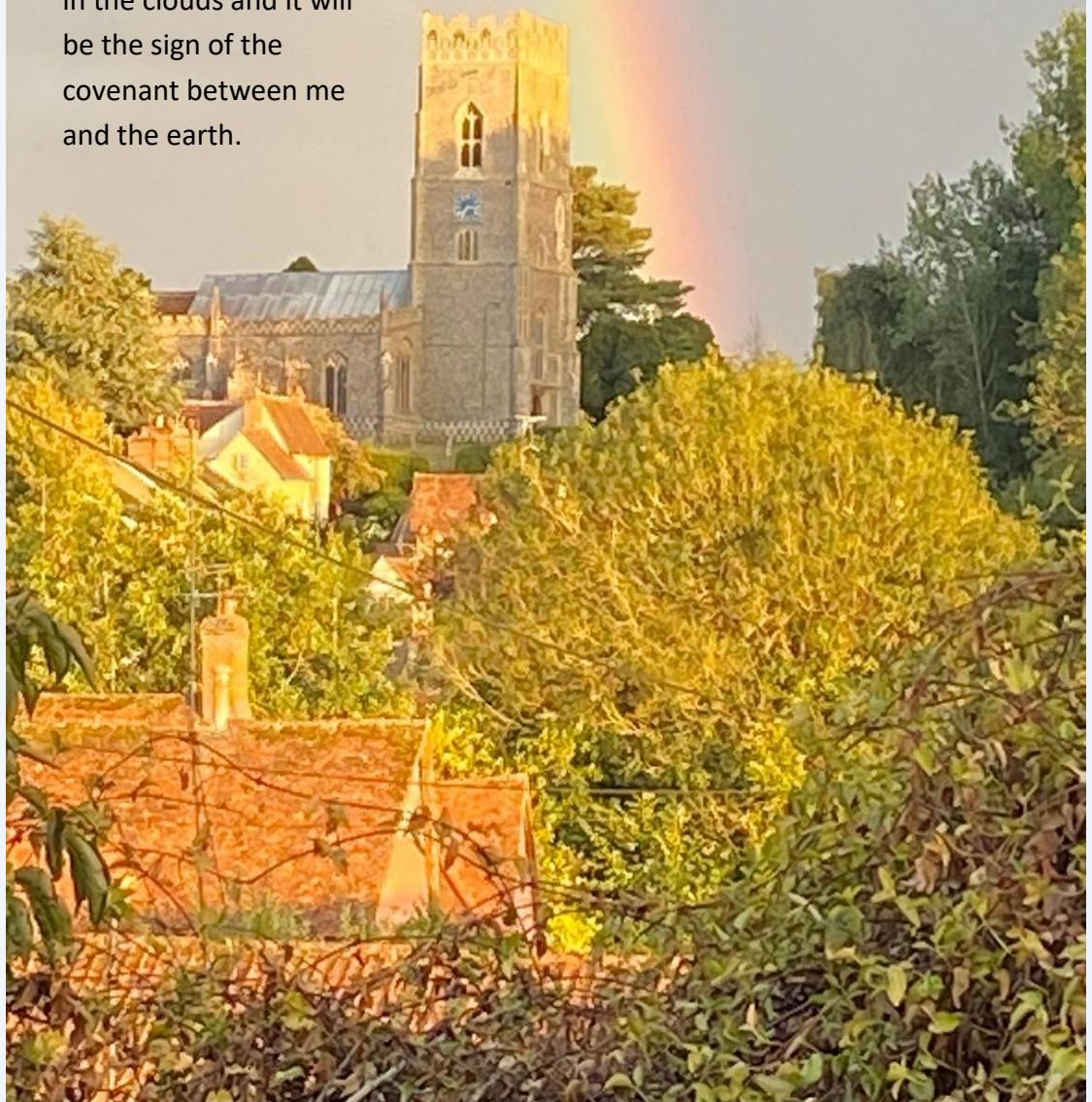


KERSEY PARISH NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2025

Genesis 9:13-17

I have set my rainbow
in the clouds and it will
be the sign of the
covenant between me
and the earth.



CONTACT NUMBERS

Parochial Church Council

Vicar: Rev. Geoffrey Clement	revgclement@gmail.com or 01473 657316
Secretary: Linda Newbigging	01787 210137
Church Warden: Rachel Wells	01473 822230
Bellringers – Bell Captain: Neville Whittell.....	01473 822616
Forget-me-nots – 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...clerk@kerseyparish.gov.uk	07765916162

Footpaths – Chairman: Kevin Pratt	07854 390658
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Kersey Community Playground Committee – Jonathan Marsh.....	01473 822927
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Neighbourhood Watch – Vacant

Village Hall

Chairman: Philippa Harris	01473 827079
Secretary and Bookings: Natalie Blyth	nablyth1@gmail.com or 01473 827805

VPA (Village Produce Association)

Chairman: Pete Partridge	07901913932
Secretary: Rachel Wells	01473 822230

Grays Trust

Chairman: Mary Pearce.....	07947079422
Secretary: Philippa Harris	01473 827079

Nightingale Trust/Allotments – Info: Natalie Blyth	01473 827805
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School – Joint Headteachers: Jess Damant and Claire Dunnell Paley	01473 823397
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Kersey Playingfield Assoc. (Glebe) – Mark Pertwee.....	01473 810227
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Kersey Community Website	www.kerseyparish.gov.uk
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Hadleigh Health Practice	01473 822961
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West Suffolk Hospital (Bury St Edmunds).....	01284 713000
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Ipswich Hospital NHS Trust	01473 712233
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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.

Front cover photograph kindly reproduced with permission from
David Anderson

Kersey People & Place Plan - Come and have your say

Community consultation event at Kersey Village Hall

Sat 4 October 10am-12noon and

Mon 6 Oct 7pm-8.30pm

This is your chance to influence the future of Kersey

Community Organisations will also be represented at this community event so please come to the village hall on 4th or 6th October, have a coffee/tea, feedback on the P&PP, including the draft vision below, as well as finding out what is on offer in Kersey. You may be surprised by the many different social and volunteering opportunities there are!

DRAFT VISION Kersey 2040: A shared vision for our parish

In 2040, Kersey is a thriving rural parish that cherishes its heritage, unique character and beautiful setting while embracing gentle, sustainable change. Our church, school, pub, and community organisations continue to be the heart of village life. Small, thoughtful improvements in housing and services alongside sustainable housing growth, shaped by local needs, have helped local people stay and younger families settle and thrive. Modern facilities, reliable transport, and digital connectivity support daily life, while safe walking and cycling routes link the parish with its surroundings. Nature is cared for and enhanced, with renewable energy and greener choices reducing environmental impact. Community life flourishes across generations through shared spaces and strong volunteer spirit. Above all, Kersey in 2040 continues to be a welcoming, peaceful, and beautiful parish - a living, working community rooted in its heritage, connected to the future, open to thoughtful change that allows people and nature to flourish together.

KERSEY VILLAGE PRODUCE ASSOCIATION

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St Mary's Church

I heard on the news that Bagpuss will be making a comeback, in a feature film. Although there were only ever 13 episodes broadcast between February and May 1974 the “saggy, old cloth cat, baggy and a bit loose at the seams” was frequently repeated on TV until 1986 and was voted UK’s favourite children’s TV programme in 1999.

For people of a certain age there is tremendous nostalgia for those TV programmes: The Clangers, Rainbow, Magic Roundabout, captain Pugwash... to name just a few. I’m sure in your head you are conjuring up even more names. Nostalgia is far more important than just getting a warm feeling as we remember things from the past. At its core, nostalgia helps construct and maintain our sense of identity. When we recall cherished memories—whether of childhood TV programmes, summer holidays, meaningful relationships, or significant achievements—we reinforce our understanding of who we are and where we come from. It can also provide an emotional anchor when the present feels overwhelming or unfamiliar. Nostalgic memories often centre on relationships and shared experiences, reminding us of our connections to others even when we feel isolated. This social component helps explain why nostalgic reflection can lift mood and increase feelings of belonging, creating a sense that we are loved and valued. Rather than trapping us in the past, healthy nostalgia actually propels us forward. It reminds us of our values, relationships, and sources of meaning, helping us make decisions aligned with what truly matters to us. In this way, looking backward becomes a powerful tool for moving forward with greater clarity, connection, and hope.

Interestingly nostalgia permeates both the Old and New Testament in the Bible. In the Old Testament, nostalgia functions primarily through collective memory and divine remembrance. The Israelites repeatedly look back to foundational moments—the Exodus from Egypt, the Ten Commandments being given to Moses at Mount Sinai, entering the Promised Land—for the people of the Old testament these are not merely seen as historical events but as defining experiences that establish their identity as God's chosen people.

St Mary's Church continued

The Jewish Passover celebration brings together this nostalgic remembrance, requiring each generation to relive and retell the story as if they themselves experienced it. In the Church we evoke this nostalgia when we have Holy Communion service when we collectively remember the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

But that is enough theology for one day (or month even). Rather let us all dip into a bit of nostalgia, be it for TV programmes like Bagpuss or the original Star Trek with William Shatner, or for music like The Who or Joseph Locke. After all it is good for us – in small doses.

Rev Geoffrey Clement

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

St MARY'S CHURCH SERVICES

5th October 11.00am	Holy Communion	Rev Jackie Sephton
12th October 11.00am	Harvest Festival	Rev Geoffrey Clement
19th October 11.00am	Parish Service	Rev Geoffrey Clement
26th October 11.00am	No service at Kersey	Aldham
2nd November 11.00am	Holy Communion	Rev Geoffrey Clement

Parochial Church Council continued

The PCC met on the 17th September. We had a scheduled Archdeacon visit in August to review operational management, which went well. We are updating Safeguarding training which is a prerequisite for all in authority.

We approved the Phase 2 Lighting programme which will see the rest of the church completed during early 2026. Grant support leaves the PCC to find circa £2,500 from our Restoration Account to complete the programme.

We are awaiting our EIRF electrical certificate which will highlight any remedial work required. Overall finances continue to be very challenging

BABY SITTING SERVICE: Provided in Kersey, contact Hebe McQuaker on 07950136157 or hebemcq@icloud.com



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Kersey Primary School

If you would like to know more about Kersey School or would like to arrange a visit please ring the office on 01473 823397, email kerseyoffice@tilian.org.uk or visit our new website www.kersey.suffolk.sch.uk.

We would love to meet you!



Behaviour and Attitudes:

Outstanding, Ofsted 2024

Personal Development:

Outstanding , Ofsted 2024

Instagram - [kerseyprimaryschool](#)

Facebook - [@KerseyPrimarySchool](#)

X - [@KerseyPrimary](#)

KERSEY VILLAGE HALL - Autumn Buffet - Saturday 18th October, 7.00 till 9.30 p.m.

Come along and enjoy delicious, plentiful, homemade food and liquid refreshment. Menu includes salmon, selection of cold meat, salads, homemade quiche, selection of cheeses etc. along with homemade desserts. Wine, beer and soft drinks are served for your enjoyment. Take part in a fun Quiz, you could win a team prize. We also have a raffle. Tickets £15.00 each. Tickets available from

Natalie Blyth - 07487 816966 nablyth1@gmail.com,
Philippa Harris - 01473 827079 philippa.harris@hotmail.co.uk,
Veronica Partridge - 01473 823188 veronica@kersey13.plus.com,
Rachel Wells - 01473 822230 rachel@kersey-village.co.uk
or any other committee member.

This is our main fundraising event of the year, raising vital funds to maintain the Hall.

Bring along your friends, family and neighbours to this enjoyable event. We look forward to seeing you all.

KERSEY PLAYGROUND CHARITY QUIZ NIGHT 2025

The highlight of the Kersey Social Calendar.

Friday 14th November, Kersey Village Hall.

Doors open 7pm, start 7.30pm: Carriages 10.30pm.

Supper provided. Bring your own preferred refreshments.

Teams of up to 8 people. Entrance £15 per person: cash at the door.

Glittering Trophy for the Champions and Raffle with a multitude of interesting and exciting prizes.

To reserve tables or donate prizes for the raffle:

Jonathan Marsh: jonathan.marsh10@icloud.com

Dominique Young: Dominique.young@btinternet.com

Please book by Monday 10th November to avoid disappointment!

Kersey Village News

FLOWER SHOW

The Village Produce Association held its 60th Flower and Vegetable show on the 13th of September. The weather was rather wet but there was still a good number of visitors who came to view the exhibits. Prizes were presented by former Kersey Potter Fred Bramham.

Challenge cup for highest points in Vegetable and fruit classes was won by Natalie Blyth. Tom Evans memorial cup for runner up in Vegetable and fruit classes joint winners Katie King and Rachel Wells. Shield for allotment holder with best exhibit of vegetable trug won by Natalie Blyth. Lewis Mowles shield for best exhibit in Vegetable classes was won by Pete Partridge for onion sets. Challenge cup for household classes was won by Susannah Marsh. Wooden spoon for men's cookery class was won by Jonathan Marsh. Challenge cup for Handiwork classes won by Susannah Marsh. Rose bowl for Flower classes won by Natalie Blyth. Prize for Best child 6yrs and under won by Rowan King. Prize for child 7- 11 years won by Daisy King. Challenge cup for children's class joint winners Daisy King and Rowan King. Challenge cup for best exhibit in children's classes won by Daisy King for a poem. Prize for best exhibit in Floral Art was won by Rachel Wells. Prize for highest points in Photography classes won by Rachel Wells.

RAINFALL

From the 24th August - 22nd September 42mm (over one and half inches) of rain was recorded in Vale Lane.

DONATIONS

This month is our annual appeal for donations to help pay for the newsletter. There should be an envelope attached to the front if not please give your donation to Rachel Wells, 1 Vale Corner.

Alternatively create an annual £10 standing order and credit the church general account: 301352 00694777 St Marys Church Parochial Church Council ref KPN surname

CHURCH CLEANING

Week commencing 6th October Sarah Partridge and Jenny Partridge
Week commencing 20th October Bridget Allen

Village News Continued

HARVEST FESTIVAL

The harvest festival service is being held on the 12th October. I would be grateful if the arrangers could put some flowers in their allotted places. Items of tinned or packeted food would be appreciated to be donated to a food bank.

Rachel

TUESDAY CLUB

At the September meeting we welcomed Ken Stone from Ipswich who came and showed some wonderful photos of members of the Royal Family. Since a very early age he has been interested in the royals and for many years has travelled all over the country and abroad to photograph them in some fascinating places. It was a very interesting evening.

Our next meeting is on the 7th October. My granddaughter Phoebe Chew was coming to talk about her Australian adventure and show photos but due to work commitments is now unable to so I am standing in for her.

Village Hall **2.30**. Competition is for "A Holiday souvenir"

Rachel

On 4th November there is another change to the programme when Natalie Blyth will be showing pictures and talking about her Icelandic holiday.

Village Hall 2.30pm

DIARY DATES

4th October	10am to noon	KPC P&P Plan	Village Hall
6th October	7pm to 8.30pm	KPC P&P Plan	Village Hall
18th October	7pm to 9.30pm	Autumn Buffet	Village Hall
19th October	From 2.30pm	The Three Chordettes	Church
4th November	2.30pm	Tuesday Club	Village Hall
14th November	7pm-10.30pm	Quiz Night	Village Hall



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Kersey Parish Council

The Parish Council met on 11th August.

Present were John Hume chair, four councillors, clerk and twelve members of the public.

Before the meeting started the chair thanked Frances Whymark for her many years of service delivering papers in the village. He also passed on condolences to the family of Norah Orriss.

Apologies were received from two councillors.

Minutes of July meeting were confirmed as correct.

Planning to consider.

3-6 the Street. Application for alterations to allow installation of sanitary facilities, new kitchen facilities and other alterations. The applicants were present and outlined their plans to bring these properties up to modern day living standards. Several residents expressed concerns they could become holiday lets and present problems with parking. Councillors fully supported these proposals and were keen to support these houses being long term lets. They would object to them becoming holiday homes.

Groton Wood cottage. Amended design. Erection of cart lodge, new boundary wall etc. The amendments have reduced the plan in size. The councillors fully supported these new proposals.

Consider progress with People and Place Plan. The steering group have met and discussed the survey responses. A public consultation event is to be held to consider action points. Some residents say they are unaware of community organisations and events. These organisations will have a table at the consultation event to promote what goes on in Kersey.

The Parish Council met on the 8th September.

Present were five councillors, SCC and BDC for part of the meeting, four members of the public and clerk.

Election. As the chair and vice chair were not present Penny Calnan was elected to chair the meeting.

Apologies were received from three councillors.

Full reports from County councillor Robert Lindsay and Babergh district councillor Leigh Jamieson can be found on the website.

Planning progress.

Groton Wood Cottage. Babergh had granted permission for works.

Cherrywood. Erection of garden room and single storey side and rear extensions. The property is at present badly laid out and these alterations will improve it. Councillors resolved to fully support.

Kersey Parish Council continued

Barn south of Water Lane. Erection of 1 self build dwelling following demolition of barn. There were concerns that the proposal was much larger than the original approved. There were also concerns about the Lane and the damage increased traffic would cause. Following a vote the councillors resolved by a majority to object to the proposal due to increase in scale that would be out of keeping with the landscape and surroundings.

Brook Cottage. Replace existing front door and fit flood defence. This would be discussed at a later meeting.

Clerks report. Verge cutting has been completed. New speed limits on the B1141 are in force following resurfacing and erection of signs. The defibrillators are checked regularly. There are now Whats app groups covering most of Kersey.

Correspondence. A resident had written about the condition of the village sign. Advice has been sought and a coat of teak oil recommended.

A new recycling scheme for smaller electrical items has been set up in Magdalen road car park in Hadleigh.

Finance. All financial statements had been circulated to councillors and have been approved.

Footpath working group. All footpaths are receiving a second cut. Some winter work will be required to hedges and tree branches. Thanks expressed to volunteers.

KCPC. More volunteers are needed for the grass cutting rota. Quiz night date 14th November.

Consider progress with People and Place Plan. A consultation event is being held on the 4th and 6th of October.

Update was given on Local Government Reform.

Consider progress on improving mobile phone reception. Not much progress has been made the clerk will chase Mobile UK for a response.

Review and update policies following a review of data protection process.

The clerk has done this.

AOB. After being reported as missing or damaged some road signs have been replaced.

A full report can be found on the website.

Rachel Wells

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. At the heart of our school is a **caring, Christian ethos** that underpins all we do. Our vision of being "on a journey together" reflects our belief that education is a collaborative process, where staff, pupils, families and the wider community work in partnership to support the growth and development of every child.

Behaviour and Attitudes – Outstanding, Ofsted 2024

Personal Development – Outstanding, Ofsted 2024



Oak (Years 4, 5 and 6)

Oak class reading 'The Hobbit'. In Science they've been looking at change of state by exploring different solids and liquids and what it takes to melt ice. In Computing they are being video editors and finding out what the important features of a video are. Year 5 and 6 had an incredible time in Mersea on their residential in September.

Sapling (Years 2 and 3)

Saplings have been mindfully entering the new term with some Autumn focused emotional literacy and team games to feel energetically ready and connected to each other and their new year groups. They are enjoying learning about barn owls before diving into developing their English skills through our class book, 'The owl who is afraid of the dark.' They are exploring their local habitats in science and learning if things they find are alive, once alive or have never been alive and how we can tell. They have also begun to explore the history of flight, learning about the Wright brothers, Bessie Coleman and Amelia Earhart. They are excited to begin designing and making their clay houses!

Acorn (EYFS and Year 1)

We have been thrilled to welcome our new Reception children into school, they have all settled in perfectly. All of the children have been learning our school routines and making new friends. This half term we will be learning all about ourselves and our local area. We really enjoyed all of the exciting activities during sports week, especially the climbing wall which was incredible. What brave children!

If you would like to know more about Kersey School or would like to arrange a visit please ring the office on 01473 823397, email kerseyoffice@tilian.org.uk or visit our new website www.kersey.suffolk.sch.uk. Do you follow us on social media?

Instagram - kerseyprimaryschool: Facebook - @KerseyPrimarySchool: X - @KerseyPrimary

We welcome you to our Open Day on Wed 5th Nov 9am – 12pm.

'On a journey together.'



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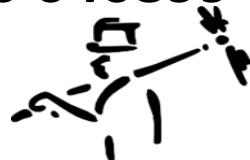
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Community Organisation Spotlight

This month, rather than featuring one organisation, we would like to invite you to meet them all in person.

Community Consultation events

At Kersey Village Hall on

Sat 4 October 10am-12noon and

Mon 6 Oct 7pm-8.30pm

All the Kersey community organisations will be represented at these community events so please come along and chat to the volunteers to find out what goes on in Kersey. There are nearly 20 different organisations in Kersey – Allotments, Bell Ringers, Forget-me-Nots, Table Tennis, and more. Many organise social events and activities such as the Tuesday Club, who invite a speaker to their meetings on some very interesting and varied topics, while others offer opportunities for volunteering such as keeping Kersey's footpaths in good walking order.

You may be surprised by the many different social and volunteering opportunities there are in Kersey!

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FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S 500 CLUB LOTTERY

Latest 500 Club draw results:

September

1st Prize Richard Freeman

2nd Prize Pascoe Gibbons

3rd Prize Jackson Crompton-Battersby

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

The Three Chordettes - Sunday 19th October

Hurry hurry...there are a few final places left for our next event, "afternoon tea and glass of fizz" with vintage swing and jazz harmony trio, The Three Chordettes.

This will take place on Sunday 19th October at St Mary's Church . Doors open at 2.30pm and the performance starts at 3.00pm. Please email fosmkersey@gmail.com or phone 07721 625932 for details.



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Farming Notes September 2025

Arable

Cereal prices, as mentioned last month, seem to be on the decline. It would appear that our main cereal products are facing reduced demand, resulting in less firm prices. If we look at the reasons for each product it becomes clearer, although it may seem illogical, I have checked within the trade, and the following is the case:

Malting Barley

This appears to be quite a straightforward reduction in demand for beer, hence malt, due to the ongoing closure of pubs and the reduced sale of beer in supermarkets and other outlets. Possible reasons for this are the reduced amount of surplus money in families' budgets since inflation post covid, and the increased pressure on businesses since the March budget that saw an increase in employment costs. Either way, malting barley prices are not what they were!

Milling Wheat (for bread making)

With this product, the reasons for price decline are more global. Milling wheat prices are always linked to feed wheat prices with a 'premium over feed' being the norm. The less milling wheat available each harvest, the higher the premium and vice versa. This year there is plenty of high-quality milling wheat nationally, so the 'premium over feed' is lower. The amount of feed wheat used nationally for livestock is reducing as the 'national herd count' for cattle, pigs and sheep is falling. The tonnage of feed wheat used for human food (yes, we eat some feed wheat as well!) such as biscuits and cakes is also falling for previously mentioned reasons. Since the trade agreement with the United States of America earlier this year to allow the unrestricted import of ethanol, the two UK 'ethanol from wheat' industrial plants have or will close, resulting in the 2 million tons of wheat they used, having to find another market and thus flooding our internal sales.

Last year, when milling wheat from the '24 harvest was in short supply, the millers imported more Canadian (always high protein and cheap) wheat for bread. This year when we have plenty, they are still importing it as they found it advantageous to their profits. 'International sentiment for cereal sales remains depressed' is what one trader told me last week!

Livestock

So, at last some rain, at least enough to make the grass green up a little. Over the last several weeks we have been supplementing the cows diet using straw with molasses soaked into it. The plan was to soak 20kg of the liquid feed into each of the big round straw bales about a day before feeding it. This works out at about 1kg of molasses per cow per day. The plan seems to be working and the cows are maintaining their condition reasonably well. Meanwhile the calves have been helping themselves to concentrate feed from the creep feeders in the fields, which should help maintain their growth rate at over 1kg per day. If the grass growth increases due to the recent showers, I would expect the rate of consumption of straw and concentrate to drop back a little as the stock tend to self-regulate.

Our flock of Suffolk Sheep is nearing its centenary, having been established by Great Uncle Bobby Partridge in 1927. The Kersey Flock, as it is known, is in fact the third oldest flock of pedigree Suffolks in existence. Over the years we have taken some pleasure in supplying female breeding stock to new start-up flocks. That was the case again recently when a young woman from West Sussex visited and went away with 5 Pedigree Ewe lambs. We also sell Pedigree rams some of which go to other pedigree flocks but the majority are sold to commercial sheep farmers who use the Suffolk ram on crossbred ewes to produce lambs for meat.

Well I didn't know that!

Kersey has 62 listed buildings each has a story to tell. If you own one of these houses then perhaps you could bring them to life by providing a few interesting facts for future newsletters?

I have listed a few relating to St Mary's Church over this and the following page.

A church with 3 acres of glebe land was recorded here in the Domesday Book 1086, there are no obvious features of this structure remaining today

Most of what we can see today was built in the 14th century. A new 15th century tower in the perpendicular style was built between 1430-1445. 15 years to build an 80ft tower was the norm.

In 1464 Pope Pius II granted an indulgence of 3 3/4 years remission from purgatory for those who gave alms for the enlargement of Kersey church

Kersey - July and August Crime Overview

There has been no reported crime in July and August in Kersey.

This month I would like to highlight a free phone app called What3Words, which can help in certain emergency situations. What3Words is a location technology app designed to make it easier to communicate precise locations anywhere in the world. The map is also accessible on the website www.what3words.com. It works by dividing the entire globe into a grid of 3 metre by 3 metre squares, with each square assigned a unique combination of three random words - for example, /// relegate.hexes.hazy

Suffolk Police use this app (along with other systems) and from a frontline policing perspective, the What3Words app has proven to be a valuable asset in improving public safety and operational effectiveness. It allows officers and control rooms to pinpoint exact locations using a simple three-word code, which is especially useful when dealing with incidents in areas without clear addresses—such as open countryside. In emergency situations, time and clarity are critical. Victims or witnesses often struggle to describe their location under stress, particularly in unfamiliar or remote environments. What3Words enables officers to receive precise location data, reducing delays and confusion. This has been particularly beneficial in Suffolk, where rural geography can complicate response efforts. Other agencies would also find an exact location helpful, for example - reporting fly tipping to the council. Given it is a global map, it could also help if you were abroad and needed assistance to a particular location.

When dealing with my own community police reports, I will often ask for the What3Words location if the area is unclear, or I just simply want confirmation. This helps me focus on the exact location to assess and deal with the issue.

Kind Regards, PC 1293 Johnson – Community Police Officer.

Well I didn't know that...continued

Before the Reformation in the 1540s the church looked quite different with bright vivid colours, wall paintings, stained glass and painted tabernacles

Running across the church, level with the chancel arch was a Rood Screen supporting a loft or walkway across the top with life size figures of Jesus on the cross (Rood) flanked by St Mary. One part of the rood screen can still be seen today and the spiral stairs giving access to the loft survive in the external turret.

The 18th century three decker pulpit! stood against the south wall until 1887. An iron bracket now in the middle of the wall painting supported the sounding board. The small niche in the wall contained a candle or hour glass for the preacher.



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