

# KERSEY PARISH NEWSLETTER

## SEPTEMBER 2025

## Kersey's future through the eyes of residents



## Kersey People & Place Plan - Come and have your say

## Community consultation event Kersey Village Hall

Sat 4 October 10am-12noon & Mon 6 Oct 7pm-8.30pm

This is your chance to influence the future of Kersey!

## 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..... 07765916162  
**Footpaths** – Chairman: Kevin Pratt ..... 07854 390658  
**Kersey Community Playground Committee** – Jonathan Marsh..... 01473 822927

### **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

**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 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) .

**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.

Dear Readers, the next Newsletter will be distributed in October. Content should be with me by the 24th September. Colin [hawkcq@hotmail.com](mailto:hawkcq@hotmail.com)

## **Kersey People & Place Plan (P&PP)**

The word cloud on the front cover of the newsletter summarises the survey results of how residents would like to see Kersey in the future and key priorities. The government is putting pressure on planning authorities for more housing so there will need to be new housing in Kersey. The Parish Council would like to influence what and where this will be. The P&PP will be an important document to provide Babergh and higher tiers of government with a record of what is important now and in the future for Kersey residents. Babergh will have a legal duty to have regard to the plan when making decisions, including on planning and development.

Following the surveys carried out in the Spring, the steering group has been analysing the results and drafting action points to support how residents wish to see the future for Kersey. **All residents are invited to community consultation events in Kersey Village Hall on Saturday 4 October 10am-12noon or Monday 6 October 7pm-8.30pm.** Please come along and feedback your thoughts on the draft action points, vision and plan. You can see survey results and other information on the Kersey website:

<https://kerseyparish.gov.uk/parish-consultations/>

All Community Organisations are invited to have a stand at this event to promote themselves. Please come to the village hall on 4<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> October, have a coffee/tea, feedback on the P&PP as well as finding out what is on offer in Kersey. You may be surprised by the many different social opportunities there are!

### **KERSEY VILLAGE PRODUCE ASSOCIATION**

#### **MARQUEE HIRE**

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## St Mary's Church

Several weeks ago, with much fanfare there were two momentous music events: Oasis reunion and Black Sabbath farewell concert. I can't say I am much of an Oasis fan, as one newspaper unkindly reported it: Two shouty Mancunians playing pub music! Others might say something similar about Black Sabbath – noisy brummies'! What was interesting was the strength of feeling, devotion even that was displayed by their faithful followers, much of which is of course nostalgia. For most fans this was because the music of these bands formed the background music to growing up. I would bet that everyone has background music or theme tune to their younger years. It is amazing how music can take us back to the very first time we heard it, the same with taste and smell. The smell of boiled cabbage transports me straight back to Sunnyhill Infants School and the dreaded school dinners. Or we hear a song or piece of music and we are instantly back to a significant moment like our wedding day, or the first dance at the school disco with someone we had a crush on.

Keeping with school memories, when I was in primary school, we had what was basically a church service every morning taken by the head teacher. The Bible stories were the usual: Good Samaritan, Prodigal Son, calming of the storm, various parables, and the one that stuck in my memory the most was the beheading of John the Baptist. I usually take what we now call "Collective Worship" (Assembly in old money) once a week in the church. I tell a bible story or we act it out together and we discuss what we might learn from the story. We finish with a prayer and the Lord's Prayer and hopefully what we have talked about sticks in the children's mind. For me, if nothing else, I hope that they learn one of the simple truths that Jesus taught: the universal "golden rule". The Golden Rule is a principle of ethics that suggests treating others as you would want to be treated. It is a fundamental concept in many cultures and religions, not just Christianity, emphasizing reciprocity and mutual respect in interpersonal relationships. In essence, it encourages individuals to act with empathy and consideration for others' feelings and needs, based on their own desires and expectations. Of course, I would love it if the children got the "God bit" of what I try and tell the children, and maybe some do.

However, wouldn't it be great if they, and us older people could add the "Golden Rule" to the sound track of our lives, along with all our eclectic musical tastes.

I hope you all had a great summer holiday.

Every blessing , Rev Geoffrey Clement, Rector

**We have been asked to put the following piece in the Newsletter by Ian Hattrick, which we are very pleased to do. CG**

**“A Line from Melbourne”**

Firstly think.....mentally stepping away from your feelings and thoughts. You might go for a walk, or listen to calming music. Then ...ask yourself “what’s going on?.” Do you feel overwhelmed? Or even scared? Next...rather than trying to escape your anxiety, be curious as to why it’s here, quieten the body by using regulated, controlled breathing to slow and calm the stress response, tell yourself “I am willing to let go of my old habits.” And finally, ....remember, you can manage this and you are responsible for making the changes.

**Suffolk Historic Churches Trust**

**Ride and Stride / Pedal and Drive 13th September 2025**

This annual event is a great way to explore our beautiful villages and a fantastic opportunity to raise money for our churches. (St Mary’s Kersey has benefited from SHCT Grants on several occasions).

If you wish to take part in the event then sponsorship forms can be found in Kersey Church or the SHCT website.

If anyone is able to sit in the church to meet participants between 9am to 5pm in one hour intervals then please contact Frances on 07873720279 who is arranging the rota.

## **Community Spotlight: Introduced by Kersey Parish Council**

### **Bellringing at St Mary's**

Both an art and a science, referred to those who partake as, "The Exercise", it is a fine way to keep fit and socialise whilst maintaining a centuries-old tradition of calling the faithful to worship, celebrate weddings, and mark other notable events.

If you have some sense of rhythm, an eye for patterns, and enjoy some gentle exercise, then bellringing is for you! No particular strength is required, except for a little co-ordination.

If you would like to try this traditional and important village pursuit, then please contact Neville Whittell who will be happy to explain more and 'show you the ropes'.

St Mary's Kersey has 8 bells ranging in weight from 3cwt to 14 cwt. Practice night is every Thursday from 7.45pm until 9.30pm, to which beginners, learners and experienced bell ringers are most welcome. At present Kersey is very short of ringers so please come and give it a go. There is 30 minutes ringing before every morning Sunday service.

The Tower Captain is Mr N Whittell, contact details on page 2

Tower Correspondence should be addressed to Mrs K Banks and left in the Church Bell Tower.

### **DIARY DATES**

2nd September	7.30pm	Tuesday Club	Village Hall
8th September	7.30pm	Parish Council	Village Hall
13th September	2.15pm to 5pm	Flower Show	Village Hall
13th September	9am to 5pm	SHCT pedal & drive	Church
14th September	2.30pm	Cricket Match	Rockalls Ground
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

## **Kersey Village News**

**THANK YOU:** Paul, Linda and all the family of Norah Orriss would like to thank everyone who joined us to celebrate Mums life on the 5th August. We were all overwhelmed by the number who attended. Donations in her memory, to date, total £1097 for Ipswich and Colchester Hospital Charity for Breast Cancer and £990 for ME association.

**NEWSPAPER DELIVERIES:** As you may know Hadleigh Newsagents in the High Street are closing down and have already stopped delivering newspapers here. For those who still want a delivery, NewsTeam Group have taken over the service and their contact details are 01782 959530 or [admin@newsteamgroup.co.uk](mailto:admin@newsteamgroup.co.uk)

Many thanks to Frances Whymark, who for over 40 years went out early in the morning in all weathers to deliver papers in the central part of Kersey.

**FAREWELL AND WELCOME:** We say farewell to Will, Jo, Harriet and Olivia who have moved from Bramleys to Offton. We welcome Theo, Richenda, Phoebe and Cosmo Gibara to Bramleys and James Jackson to Waterwell House. Welcome to Andrew and Hilary with their two children who have moved to Bridge House and to Sir John Lucas-Tooth at the Old Reading Room.

**TUESDAY CLUB:** Due to the very hot weather and some members feeling they would be unable to attend the July meeting was cancelled. "Spring in the Dolomites" has been rescheduled for March 2026. In August a cream tea was held at 1 Vale Corner. The competition for "An umbrella" was won by Frances Whymark. On 2nd September we will be joined by Ken Stone from Ipswich with "Royal Photos" Competition is "A royal connection". Village Hall 7.30pm Non members are welcome to come along it only costs £1 and includes refreshments. RW

**IN SYMPATHY:** A funeral service was held on the 7th July for the late Janet Mobbs of Mistley, she was interred in the churchyard with her late husband. The ashes of Judith Martin were interred with her late father and mother on 6th August. Our sympathy goes to Andrea Sargeant on the passing of her mother and to all the family of Norah Orriss.

**CONGRATULATIONS:** to Kevin and Sam who were married at St Mary's on the 26th July. We wish you many happy years together. Thank you to Kevin for tidying up around the church and down the hill.

**Kersey Village News: continued**

**VILLAGE PRODUCE ASSOCIATION:** The annual flower show is on the 13th September. It will be our 60th show and would be good to have lots of entries plus visitors and parishioners coming to view the exhibits. Over the past two years we have sadly lost two of our main exhibitors in Norah Orriss and Ray Banks. We will miss their entries especially in the household and photography classes. We would also like to see more floral art entries. Please don't be daunted by the prospect of entering it's all good fun ( hard work for some ) whether you are a winner or not. There will be refreshments available and a tombola. All entries to be received by Thursday 11th. The hall has to be set up on the Friday so late entries cannot be accepted. I have paper copies of the recipes or I can email them. Rachel Wells

**CHURCH CLEANING:**

Week beginning 8th September Susannah Marsh and Annie Delmar

Week beginning 22nd September Linda Newbigging and Gillian Sacker

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[trevordodwell@aol.com](mailto:trevordodwell@aol.com)

**[www.thewillbusiness.com](http://www.thewillbusiness.com)**



### **Kersey Village News: continued**

**KERSEY VILLAGE HALL - Save the date.** Saturday 18th October - 7.00 pm till 9.30 pm . Come along and enjoy delicious, plentiful homemade food and liquid refreshment at our annual fundraising event, with a fun quiz and raffle. Tickets £15.00. Further information in the October newsletter.

### **NIGHTINGALE TRUST**

**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 per year - cheaper than a gym membership and better for you!

For more information, please contact Natalie Blyth, details below.

**KINGS SEEDS** - The Nightingale Trust are members of Kings Seeds Allotment and Horticultural Societies and Gardening Seeds Scheme. Once again, last year was another successful year, and we managed to obtain a 50% discount on our total seed order. I'm sure you will agree, it's a big saving and well worth having. In order to receive this 50%, the total order value for seeds needs to be £200 or more. We managed this easily last year with orders totalling just over £900. (NOTE - 50% discount only available on seed orders, excludes seed potatoes, onion sets, ancillary items etc.) With this discount, why not try something new for next year's growing season?

If you would like to take advantage of this great offer and for more information, please contact me. I have a small supply of brochures, or you can browse online. Orders need to be in by 10th November. I look forward to hearing from you. Contact Natalie, details below.

**BENEFICIARIES** - The Nightingale Trust was set up in 1583 with a remit to help the poor and needy of Kersey Parish. Times change, and with them, people's needs. Payments are made in December that perhaps can help in some way towards winter fuel bills, rising food costs etc.

Are you finding it difficult to cope with rising costs? Do you know of anyone that would benefit from some assistance? Please contact me. All suggestions and conversations will be in the strictest confidence.

Contact Natalie Blyth - 01473 827805 07487 816966 or email [nblyth1@gmail.com](mailto:nblyth1@gmail.com)



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## KERSEY VILLAGE NEWS: continued

**BELL RINGERS:** On 26th July the Kersey ringers came 2nd in the Suffolk Guild ringing competition held at Little Cornard.

On the 3rd August a quarter peal of 1260 Plain Bob Doubles in 47m. was rung in thanksgiving for the lives of Tony Wells 3.11.39 - 11.12.24 and Raymond Banks 26.07.30 - 8.01.25

For the Suffolk Guild SW District quarter peal month.

Ringers taking part were 1 Lyn Edwards 2 Neville Whittell 3 Crawford Allen (C) 4 Kevin Ward 5 Robert Howe 6 Gary Edwards This was the first quarter for ringer No 6

**RAINFALL:** From the 24th June - 22nd August 56 mm ( approx. 2 1/4" ) of rain was recorded in Vale Lane.

### **NORAH ORRISS (nee Farthing) 1936-2025**

Norah, a key contributor to Kersey life, died after a short illness on 8th July. Her funeral, attended by over 100 family members and friends, was conducted on the 5th August by Rev. Jackie Sephton at St. Mary's Kersey.

Norah was born, bred, married Leo, brought up her family and worked in Kersey and was a strong, enthusiastic believer in the importance of serving the community in the village she loved.

She lived in the north end of Kersey before moving to 4 Vale Lane. This was her home for over 59 years, where she carried out the role of Village Postmistress for 25 years until 2008. During that time, her Post Office was an important part of the local social network, especially on Thursdays, when pensions were paid. In addition to her work as Treasurer to both the Nightingale Trust and the Lewis Mowles Trust, she was, for over 55 years, a meticulous and successful Treasurer to the Kersey Village Hall. She took an active role in organising the Annual Village Lunch, the Autumn Buffet and the Annual Village Produce Association Show. She enjoyed her membership of the Tuesday Club and Forget-Me-Nots.

In recognition of her outstanding contribution to our village, in 2002, she was given the Babergh Community Achievement Award.

Somehow, she also found time to support and encourage her family and was a keen and knowledgeable gardener. Norah's memory for events in Kersey since the early 1940s was infallible, balanced by her keen and exemplary adoption of new technology. She rarely went anywhere without one of her two iPads!

We are grateful for, and will miss, her insights, interest in others, sense of humour and her positive involvement in Kersey life.

## 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

7th September 11.00am	Holy Communion	Rev Geoffrey Clement
14th September 11.00am	Parish Service	Jim Sephton
21st September 6.30pm	Evensong	Rev Geoffrey Clement
28th September	No service at Kersey	Aldham 11.00am
5th October 11.00am	Holy Communion	Rev Jackie Sephton
12th October 11.00am	Harvest Festival	Rev Geoffrey Clement

The PCC met on 16th July in the Church, the key points are as follows

The clock fundraising event was a success and we anticipate opening the Tower again next Spring. Our next event is planned for the 18th December when we will welcome Madrigalia a local choir to St Mary's.

Our wonderful church school has recently received a "good" SIAMs report.

PAT testing has recently been completed and we are now seeking an EICR electrical test certificate. This will probably result in some remedial work being required.

Renovation to the Soakaways are now an urgent item before winter sets in and is included in the Quinquennial report. Quotes are being sought.

The new lighting in the bell tower and porches has been well received and really enhances the beauty of the ceilings in the evening light. An application for a grant towards the cost of the remainder of the church has been filed.

Expenditure continues to exceed income and tight budget controls are in place. Next meeting planned for 17th September.

## **PARISH COUNCIL meeting notes:**

The Parish Council met on the 7th July. Chair John Hume, six councillors and Clerk attended. Apologies were received.

Reports were received from County and Babergh councillors which can be found on the village website.

### **Parish time.**

Concerns have been raised again about highway signage, some are missing, damaged or faded. Even legal warning signs are in a bad state. These have been reported by the Clerk but members of the public are also urged to report these using the reporting tool. Concerns have also been raised by residents about the trees on Cherry Hill some are damaged and in danger of falling onto the road.

### **Planning progress.**

Linton House. Erection of single storey rear porch, two storey rear extension and single storey outbuilding plus external and internal alterations. These plans were refused by Babergh DC and have now gone to appeal with the Secretary of State.

Babergh DC approved plans for works at Wormwood Green (now Cypress House), Cherrywood, 2 Vale Corner and 4 Vale Lane.

Consider Application from Groton Wood House for erection of cart lodge, replacement of post and rail fence with brick wall and erection of gated entrance. Councillors resolved by a majority decision to object to these plans.

**Clerks report.** Highways have confirmed all verges would be cut in July. The faded sign at the Crossroads has been replaced.

All correspondence was noted.

All financial matters were approved.

**Footpath working group.** All footpaths have been cut, some overhanging hedges on paths are causing problems.

**KCPC working group.** The quarterly safety inspection was carried out. New volunteers are needed for mowing.

To agree response to two Local Government Reorganisation Consultations. After discussion it was agreed the clerk respond to this.

Review Parish Council asset register and report on inspection. All assets had been inspected. Some older items are showing signs of age, some minor repairs need to be carried out. As agreed at an earlier meeting the council laptop will be replaced due to software no longer being supported.

Consider progress with People and Place Plan. Little progress as the steering group is yet to meet.

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### **PARISH COUNCIL meeting notes continued:**

Agree content for Pride in our Parish and Community Organisation spotlight. It was agreed to write an article highlighting to residents how they can report problems.

Reports from other meetings were received.

AOB. The police report for newsletter was discussed. Concern was raised that owners of listed buildings are unaware of regulations. A community Whats app group is being set up for central Kersey so residents can keep in touch. There are already other groups in the parish. Next meeting 8th September. A full report can be found on the website.

**NEWS FROM THE BELL:** What an incredible weekend! A huge thank you to everyone who came out to the Kersey Bell Beer Festival, we were blown away by the turnout, with a record day on Saturday! In fact, the atmosphere was so lively, we even ran out of a few favourites by the end (a good problem to have!). From brilliant beers and delicious food to fantastic live music, the festival was full of highlights — and it wouldn't have been possible without the amazing support of our volunteers, the local village and our neighbours. Thank you for your help, your patience, and your good humour throughout the weekend. Rhian Blythe, Kersey Bell Manager

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## FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S 500 CLUB LOTTERY

Latest 500 Club draw results:

	July 2025	August 2025
1st Prize	Trevor Stirling	Mary Pearce
2nd Prize	Karen Freeman	Kate Hamblen
3rd Prize	David Partridge	Neil Hutton

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](mailto:fosmkersey@gmail.com)

On Saturday 26th July, the talented **Marenzio Singers**, performed in the church for us. They loved singing at St Mary's with the amazing acoustic sounds and were a joy to listen to. The event raised £177.20. Thanks to the team for all the organisation, as well as our sponsors, Nevelli and BGA Print.

We are thrilled to announce that the vintage swing & jazz harmony trio, **The Three Chordettes**, will be performing for us once again this autumn! Come and join us on Sunday 19th October for a splendid afternoon tea and a glass of fizz at St Mary's. Details can be found on the back cover of this Newsletter.

### Kersey Table Tennis Club

We are a small and friendly club and welcome players of all abilities. The purpose of the club is social and recreational. We do not play competition.

We play in Kersey village hall on Thursday evenings between 7:30pm and 9:00pm.

Fees are: Adults £2.00 for one hour or £3.00 for the full session. Juniors (under 18) £2.00 irrespective of duration.

Our next season commences on 11th September 2025 and ends 25th June 2026

Contact Adrian Blyth 01473827805 ([amblyth1@gmail.com](mailto:amblyth1@gmail.com))



## **The Local Ashes Return! – Village Cricket at Its Finest**

**Hintlesham & Chattisham CC v Kersey CC**

**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2.30pm**

**Rockalls Ground, Polstead**

Players, potential players, scorers, umpires: please contact Bruce on 07734 595404 [bnewbigg@gmail.com](mailto:bnewbigg@gmail.com).

Please contact Linda about your contribution to the tea table on 07905 731431 or email [lindanewbigging@btinternet.com](mailto:lindanewbigging@btinternet.com)

On the day contact Linda or Bruce for updates (especially regarding weather issues). Do come along to enjoy the spectacle and a delicious afternoon tea....bring a deckchair!

**BABY SITTING SERVICE:** Provided in Kersey, contact Hebe McQuaker on 07950136157 or [hebemcq@icloud.com](mailto:hebemcq@icloud.com)



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## **Kersey Primary School**

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## **Farming Notes August 2025**

### **Arable**

Harvest was the easiest and quickest we have ever done, due to the dry weather, a much improved combine and efficient staff. First the winter barley, which we grow for malting, was harvested in a few days, partly due to much less straw than usual, meaning the thro-put of the machine was greater, covering more acres per hour. The yield of grain was average, but the quality is variable. The spec that let us down was high nitrogen content giving a poorer quality for brewing. The oil seed rape yield was the highpoint of the year at just about 2 tonnes per acre. The oil content was satisfactorily high, probably due to all the sunshine. The wheat harvest was next with surprisingly satisfactory yields given the dry year. The protein levels are high, so good for bread making and will hopefully attract a premium over feed wheat. We finished harvest with the spring barley where the yields were slightly below average with variable quality. Summing up, I would say that yields have been much better than we dared hope after such a dry year, and of variable quality, but on the whole not too bad. Prices on the other hand are not looking good.....more next month!

### **Livestock**

It feels as though it has hardly rained since I last wrote farming notes two months ago. In fact what little rain we did have a few weeks ago, while very welcome, did little good in terms of grass growth. The pastures were already parched and the rain soon dried up in the very warm weather. Such grass growth that those rains did trigger was eaten eagerly by our hungry cows and sheep. I continue to be surprised however, by how well the calves and lambs look. As stated previously I believe this is in part because of the lack of parasites during a dry spell. We are supplementing the diet of the cows with straw, fresh from the arable harvest – it is one of the advantages of livestock farming here in the East of the country that we have virtually unlimited amounts of straw to compensate for the lack of grass. I recently ordered five tonnes of molasses – a liquid feed which I plan to pour onto the straw on a daily basis to improve both its palatability and digestibility. Molasses also adds protein and energy to the diet, so I am hoping that at least for the cows, this will form the major part of their autumn and winter diet. It is not too late – if we got substantial amounts of rain soon, we could still get some good grass growth. As a wise woman said to me earlier today “when it does start raining it probably won’t stop!” R&CP

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