

KERSEY PARISH NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2026



The day is ending, the night is descending;
The marsh is frozen, the river is dead.
Through clouds like ashes the red sun flashes
On village windows that glimmer red

"Afternoon in February by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

CONTACT NUMBERS

Parochial Church Council

Vicar: Rev. Geoffrey Clementrevgclement@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
Kersey Community Playground Committee – Jonathan Marsh..... 01473 822927
Newsletter: Production, Editing and Advertising—Colin Grannell 01473 829074

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.

<p>Newsletter Donation: If possible please create a standing order or electronic payment to Kersey St Mary Parochial Church Council: 30-13-52 00694777 quoting KPN and your surname. Next content submission date: 24th February 2026</p>
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THE KERSEY VILLAGE ART GROUP

A small band of amateur artists regularly spend a couple of enjoyable hours each Thursday morning sketching and painting with like minded people. The Kersey Art Group helps to improve members artist skills as they can just paint or sketch away, and escape from the day to day distractions of life. Art tuition is not provided, but the members do have a range of art skills using a variety of mediums, and are happy to share their knowledge and techniques with each other.

The Group currently has room for new members and holds its Art studies at 10am on most Thursdays throughout the year at the Kersey Village Hall. Fees paid in advance and work out at about £2.50 to £3/person each week.

So, if you're interested, don't delay and treat yourself to trying out your local Art Group, and as a Special Offer, you can have a free taster session to see if it is for you. If interested please contact Richard Fletcher, Kersey Art Group Organiser, at mobile 07856 899367 or email djzfletcher@googlemail.com

Ian Hattrick

On Tuesday the 13th of January, the funeral of long-time resident of Kersey, Ian Hattrick, was held at St. Mary's church. Reverend Geoffrey Clement took the service attended by many family and friends. Ian had left instructions for everyone to sing 'lustily' at his funeral, and with the support of the Hadleigh Choral Society, organist Anne Abbott, and many friends and family in the congregation, we were able to fulfill his wish. The service was a wonderful celebration of Ian's life and the 37 years he lived in Kersey.

Ian served on the Parish Council, PCC, and various other committees during his time in Kersey. He loved village life and St. Mary's church, where he played the organ for over 30 years. We take great comfort from the fact that he's now resting with many of his friends in a place that brought him enormous joy and great comfort.

Ian died peacefully in Hadleigh Nursing Home after leaving his beloved Water Lane Cottage home to be cared for towards the end of his life. We would like to thank his friends in the village and beyond for their support and kindness at this time.

Ian leaves his wife Joan, daughters Susanna, Ruth, and Caty, five grandchildren, and a great-grandson, and will be greatly missed.

St Mary's Church

Dear Friends

As Noddy Holder and Slade sang back in 1974, and repeatedly ever since, "I wish it could be Christmas every day". Well, you might not realise it, but it is Christmas up until the 2nd of February. In the Church calendar the Christmas season lasts not just until "12th Night" but until 2nd February. If you include Christmas Eve as the start of Christmas, then that is 40 days. The theme of 40 days is found in both the Old Testament and the New. Jesus fasted 40 days in the wilderness before beginning his ministry, directly echoing Israel's 40 years of being in the wilderness. After his resurrection, Jesus appeared to disciples over 40 days before ascending. The Christian season of Lent observes 40 days (excluding Sundays) of fasting and repentance before Easter, mirroring Jesus's 40 day in the wilderness at the start of his public ministry. The number likely gained its significance partly from being a round figure representing "a long time" in ancient Near Eastern culture—long enough to be significant but not impossibly long. A generation was often considered 40 years. It became a literary and theological motif representing completeness of a testing period, the time needed for profound change, or a full cycle of preparation before something new begins.

Given the importance of Christmas, the Church calendar sets it on the same level as Easter. Both these principal celebrations for Christians get a period of preparation and celebration of 40 days (or 4 weeks for Advent). Why is Christmas so important to the Christian faith? Why was it so important that God should come among us in the person of Jesus?

Think of it like a parent getting down on the floor to play with their child at the child's level—not because the parent has to, but because that's where real connection happens. God became one of us to meet us where we are, rather than requiring us to somehow reach up to where God is. The core idea is that God wanted to be with us in the most complete way possible—not just observing from a distance, but actually experiencing human life from the inside. By becoming human in Jesus, God could:

Understand us fully - experiencing hunger, pain, temptation, grief, and joy firsthand rather than just knowing about them theoretically

Show us what God is like - making the invisible visible, giving us something concrete to see and relate to. Through his teaching, ministry and death Jesus radically redefines divine power as self-giving love rather than coercive force.

Bridge the gap - many religious traditions teach that something separates humans from God (sin, brokenness, mortality). By becoming human, God could address this separation from both sides at once

Demonstrate the depth of love - it's one thing to say "I love you" from a position of power and safety. It's another to enter vulnerability, suffering, and even death out of love. In essence God became human because love requires presence.

This is just one side of the coin, the other side of the coin is Easter, and how and why the death of Jesus on a cross is so important. But that explanation is for another day. For now, in the church, we close the chapter that is Christmas and turn our thoughts to Lent and prepare for the great celebration of Easter on April 5th.

This all begins with Ash Wednesday on 18th February, when we will have a service in St Mary's Aldham at 6:30pm to which you are warmly invited to join us.

Have a happy Lent

Yours 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

I have been fulfilling the Treasurer role for almost 12 years, best financial practice says it is time for a change and I need a break. Please get in touch if you are interested, full support provided. CG

St MARY'S CHURCH SERVICES

Celtic Morning Prayer:

Held every Tuesday at 9.30am with Rev Geoffrey Clement

Services

1st February	11.00am	Holy Communion	Rev Geoffrey Clement
8th February	11.00am	Parish Service	Jim Sephton
15th February	4.00pm	Evensong	Rev Geoffrey Clement
18th February	6.30pm	Ash Wednesday Service at Aldham	
22nd February	No service at Kersey		Aldham
1st March	11.00pm	Holy Communion	Rev Geoffrey Clement

When time stood still at 12.33

Quite a few people contacted me to tell me the clock had stopped...thank you!

Despite our best efforts to restart it we had to resort to expert help and called in Time Assured Ltd who have been maintaining the church clock for the past 15 years.

We focused on the 100 year anniversary of the clock last year and if you remember we contacted Smiths of Derby who installed it and they told us it was a very sophisticated "two train (strike and going) flatbed, with a double three-legged gravity escapement" representing quality clockmaking technology.

In simple terms, the 'legs' are lifted by pins on the escape wheel, gaining potential energy from the main drive weight, which is then transferred to the pendulum.

Our problem was the legs needed to be adjusted as the pendulum was not receiving a uniform impulse during its downward arc...and eventually it stops!

Although the immediate problem has been fixed the general wear and tear of constant use mean quite a lot of remedial work is required on the pulleys, the cables and the bearings followed by a deep clean. I have discussed this with Time Assured Limited and they are putting a quote together.

The other, more radical approach, is to motorise the clock. This removes the need for cables, pulleys and weights albeit the clock mechanism remains in place. The whole system is then run electronically and managed by an app. Apparently there are a few dozen Turret Clocks now successfully using this system. Time Assured will also send a quote for this solution along with the details to complete a Faculty for the Diocese.

Clearly we need more information and a Village meeting to review the options and consequences.

Watch this space!

CG

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Village News

SYMPATHY

We extend our sympathy to Joan and family on the recent passing of Ian. He was our organist for about thirty six years and proof reader of the newsletter until a year ago when ill health forced him to give up. St Mary's miss them both so much.

VILLAGE PRODUCE ASSOCIATION.

The VPA committee held a meeting to arrange the schedule for the September show. Alterations have been made in many classes. This will be delivered with the March newsletter. The outing was also discussed but no conclusion was reached regarding the venue.

Annual meeting date was set for the 16th March 7.30pm

RAINFALL

From the 23rd November- 22nd December 48mm (approx 1.9") and from the 23rd December-22nd January 74.5mm (approx 3in") of rainfall was recorded in Vale Lane.

CLEANING

Weeks beginning 9th February Suzy Rudkin and Karen Freeman

Weeks beginning 23rd February Janet Covell and Rachael Rogers

INVALIDS

We send our best wishes to those who are recovering from operations or unwell at home.

TUESDAY CLUB

The club does not meet in February. The first meeting of 2026 will on 3rd March 2.30 in the Village Hall when we look forward to " Spring in the Dolomites " with Roger and Tina Loose from Boxford. Competition " Something beginning with D "

PARISH COUNCIL DATES 2026

2nd March, 13th April Annual Parish Assembly, 11th May Parish Council Annual meeting, 6th July,
7th September, 16th November.

Where am I? The forgotten art of map reading.....

[40°23'10"N 104°33'41"W](#)

Coming Soon to a Church Near You!

St Mary's Church has been closed for a week! Finally after three years of work behind the scenes with the Diocese and Consultants and a plethora of interested third parties due to our Grade 1* listing the new lighting has been installed.

We started this project with a desire to get more out of the church building, to increase the number of weddings, baptisms, concerts, events, art and craft displays and anything else that entices people in. The plan being that more use leads to increased opportunity to raise much needed funds.

We have already improved the sound system, introduced standalone colour capable uplighters and upgraded the lights in the bell ringing chamber and both porches. When you add in the kitchen and toilet facilities we are almost there...

Bearing in mind the inspirational beauty and history of the church, much of it hidden in plain site being above eye level, we had to address the main lighting. The current lights are reaching end of life and would be more at home in a warehouse than our beautiful church....so we sought expert advice:

"It's not just a good lighting design that enhances, it's how the luminaires are controlled that can really add a wow factor to your design. Lighting control can easily change the whole feel of a space instantly. Lighting control allows lighting scenes or moods to be created from a single press of a button providing both local and whole church control. Keypads provide easy control for example; being able to access a "welcome" scene from the porch door keypad, or being able to put the church into "service" or "evening performance" scene." James Rackham, Norwich Architectural Lighting Company.

The approved lights we have installed make use of the Casambi System. For the techies amongst us:

Casambi is a wireless lighting control platform using Bluetooth Low Energy to link luminaires, sensors and switches into a flexible mesh network. It enables easy commissioning, grouping, scene creation, scheduling and automation through a mobile app. The system offers scalability, energy efficiency and smart control without extra wiring

We have installed new lights for old ones and added extras to highlight certain areas of the church including the aisle cross timbers and mutilated angels. The overall result should be amazing. The March newsletter will give details of a formal event to showcase the new lighting across the whole church.

CG

Parochial Church Council 2025, the financial year in brief:

There is no doubt about it, maintaining a beloved Grade 1* listed building within an acre of land is both time consuming and expensive. On the one hand we could wrap it in cotton wool and open it as needed, a fate that befalls many churches around the country, or we could open the doors to everyone, everyday without interference from guides or security, which is the path Kersey residents have chosen for many years. This route requires the building to be safe, maintained, warm(ish), welcoming, and be able to tell a story, heavily influenced by the real Game of Thrones.

In order to achieve this there is a great deal of mundane “stuff” that just needs to be done and paid for. The only financial contributors are the village residents collectively and the visitors that are enticed into the building. In brief the 2025 financial position is below, greater detail will be given at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

Expenses:: The amount paid to the Diocese/Clergy was £10,739. This was actually £6,000 less than they requested. Church running costs were £7,400 within which insurance was £2,750, Churchyard £1,325 and Equipment & Maintenance £2,755. (this included Fire Extinguisher, Clock, Organ, Electricity and Lightning Conductor annual costs of maintenance and review). Utility bills amounted to £1,212. All in all our expenses were £21,000+

Income: All Giving amounted to £15,200. Fees from weddings and funerals £3,550, net sale of goods in the church £1,000 and net Newsletter income £1,000.

The contrived overall net position was breakeven, bearing in mind we underpaid our share to the Diocese. The impact of this underpayment is unknown at present.

Looking Forward: Every annual recurring maintenance invoice has increased. Additional work will also always be required. The PCC will put together an Action Plan to meet these challenges. CG

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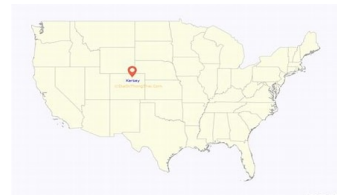
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If you successfully completed the Map Reading challenge then you would be in Kersey Colorado USA.



I contacted Brandon Unruh, Community Development Director, Kersey, Colorado. The idea was to share historical background and to determine any named connection to Kersey in Suffolk. This is difficult to prove ...unless anyone out there knows something? We exchanged notes and Brandon kindly provided the following summary of Kersey in the beautiful "Mountain State" of Colorado.

Kersey, Colorado is located in Weld County, situated in the northeastern portion of the state. It is located in a region of the state known as the Front Range, due to its proximity to the easternmost range of the Rocky Mountains. Though this region has experienced a significant population growth over the last 30 years, Kersey itself has remained a small town of roughly 1,800 residents. Denver is approximately 50 miles (80 km) to the southwest, which for us amounts to a 45-60 minute drive.

The Town of Kersey was first established as a switch station along the Union Pacific railroad and known as "Orr," named for James Orr. James was one of the first settlers in the area of European descent. As the town grew along the railroad, a local railroad master named James Kersey Painter suggested renaming it to help prevent confusion with the many other railroad stations named Orr. The name "Kersey" was his mother's maiden name; the name was officially adopted in December 1884. The Town of Kersey was then incorporated and officially founded in November of 1908.

This region is well-known for its productive farmland, cattle herds, and oil and natural gas production. Agriculture remains a main economic driver for Kersey and the county at-large, but energy production companies (including oil, natural gas, wind, and solar) have since been established as the top employers. This strong economic activity resulted in a major four-lane highway project on County Road 49, which is known locally as "Kersey Road." Kersey is known for the South Platte River, flowing to the east and situated north of town, as well as the yearly Kersey Days celebration, held every August.

Kersey is only 50 miles (80 km) from Estes Park, Colorado, which is known for its stunning views of the mountains of the Front Range, including Longs Peak, one of 53 peaks in the state above 14,000 feet (4,267 m). These peaks are known as "Fourteeners" and many Colorado residents make it their goal to climb all 53. The closest ski areas are El Dora, located in Nederland, Loveland Ski Area outside of Georgetown, and Snowy Range Ski Area in the neighboring state of Wyoming.

CG



News from Kersey Primary School

The whole school enjoyed a trip to The New Wolsey Theatre in Ipswich to see the pantomime 'Beauty and the Beast'. The children danced, sang, laughed, cheered and booed!

Oak (Years 4, 5 and 6)

In History we are currently looking at the Tudor times, focusing mainly on Henry VIII. The children have enjoyed learning about the timeline of Henry VIII and the story behind the 6 wives that he had.

Sapling (Years 2 and 3)

Saplings have been practising their persuasive language techniques (watch out, parents!). They have been using hot seating, taking turns to persuade one another through a range of fun challenges — including convincing someone to eat their least-favourite vegetable! They have explored different examples of persuasion and are learning how important it is to use clear, detailed reasons to win over their audience, especially when their peers have equally strong reasons for not wanting to give in.

An exciting mystery unfolded in the classroom today when a letter arrived from our felt-tip pens, which have miraculously disappeared! In the letter, the felt tips explained that they had decided to "quit" after feeling poorly treated. Saplings will now be putting their persuasive skills to the test by writing letters to convince the felt-tip pens to return to the classroom!

Acorn (EYFS and Year 1)

Acorn class are learning all about explorers and how they have changed the world. They are enjoying creating their own maps and thinking about where we live in the world. They have also been creating paintings inspired by the artist Jasper Johns.

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.

'On a journey together.'

Farming Notes January 2026

January is one of the quieter months on the farm so Sarah and I were able to get away for a welcome break – a week of skiing in the French Alps in brilliant sunshine. Quite a contrast to the wet, grey weather which Kersey enjoyed. We returned refreshed and ready for the months of calving and lambing ahead. Thanks to Ryan who, with help from Rob and Jimmy, looked after everything in our absence.

Sheep

The ewe flock was ultrasound pregnancy scanned this week with satisfactory results: 1 barren ewe, 25 singles, 23 twins and 6 sets of triplets. This gives a pregnancy rate of 162% which is very acceptable. The notable thing is that there were more singles than twins. This is probably due to the autumn grass shortage at sheep mating time – a result of the drought which now seems a distant memory. The fact that there was only one barren ewe is very good – she will be sold at the first opportunity. The ewes are looking fit and healthy, partly due to the fact that we have been giving a little extra food to the few skinnier ones. Now the whole flock is in similar condition during the build up to lambing which is due to start at the beginning of March and with luck will be all over during that hectic month. Although it is wet underfoot we will keep the ewes outside until just before lambing as I believe this is healthier for them, than being housed for too long.

Cattle

The health testing results which I mentioned in the November notes duly arrived. I am pleased to say that the herd was once again tested clear of Bovine tuberculosis (TB), Infectious Bovine Rhinotracheitis (IBR) and Bovine Viral Diarrhoea (BVD). However, there was one cow which tested marginally positive for Johnes disease, she has been isolated and will be retested, as vet advice is that this test is likely to have been affected by other issues and may not be a true positive. The cow is in calf and if she does fail on retest she will have to be culled after calving in order for us to retain our accredited status. Next week we will have a visit from the Cogent vet who will be fertility testing up to eight young bulls with a view to them travelling to their stud. She will also take further blood samples from those bulls so that they can be health screened again ahead of intake. In a busy week we also have our annual farm assurance inspection, which is an audit of all our processes, so lots of paperwork!

After over two years with us, young Adam Sargeant has moved on. He trained as an agricultural engineer and although his skills were useful in general farming he has moved on to a job in engineering where we hope he will be able to develop and realise his ambitions. Thanks Adam!

It has been a long time in the planning but 8 years since leaving university and going on a “gap year” to New Zealand, our oldest daughter Alice along with her Kiwi husband Liam are finally relocating to Kersey where Alice will join us on the farm. Their arrival is scheduled for July – just in time for harvest.

On Easter Saturday 4th April we are once again planning to open Bridges Farm up to the public, allowing visitors see and get close to cows with their calves and ewes with lambs as well as hopefully hens with chicks. This family farm day is run with FOSM raising funds for St Mary’s Church and another notable charity, still to be decided by our family, who will all be home to help for the weekend.

Livestock farming related quiz

1. Name the Suffolk Trinity?
2. How many eggs does a typical laying hen lay per year?
3. Gestation of a pig?
4. What breed is a black and white sheep dog?
5. How old was the oldest ever cow?
6. What breed of animal is a Toggenburg?
7. What is the average weight of a Suffolk Sheep fleece?
8. How long do duck eggs need incubating before hatching?
9. Which pure breed of sheep is most numerous in the UK?
10. What are the top 3 most eaten meats in the world by weight?
11. How old is the Kersey Flock of Suffolk Sheep?
12. How many breeding cows are there in England?

Dairy Cows

Beef Cows

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FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S 500 CLUB LOTTERY

Latest 500 Club draw results:

	December 2025	January 2026
1st Prize	Chris Partridge	Pascoe Gibbons
2nd Prize	Linda Newbigging	Bruce Newbigging
3rd Prize	Martin & Juliet Lynch	Claire McQuaker

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

DIARY DATES

2nd March	7.30pm	Parish Council	Village Hall
3rd March	2.30pm	Tuesday Club	Village Hall
16th March	7.30pm	VPA Annual Meeting	Village Hall

Kersey Parish Newsletter:

Would you like to be the guest editor of this newsletter? With no obligation to carry on? Or help with research, producing content and photographs, managing the advertisers. Any help to undertake any of these roles gratefully accepted. CG



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NEWS FROM KERSEY MILL

Throughout January 2026 work has continued to refurbish a number of the independent businesses at Kersey Mill including the gym, The Flower Shop and The Miller's Kitchen. A new interior design company, Arabella Jane Interiors, originally based in the South Lakes in Cumbria has relocated to Suffolk and will occupy units 2 & 3 at Church View. Kersey Mill Bridal remains on site, having moved to the Mill side entrance to the Brick Barn, next to The Stables Holiday Lets.

Fitframe Physio & Gym

Kersey Mill Fitness has now been rebranded and is under new management, as Claire Jacobs of Fitframe Physio & Gym takes the helm. The new fully refurbished, high tech gym with brand new equipment, will be open from Monday 2nd February, offering Gym & Personal Training, Fitness Classes and Physio all under one roof. Opening Hours:-

Monday to Friday: 6.00 am - 8 .00pm, Saturday & Sunday: 8.00am - 4.00pm

Breakfast Vintage & Modern Classic Car Meets

Starting from February 2026, (weather permitting) and held on the last Saturday of the month, Kersey Mill hosts an informal Breakfast Vintage and Modern Classic Car Meet. As the name implies, car owners are welcome to bring along their cars, meet up with like minded car enthusiasts while enjoying a delicious breakfast at The Miller's Kitchen or a snack from the TMK Street Food trailer. These events start from 9am to 12 noon.

Drive it Day - Sunday 26th April 2026

Kersey Mill plays host to the nationally organised and ever popular Drive it Day - a must for all petrol heads! In previous years there has been in excess of 400 cars being exhibited in the beautiful grounds at Kersey Mill. Exhibitors' registration is now open for 2026, so if you have a vintage or classic car that you would like to bring along, please make enquiries and register your vehicle via the Kersey Mill website. The event is open to the general public from 10am to 4pm and costs £5 per car for visitors. For Drive it Day Exhibitors entry is free! It's a great family day out, with food and refreshments on offer. Some of the independent businesses will also be open for business, so it's well worth a visit!

Kersey Mill Open Days: Throughout the year, the Mill is open to the public from 10am - 4pm on the following dates:

Every weekend from Easter Weekend including Good Friday, (3rd April) to 27th September.

Drive it Day - Sunday 26th April: National Mills Weekend - 9th/10th May

English Heritage Week 12th/13th & 19th/20th September

Farming Quiz Answers

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Suffolk Punch Horse, Red Poll Cow, Suffolk Sheep | 8. 28 days |
| 2. 300 eggs/year | 9. Scottish Blackface |
| 3. 3 months, 3 weeks and 3 days (115) | 10. Pork 36%, Chicken 33%, Beef 24% followed by lamb, goat, turkey, duck, buffalo, goose, rabbit |
| 4. Border Collie | 11. 99 years |
| 5. 49 years old | 12. Breeding cows 1.7M. 1.1M dairy and 0.6M beef |
| 6. Goat | |
| 7. 3kg | |

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