

KERSEY PARISH NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2025

Welcome to Kersey Open Gardens 7th June 2025



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PLEASE EMAIL YOUR KERSEY PHOTO TO COLIN GRANNELL FOR CONSIDERATION BY
THE EDITORIAL TEAM (hawkgcg@hotmail.com)

This newsletter is delivered free to all Kersey residents. If outsourced the production costs would be £1 per copy. Please consider setting up a standing order of at least £10 per year to help with budgets.

Details inside.

CONTACT NUMBERS

Parochial Church Council

Vicar: Rev. Geoffrey Clementrevgclement@gmail.com or 01473 657316
Secretary: Linda Newbigging01787 210137
Church Warden: Rachel Wells01473 822230
Bellringers – Bell Captain: Neville Whittell.....01473 822616
Forget-me-nots – Organiser: Veronica Partridge01473 823188
Tuesday Club – Rachel Wells01473 822230
Table Tennis Club – Adrian Blyth01473 827805

Parish Council

Chairman: John Hume01473 810098
Clerk to the Council: Sarah Partridge.....07765916162
Footpaths – Chairman: Kevin Pratt07854 390658

Kersey Community Playground Committee – Jonathan Marsh..... 01473 822927

Neighbourhood Watch – Vacant

Village Hall

Chairman: Veronica Partridge01473 823188
Secretary and Bookings: Natalie Blyth nablyth1@gmail.com or 01473 827805

VPA (Village Produce Association)

Chairman: Pete Partridge07901913932
Secretary: Rachel Wells01473 822230

Grays Trust

Chairman: Mary Pearce.....07947079422
Secretary: Philippa Harris01473 827079

Nightingale Trust/Allotments – Info: Natalie Blyth01473 827805

School – Joint Headteachers: Jess Damant and Claire Dunnell Paley 01473 823397

Kersey Playingfield Assoc. (Glebe) – Mark Pertwee.....01473 810227

Kersey Community Website.....www.kerseyparish.gov.uk

Hadleigh Health Practice01473 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) .

Defibrillators: There are THREE cPAD (Community Public Access Defibrillators) accessible 24/7 in the Parish. 1) The Bell Inn, Kersey IP7 6DY. 2) West Sampsons Hall Farm, Uplands, Kersey IP7 6EN. 3) Kersey Mill IP7 6DP. A further one is available at Kersey School IP7 6EG when the school is open.

I ONLY HAVE ONE DAY AVAILABLE TO PRODUCE THIS NEWSLETTER IN JUNE. COPY
MUST BE IN MY EMAIL BY END OF THE 24TH. hawkcg@hotmail.com CG

St Mary's Church

The other day I found on YouTube some old clips of 70's comedy – On the Buses, Till Death us Do Part with Alf Garnett. Wow, how things have changed. What caught my eye was the sitcom "Love thy neighbour". A well-intentioned comedy but with a script that would never see the light of day now. The phrase "love thy neighbour" as I am sure you know originates in the Bible, specifically in Matthew 22:39. It is a core teaching, emphasizing the importance of treating others with the same care and compassion we would give ourselves. This commandment is often described as the second great commandment, alongside loving God. In Matthew 22 we get the parable of the Good Samaritan, in answer to the question: Who is my Neighbour?

In the modern world that question is still relevant but slightly more complicated with the growing use of Social Media which has shrunk our world and made us neighbours of virtually everyone. For example I was sent a picture on Facebook by a friend of mine from Uruguay of him and some of his friends from a church in Montevideo. The photo was taken a few years ago and in the centre was a Roman Catholic bishop who was visiting from Peru. The bishop was nonother than Bob Prevost, now known as Pope Leo XIV.

This got me thinking about the idea that there are only 6 degrees of separation between us all. The idea behind "six degrees of separation" is that any two people on Earth are connected by a chain of no more than six mutual acquaintances. In other words, you can reach any person in the world through a maximum of six social connections.

The American psychologist Stanley Milgram (that's his name not how much he weighed!) conducted the famous "small world experiment" in which people were asked to send a letter to a specific person through intermediaries. On average, the chain length was about 6, giving rise to the phrase.

Modern studies, especially using social media data, support the basic premise:

In 2016 a Facebook study found the average separation between any two users was 3.57 degrees. So, in large social networks, especially digital ones, the "six degrees" idea is actually conservative—most people are even more closely connected. This means that thanks to global communication, social media, and dense social networks, we're often fewer than six steps away from anyone.

I have nothing against Social Media, it is how I keep in touch with my family and friends abroad. However, the proximity that technology gives us is not the same as emotional or spiritual closeness. There is nothing that can compete with meeting face to face with our "neighbours" and this is something we should value and do as often as possible. It's never too late to reach out to those who we've not seen for a while and let them know we are thinking of them and reminding them that we care, that we "love our neighbour" even if we've not seen them for a while.

Yours, Vicar Geoffrey

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Church Clergy:

Rev. Geoffrey Clement
01473 657316

Church Officials

Rachel Wells: Church Warden 01473822230
Linda Newbigging: Secretary 01787210137
Colin Grannell: Treasurer: 01473 829074

The PCC met in the Church on the 7th May.

Matters Arising: Paperwork from the recent APCM including the new Electoral Role has been completed and sent to the Diocese. Safeguarding training is underway for those requiring to renew their certification.

Lighting: Phase 1 of the programme has been completed to everyone's satisfaction. It was agreed to seek the necessary third party grant to complete Phase 2 and this work to source the funds (alongside FOSM and SHCT) will commence immediately.

Sound System: Continues to work well. A plea made not to touch the dials!

Financial Report: 2024 Gift Aid received online from HMRC. This allowed us to remit a further amount to the Diocese. The 5 year Electricity Business contract has come to an end and new a 2 year contract been negotiated. In general terms we are meeting our daily funding requirements but not our designated Quota.

PCC Fundraising: The clock centenary celebrations are in hand as is the Madrigalia Concert scheduled for 18th December.

Car Park Lease: This is due for renewal this year.

Fabric, Churchyard and Health and Safety: We have worked hard in the Churchyard this past month to remove vegetation, clean up tombs and clean our drains. PAT testing has taken place on all electrical appliances used inside the church. A broken floodlight has been replaced. It has been calculated that the inside lights cost more to run than the floodlights and we are tasked with reducing our carbon footprint

Parochial Church Council continued

2024 Quinquennial Inspection Report: This is now available and lists those tasks deemed to be urgent as well as those to be completed over the next few years. The most pressing activity is to renew the soakaways which are found beneath each of the spouts on the north side of the building.

Kersey Newsletter Advertisers 2025: It would be useful to get feedback on whether the current advertising is well received. We should ask the community if they know any local business which could benefit from advertising in our Newsletter? Compared to other local Parish Newsletters we have many fewer advertisers. Have we got the balance right?

We have gained two advertisers this year but unfortunately we have lost three and another one hasn't responded yet to their 2025 invoice. At the moment our 2025 advertising income is expected to be £873 versus printing costs of £1150. The difference is more than covered by Grants and donations however the closer we can get to meeting fixed costs with fixed income is a bonus.

If anyone would like to take on this advertising management role then please contact Colin Grannell hawkcg@hotmail.com 07710096611 for more details.

St MARY'S CHURCH SERVICES

1st June 11.00am	Holy Communion	Rev Geoffrey Clement
8th June 11.00am	Parish Service	Jim Sephton
15th June 6.30pm	Evensong	Rev Geoffrey Clement
22nd June	No service at Kersey	Aldham
29th June 10.00am	Benefice HC Elmsett	Rev Jackie Sephton

Village News

Baptism

Genevieve Anne Burch daughter of Adam and Isobel from Elmsett was baptised by Rev Geoffrey Clement at St Mary's on the 4th May.

Church Cleaning

2nd June Sue Jones and Lynn English
16th June June, Neil and Joan Hutton
30th June Philippa Harris and Iqbal Alam

Altar Flowers

The flower rota is up on the notice board. I would be grateful if someone would like to arrange the altar flowers sometime please. Rachel

Village News

Sympathy: We remember those who are unwell at home or in hospital.

Judy Martin of Vale Lane, Kersey passed away on the 1st May after suffering from ill health for a number of years. She was born in Kersey and had lived here all her life. She attended the local school before going on to Hadleigh secondary modern. On leaving school she did office work before becoming a carer. This was a very caring person doing a job she loved and those she cared for thought well of her. She was a lifelong supporter of Ipswich Town football club attending home matches with family members before ill health prevented her from going but she kept up her interest in the club from home. Over the years her family had many different dogs and she was devoted to the last one a spaniel called Lottie.

She will be sadly missed by her family and friends.

Cremation will take place at Seven Hills on 24th June 2.15

Rainfall: From 24th April to 23rd May only 3mm of rainfall was recorded in Vale Lane. Only 1mm fell on Wednesday 21st when we were on the edge of a thundery shower which was disappointing. Homeowners are asked to please refrain from garden bonfires during these extreme dry conditions!

Tuesday Club: In May members enjoyed their annual meal at The George in Hadleigh. Thank you for my lovely scented pinks in containers perfect for the fence.

On the 3rd June Rev Geoffrey will be joining us to talk about his journey from Westminster to Montevideo. Village Hall 7.30pm. Everyone welcome!

Allotments Available! The Nightingale Trust run the allotment site in Kersey Village. We will soon have plots available for hire. Have you ever wanted to grow your own fresh vegetables, fruit, flowers etc. Now is your chance. The allotments are situated behind The Bell, within beautiful and peaceful countryside. The rent is £30 for a half plot, and £40 for a full plot - cheaper than a gym membership and better for you!! For more information, please contact Natalie Blyth - 01473 827805 - 07487 816966
nablyth1@gmail.com

Bell Ringers : There was general ringing on 8th May to mark the 80th anniversary of VE Day. Plain Bob Minor, Grandsire and plain Bob Doubles also Plain Hunt Triples. Those who took part were Bob Howe, Kate Banks, Jill Apter, Kevin Ward(c) Pauline Brown, Crawford Allen, Karen Freeman, Lyn Edwards, Gary Edwards, Christine Huntington, Neville Whittell (c)

Friends of St Mary's (FOSM): A Committee meeting was held on 23rd May to discuss the funding of future church projects as well as consider ideas for future events. Sarah Stirling was elected as the new Chair.

Village News continued

KERSEY OPEN GARDENS 2025

Saturday, 7th June 2025 11.00 am to 5.00 pm

Adults: £5 (cash only), Under 16s: Free

With over 20 gardens to explore and refreshments available in the Village Hall throughout the day.

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



Contact kerseyprojects@gmail.com for further details.

Kersey Village Produce Association

Join us for a day out at

WIMPOLE HALL, Cambridgeshire

Saturday 21st June pick-up time by 9.00am

Pick-up point: The Triangle at Vale Lane or Magdalen Road Bus Stop Hadleigh

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Children (5-17) £15

Contact Marvin at Greetham@oulook.com



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THE KERSEY PARISH NEWSLETTER

The Parish Newsletter is sponsored and distributed by St. Mary's Church on behalf of all parishioners. It is delivered **FREE** to properties within the parish 10 times a year and is also available to download from:

www.kerseyparish.gov.uk/our-community/newsletter/

The outsourced production cost would be £1 per copy (£10 per year).

All contributions gratefully received: the preferred payment method is online or standing order to – **Kersey St. Mary PCC, 30-13-52 00694777 Ref KPN**

Alternatively please pass cash via your distributor or to:

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

For further parish details and events, please see www.kerseyparish.gov.uk

News from Kersey Primary School

Kersey CE Primary School is a warm, inclusive village school located in rural Suffolk, serving a mixed catchment area. With just three mixed-age classes, we take great pride in our close-knit community and our commitment to the well-being of every child in our care.

Oak (KS2)

Oak class have been reading and rehearsing script adaptions from Thomas Taylor's Malamander. We have been creating our own interpretations of the characters and acting out our ideas!

Sapling (KS1)

Sapling class have been excitedly preparing their comic strip for the Hadleigh Show Education tent. They look forward to sharing their character 'Kersey Kale' with you.

Acorn (EYFS)

Acorn class have been busy learning all about pirates. They have enjoyed walking the plank and finding sparkly treasure and golden coins.

Thank you!

We wanted to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to the local residents who come into school to help with reading, music and clubs. If you would like to help, please get in contact.

Kersey School Needs You!

Are you passionate about education and our village school? We are looking for people in the community to join our Governing Body. If you think this is something you would be interested in please contact the school office by phone or email to find out more.

Dates for your diary – please come along!

8 th July 1pm to 3pm	Sports afternoon at the Glebe
15 th July 2pm	Summer production in the Village Hall
23 rd May/27 th June/18 th July	Stay and play 2:15pm – 3pm, Parents and pre school children welcome to attend.

'On a journey together.'



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FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S 500 CLUB LOTTERY

Latest 500 Club draw results:

May 2025

1st Prize	Neil Hutton
2nd Prize	Mary Pearce
3rd Prize	Trevor Stirling



Congratulations to the winners and thanks to everyone in the Club.

For details of the 500 Club monthly lottery and FoSM membership information please contact Mark Pertwee on 07919166782 or email fosmkersey@gmail.com

Kersey Parish Newsletter

if you have any local interest stories, memories, old photos, favourite recipes or anything else that you would like to share then **please** let me know.

Colin Grannell, Orchard Barn, hawkgc@hotmail.com

DIARY DATES

3rd June	Tuesday Club:	Village Hall 7.30pm
7th June	Kersey Open Gardens:	11am to 5pm
21st June	VPA Outing to Wimpole Hall	

June moments throughout the ages

1st June, 1946: Television licenses first issued in Britain. They cost £2.

2nd June, 1875: Alexander Graham Bell and his assistant Watson made the first sound transmission.

2nd June, 1953: Elizabeth II's coronation took place in Westminster Abbey.

5th June, 1832: In Paris, young writer Victor Hugo hid behind a pillar after hearing gunshots and witnessed the king's soldiers shoot republican rebels. This moment stayed with Hugo for the rest of his life and around 13 years later, he began writing a novel: *Les Misérables*.

6th June, 1944: D-Day invasion of Normandy by Allied troops took place to liberate German-occupied France and Western Europe.

11th June, 1509: In a private ceremony at Greenwich Palace, 17-year-old King Henry VIII married Catherine of Aragon. Catherine was previously married to Henry's brother Arthur before he died.

11th June, 1987: Margaret Thatcher became the first British Prime Minister in 160 years to win a third consecutive term. The election also marked the first time black candidates were elected to the House of Commons.

14th June, 1645: The Parliamentarian New Model Army defeated King Charles I's army at the Battle of Naseby, during the Civil War.

15th June, 1215: King John and his barons gathered on the banks of the River Thames at Runnymede and signed the Magna Carta.

18th June, 1815: British and Prussian forces led by Field Marshal Gebhard von Blucher and the Duke of Wellington defeated Napolean at the Battle of Waterloo in Belgium.

19th June, 1917: During the third year of World War I, British King George V ordered the royal family to renounce all German names and titles and adopt the surname Windsor instead.

21st June, 1675: Construction began on St. Paul's Cathedral, London, which was designed by Sir Christopher Wren.

22nd June, 1814: The first-ever cricket match was played at England's Lord's Cricket Ground between the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) and Hertfordshire.

28th June, 1838: Queen Victoria's coronation took place when she was just 19 years old. The ceremony took five hours to complete and, due to a lack of rehearsal, suffered many mishaps. Famously, the coronation ring was painfully forced onto the Queen's wrong finger!

29th June, 1613: London's Globe Theatre was destroyed by flames after a theatrical cannon was fired to announce the King's entrance in Shakespeare's *Henry V*.

30th June, 1894: Tower Bridge in London was officially opened by The Prince of Wales.

Kersey Parish Council

The annual meeting of Kersey Parish Council was held on the 12th May. Present were chair J. Hume, four councillors, clerk and one member of the public. John Hume was elected as chair with Andrew Rogers as Vice chair. Apologies were received from two councillors and County and District Councillors

County councillor Robert Lindsay and District councillor Leigh Jamieson had sent reports. These can be found on the website.

All appointments to village organisations were made.

Planning.

Linton House: Erection of rear porch and two storey rear extension plus erection of single storey outbuilding and internal and external alterations. Babergh Council refused this application due to heritage concerns. Parish councillors were disappointed with this decision.

Cypress House: (formerly Wormwood Green) felling of trees. The councillors supported this work subject to new trees being planted.

2 Vale Corner. Repair/ replacement of sole plate. Councillors supported these repairs.

4 Vale Lane. Erection of two storey side extension. Councillors supported this application but would like to see cladding painted a colour sympathetic to the surroundings.

Clerks report.

Highways confirmed all verges in Kersey should be cut by 4th July. New posts for speed limit signs have been installed. The signs will be fitted at the end of August when the surface dressing is done. The clerk regularly checks the defibrillators and updates the Google calendar.

All correspondence had been circulated to councillors.

Finances.

All were approved. A report was received confirming the year end accounts had been checked and all were in order. Council accounts and governance statements were all noted, approved and signed.

Footpath working group.

Surface clearance and repairs are underway.

KCPC working group.

The grass cutting rota is working well and hedge cutting completed.

People and Place plan.

Once all responses have been received the steering group leader will report to council meetings.

Kersey Parish Council continued

Mobile phone reception.

Letters to be sent to OFCOM and mobile phone providers to ask what they are doing to improve the signal. There were concerns when the landlines are phased out and replaced by digital voice which operate through broadband these will not operate in a power failure. Residents could be left with no way of contacting emergency services.

Any Other Business:

The Bell Inn tenancy is being offered for sale again. It is registered as an asset of community value.

A resident has offered to set up a WhatsApp for residents in central Kersey. Other parts of the village could have groups set up in the future.

A question was asked about progress on building work to 1-6 The Street. A full report can be found on the website.



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Kersey Primary School

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We would love to meet you!



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Farming Notes May 2025

Arable

As I write on 21st of May, it is true to say that the 24 mm of rain I mentioned in last month's Farming Notes is the last rain we had on the farm with the exception of 2 mm today! There were some heavy downpours in some areas, but we are still waiting for a 'harvest saving' deluge. Rain is forecast over the next few days but I'm afraid it will only be showers of not much consequence, I firmly hope I'm wrong! It is quite astonishing how well the arable crops look but I am convinced that without substantial rain they will not fill well on our medium soil, and the harvest will be very poor.

The cycle of fertiliser and fungicide sprays continues, but we have reduced the expenditure on wheat and barley to reflect the potential loss of income in the case of reduced yield. Worrying time indeed.

Cattle

The last two calves of the season were duly born without further issues and are now running out at grass with their mothers and most of the other cattle. Novak the Simmental bull is also now out with the batch of cows and calves on the field nearest to Kersey. We bought Novak last year with the idea being that we would keep his daughters as replacement breeding females in the commercial herd. The Simmental breed is recognised as being one with the good maternal traits of easy calving and milkiness. Therefore when his calves started to arrive in February of this year we were a little disappointed when the first six calves were all boys! Eventually the girls made a comeback and the final score was twelve of each which means we should have a dozen heifers to pick from to become next year's herd replacements.

Usually at this time of year we are planning to cut excess grass and make about three hundred of the large round bales of silage which is useful winter feed. However this year the extremely dry conditions have resulted in poor grass growth and there is no point spending money making silage if the cows are going to need the grass to graze. We will have to make alternative arrangements for the winter – this may involve feeding straw with added energy supplied by pouring molasses onto it or depending on cereal prices at the time, we could feed supplementary barley.

We were very pleased to send off nine Pedigree British Blue bulls recently. After a few weeks in quarantine they should move into the Cogent stud in Cheshire and hopefully then begin to produce semen which Cogent will be selling to farmers around the world. This is the largest group of bulls which we have supplied Cogent with so far and brings our total number of bulls supplied to them since 2013 to seventy.

Sheep

The ewes and lambs are doing well and although grass growth is limited the very dry weather has continued to keep the parasites - which are normally an issue to lambs, at low levels. Blowfly are always an issue during the summer and to prevent fly strike (maggots) I will be treating the lambs with a pour on insecticide soon while the best prevention for the adult sheep is to shear them.

The Hadleigh Show went off very well recently with crowds enjoying the sunshine. We went with fairly low expectations so were delighted to win the butchers lamb class and came home with a trophy.

Some of the bulls sold to Cogent....



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KERSEY CRIME REVIEW 5th April to 5th May 2025

There have been no crimes or incidents for the police reported within this date range.

This month, I thought I would highlight some good crime prevention techniques for reducing the chances of your bicycle being stolen. Bikes being stolen are unfortunately a fairly regular occurrence, with E-bikes or more expensive pedal bikes at larger risk.

Always lock your bike with at least one good quality lock, a lock which meets 'Sold Secure Gold Standard'. Using two different types of lock at the same time means the thief will require different tools to cut the locks, which will take longer, make more noise and increase the chances of the thief being seen. Choose a quality D-lock and substantial chain and when locking, make sure they are as tight as possible.

Never leave your bike unlocked, even for a moment, whether you are out or at home. Secure any lock away from the ground to prevent it being smashed. Lock your bike to a secure purpose made cycle stand or another immovable object, never leave your bike attached to a movable object such as a temporary sign outside a shop or a plastic drainpipe. If possible, leave your bike where it can be seen by passers-by, in a well-lit area and covered by CCTV.

Remove or secure any valuables, including wheels, saddles, lights and devices. Register your bike for free at www.bikeregister.com. Take photos of your bike and make a note of the serial number and anything unique. Don't buy a bike you suspect may be stolen, if the price is too good to be true, be very suspicious, meet the seller at their home or work address, check security markings using a UV torch, check the website above prior to purchase to make sure it is not flagged as stolen.

Kind Regards,
PC 1293 Johnson – Community Police Officer.

Council Reforms:

Suffolk's council system is undergoing significant changes with Government proposing to replace the two tier county and district structure with one or more unitary authorities alongside a directly elected mayor. Do you want to know more? Or have something to say? Now is your opportunity!.....



Let's shape the future of Suffolk together

How could public services work better for you?

Local government in Suffolk is changing. All county, district and borough councils are being replaced with 'unitary' councils responsible for delivering all services.

Suffolk's district and borough councils are working together on an ambitious proposal for two or three unitary councils delivering services to different parts of the county. We believe these will meet the differing needs of our diverse communities - councils that are big enough to deliver, local enough to care.

But what do **YOU** think?

We want to hear the views of residents, businesses, organisations and communities. These major changes will be shaped by your needs.

Please provide your feedback by scanning the QR code, visit: www.midsuffolk.govocal.com/en-GB/projects/have-your-say-suffolk, or call your local district or borough council if you need a paper copy of the survey. We will carefully consider all your responses before putting forward a final proposal to the Government in September.





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