rood screen door and the west door and improved the entrance; repaired a leak in the lead roof of the north aisle; ramps have been built to enable full access to all. The ringing room was cleared, lime washed and a screen installed to hide the boiler and LED lighting added.

A worship team was formed to look at our current services and service patterns. Some changes are being trialled from Feb/March 2020

A working party was formed to oversee the re-hallowing of the Shrine. With the support of many Kersey residents, Bishop Martin and Archdeacon David, a year of preparation began in March. It culminated with a very moving service on the 8th March 2020. There will follow an arts festival in the years to come. This is now delayed due to the pandemic which shut us all down on 20th March.

Our finances remain very tight. We have done everything required to maintain our public building status as well as met the annual insurance. We have introduced contactless payment devices in the hope of increased sales of gifts and giving at services.

Thank you for all you are doing; collectively we have raised £25,000 each year to keep our church open and in good condition – no mean feat.

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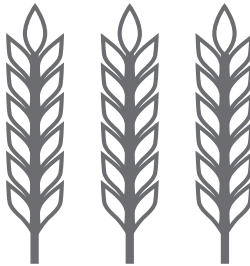


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# FARMING NOTES

## Arable:

As I write these notes on 22nd May it occurs to me that I seem to be falling into line with the old adage that farmers are always complaining about the weather! However, it does seem to be true that our weather has become much more extreme in recent years and currently, although we were expecting some thunder storms a few days ago that did not materialise; we now appear to be in the grips of another drought! All of our crops, cereals, sugar beet, Oilseed Rape and grass are now desperate for rain and if we get none as forecast, then prospects for harvest and winter feed look dire.

We have been continuing, despite the prospects, to apply fertiliser and fungicides in the hope of maximising yields if we do indeed get some rain. In the current conditions some fungal diseases of cereals, such as yellow rust, thrive, and it certainly suits the influx of aphids that spread 'virus yellows', a yield sapping disease in sugar beet. As usual we are also continuing the seemingly never ending tasks of machinery, building and fence maintenance.

## Cattle:

We made 180 big round bales of silage in the middle of May, this was to save some of the spare spring growth of grass so that we can feed it during the winter. While the quality of the silage is high the volume is low (we often make 400 bales) and winter feed will have to be supplemented with straw from the cereal harvest. We need rain soon in order to get a good regrowth of grass for mid-summer grazing. Meanwhile the bulls are working and more Pedigree British Blue embryos have been implanted into recipient mothers.

## Sheep Shearing:

Although there are a couple of breeds of sheep which shed their wool and do not need shearing, most breeds including Suffolk Sheep have to be sheared once a year. At one time the wool and textile industry brought a lot of wealth to this region but these days the value of wool is very low



(less than £3 a fleece). However, if they were not sheared the sheep would get too hot and heavy with wool, then flies lay eggs on the fleece with the resulting maggots being very bad news for the sheep. I started shearing our sheep over 35 years ago and have done it each year since. Although it is dirty, hot, hard work and a professional shearer could do it much faster, I actually quite enjoy the task and a warm shower followed by a cold beer is never more welcome than after a shearing session!

This year I started by shearing the group of 20 yearling rams, these weigh in at over 100kg and are strong and stubborn animals. Sometimes it is a bit of a wrestle just dragging them out of the pen and turning them over on the shearing board ready to start. These breeding rams will be offered for sale to other farmers in late summer and autumn and shearing them first allows more time for some wool to regrow so that they will look their best at sale time. Having done the rams first the prospect of shearing the 80 ewes does not seem so bad, as they are lighter and less flighty. Although I am a bit slow at shearing I take pride in doing a decent job and it is rewarding to see a group of sheep sheared and looking tidy. I must be doing something right since this year (because of lockdown) I was also allowed to trim Sarah's hair!

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# BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL

I hope everyone is continuing to stay well and safe during this time. As I write, we await the government announcement on what restrictions may or may not be lifted as we go forward. In the meantime the council have continued to try to help local businesses and communities.

Councillors have agreed a £300,000 funding programme for small businesses in towns and villages across Babergh and Mid Suffolk to be allocated over the next three years.

With many businesses currently facing uncertain and difficult times, the new fund scheme from Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils will provide a much needed boost to businesses after the coronavirus crisis to help sustain and create jobs, provide opportunities to grow and innovate as well as react to the changing business landscape.

Small businesses from start-ups to those looking to expand, will be able to apply for a grant. The grants can be used in a variety of ways from improving environmental outcomes and sustainability, accessing professional advice and training, improving disabled access and business frontage or for the development of technology-based business solutions.

The criteria, eligibility and application process will be confirmed once the business grant fund programme is launched later this year. This new funding programme is entirely separate to the emergency help given to support individuals and businesses as part of the council's immediate response to COVID-19 and instead looks to help businesses plan and deliver their future growth.

Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils have also approved grants totalling more than £64,000 to support local communities in their response to COVID-19.

The Emerging Needs Grant has allowed both new and existing groups in Babergh and Mid Suffolk to apply for funding of up to £2,500 to cover increased costs incurred as a result of the Coronavirus (Covid-19). These costs include ongoing staff costs, volunteer expenses, utility bills and the purchasing of food or other consumables.

A straightforward application process has enabled 62 community groups across both districts to apply for the grant, with this figure set to increase over coming weeks. The councils' Grants Team has worked around the clock to respond to over half of applicants so far - helping to ease the challenges faced by residents during the crisis.

As a result of this over £48,000 of much-needed funding has been paid out during the past couple of months to groups in Babergh and Mid Suffolk, who are playing a key role in protecting vulnerable residents and helping our communities remain resilient during the COVID-19 outbreak.

Included within these figures is over £15,000 of funding for local foodbanks, with groups in Hadleigh, Bildeston, Stowmarket, Battisford and Debenham amongst those in receipt of grants to enable their vital work to continue.

In terms of myself, I am happy to help anyone with any concerns or worries that they may have at any time. Please do not hesitate to contact me via email or mobile.

**Leigh Jamieson (Cllr)**

Leigh.jamieson@babergh.gov.uk

Bus. mobile: 07548 156181

# DIARY DATES

- 6 Jul – Parish Council meeting . . . . . Village Hall (or on-line\*) . . . . .19.30  
25 Jul – Swingin’ for St Mary’s . . . . . Village Hall . . . . .TBC  
7 Sep – Parish Council meeting . . . . . Village Hall (or on-line\*) . . . . .19.30  
12 Sep – Flower Show . . . . . Village Hall . . . . . 14.15~17.00  
16 Nov – Parish Council meeting . . . . . Village Hall (or on-line\*) . . . . .19.30  
28 Nov – Kersey Christmas Party . . . . . Village Hall . . . . .TBC

*\*Until further notice Parish meetings are being held online using “Zoom.us”.*

*Links are published on <https://kersey.suffolk.cloud/parish-council/meetings/>*



## The Kersey Parish Newsletter

The Parish Newsletter is sponsored and distributed by St. Mary’s Church on behalf of all parishioners.

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

**[www.kersey.suffolk.cloud/our-community/newsletter/](http://www.kersey.suffolk.cloud/our-community/newsletter/)**

The approximate production cost is 50p per copy (£5 per year). All contributions gratefully received – please pass via your distributor or to:

**Rachel Wells, 1 Vale Corner, Vale Lane, Kersey.**

Or make online transfers (or arrange an annual standing order) to:

**Kersey St. Mary PCC, 30-13-52 00694777.**

*For further parish details and events, please see [www.kersey.suffolk.cloud](http://www.kersey.suffolk.cloud)*