

Kingston Parish & Church Magazine



April 2019

Village Diary

Wednesday 3 rd April	Village Coffee/Tea – Village Hall – 10.30am
Saturday 6 th April	Village Pub Night – Village Hall, 6pm-10pm
Tuesdays 2 nd , 9 th , 16 th , 23 rd & 30 th April	Wellness Workout, 10.00am & 7.15pm
Thursday 18 th April	Kingston Music Club – Village Hall, 8pm

Wheelie bin collection dates

Wednesday 3 rd April	Black bin
Wednesday 10 th April	Blue and Green bins
Wednesday 17 th April	Black bin
Friday 26 th April	Blue and Green bins

Editorial

As you read this issue, you are surrounded by a tidier environment – thanks to the efforts of all those who helped on the recent village-wide Litterpick. It's always gratifying when Kingstonians turn out to support such ventures and, by so doing, add to the beautification of our village.

And Kingston looks at its best this time of year. The cover photo by Kay Forsythe proves the point that it helps to be up early to enjoy such a spectacle. Unlike in winter, it's now worth getting up and getting out (dog walking helps), but don't forget your camera! As Martyn Apperly shows in the two photos inside this issue, wildlife are constant companions on our walks and, although it is still March, May flowers are in evidence already (possibly wild plum blossom). Local photos like these are always most welcome for inclusion in the magazine.

Peter Holly pjholly45@gmail.com 01223 264 556

Vicar's Letter

This year marks 50 years since the first human landed on the moon. Since then we have seen more people on the moon, and our lives improved in many ways by satellites and space exploration.

And yet, there are many who believe that the moon landings never happened – that they were a fake created by the US government. Worse, there are a growing number of people who believe that the earth is flat, and that *all* space-related technologies are fake.

Those are just two of the less horrible 'conspiracy theories' which are drawing in huge numbers of people on the Internet. This includes staff at Internet companies whose jobs are to get rid of such deceptive material: it seems that being constantly exposed to such lies eats away at their sense of reality and draws them in too.

Whatever it is that makes people start these false stories, they must be aware of the damage their careless and malicious words are doing.

And that's nothing new: the Bible repeatedly warns about those who use their words as weapons. In Psalm 64, King David writes:

“Hide me from the secret plots of the wicked,
from the scheming of evildoers,
who whet their tongues like swords,
who aim bitter words like arrows,
shooting from ambush at the blameless.”

We can pray this, along with David, because, as we read later in the Psalm, “Because of their tongue, God will bring them to ruin.”

This is not how God wants us to use the power of our words. Rather, as St. Paul wrote “Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is useful for building up, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear.”

So let's make sure our own words are the grace-filled kind. Let's be very careful not to fall for, or spread, the lies and deceits of others. And if you've been caught up in any of these things on the Internet, don't despair: listen instead to Jesus' words of hope and healing “Come to me all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.”

Rev. Steve Day

Church Services for March/April

Sunday 31st March	Family Service 10.30am MOTHERING SUNDAY
Sunday 7th April	Holy Communion 8.30am
Sunday 14th April	Evening Prayer 6.00pm PALM SUNDAY
Sunday 21st April	Family Communion 10.30am EASTER SUNDAY

Church cleaning

1st Sunday	Peter and Suzy Stokes
2nd Sunday	Donal and Monica O'Donnell
3rd Sunday	Peter Reynolds
4th Sunday	Janet Clear
5th Sunday	Linda Rimmer

Church flowers and brasses

(NB brasses only during Lent)

7 th April	Janet Clear
14 th April	Miki Ellar
21 st April	Henrietta Burbridge
28 th April	Joan Reynolds

Home Communion

If you cannot get out and would like to receive Holy Communion at home, please let the office know and we will arrange for the sacrament to be brought to you on a regular basis. If you are having difficulty getting to church, but a lift would make that possible please contact the team office on 01480 839933 and we will be able to help.

Easter flowers

The church will be decorated for Easter on the morning of Saturday 20th April.

EASTER SUNDAY 21st April

As always, all are warmly welcome to our celebration of Easter. The service will be taken once again by the Revd Rodney Holder, formerly an astrophysicist and Director of the Faraday Institute. You do not need to be a member of our church to attend and there is no requirement to take communion.

Easter Lilies

If you would like to make a donation towards lilies for Easter Sunday, I would be very grateful to receive them by Monday 8th April (they will need to be ordered in good time). They are likely to cost around £3.00 per stem according to the florist.

Hope to see as many as would like to come along on Saturday 20th to decorate the church. Many thanks for your continued support.

Linda Smith

CONCERT 18th May 7.30pm

Patrick Daily, our church organist/pianist, will be bringing the Ermine Street Band to Kingston on Saturday the 18th May, to perform a varied and lively programme of chamber music for wind instruments. The group is based in Papworth and comprises ten musicians directed by Stephanie Reeve. They will be performing free of charge and all proceeds will go to the church. Tickets £10 to include refreshments, available from Peter Reynolds or Janet Clear.

THE ERMINE STREET BAND

presents

a programme of chamber music for wind instruments

All Saints & St Andrew's Church, Kingston

Saturday 18th May, 2019, at 7.30pm

Tickets £10 from Peter Reynolds or Janet Clear

Kingston Monthly Pub Nights – update from the Village Hall Committee

We just wanted to give you a quick update on the monthly pub nights and the Village Hall in general.

Thanks to the volunteers! The first order of business is to thank all the kind volunteers that have stepped up to make the pub possible – Pat & Simon, Mark & Katherine, Peter & Suzy, Rachel, Jill, Heather & Lance, Linda & Charlie, Keith, Lisa & Jonathan, Greg & Paige, Kay & Peter, Paul & Sarah and I am sure I have missed some people but many thanks to you all! Because of these, it looks like the pub is back on a firm footing and once again proving to be a great asset to the village.

Pizzas! As you probably know the Easys have kindly stepped in to make fantastic monthly pizzas – highly tasty - even just writing about them makes my stomach rumble, and this we hope has made a big difference to the quality of the evening, do come along and sample the merchandise if you haven't already.

Ales! On the matter of types of ales (and soft drinks), we are trying to simplify pub operations for volunteers by focusing on around 8-10 staple ales with a few “guest ales” from time to time. However, there should be a “what people like” poster on the pub, please don't hesitate either to add something to this list or to discuss with a committee member if your favourite tippie is not on the list. I would mention that we have a decent range of alcohol free ales as well, including Brewdog (0.5%) which is worth a look, so once again please do let us know if something takes your fancy.

Soundboards! We know that the small hall especially, remains quite difficult for the harder of hearing, although much improved on what it used to be. This is our next priority to fix. We have priced up a solution involving sound absorbing boards and applied for a National Lottery grant to cover the cost, hopefully we will hear about this in the future but either way our intention is to address this issue in 2019 as soon as funds and grants permit.

Groundworks! We are very grateful to the Parish Council for a grant for most of the cost to upgrade the groundworks outside the hall. This, we hope you agree, looks good and with some final painting to the external woodworks and guttering and some tidying up of the plant beds more or less completes the hall upgrade. This has taken seven years to do but we hope you agree that it has positioned the Hall for the next fifty years and we remain very grateful to all the hard work of the people involved in carrying this out.

We hope the pub is easy to run! Below is a straight copy/paste of the spreadsheet pub rota for the balance of 2019. As you can see we are a bit light from July onwards

and would be very grateful for some new names to come forward. Hopefully with the pizzas being done separately by the experts, the pub is now much easier to run but if there is anything that people feel would make it simpler still please don't hesitate to let us know. Why not plan ahead and get your volunteering slot for 2019 secured by emailing me today? It would be massively appreciated. Meanwhile, we look forward to seeing you soon!

Kingston Village Hall pub rota

(Remembering that John Easy is generally doing the pizzas so this is just serving beers)

Month	Year	Exact date	Event	Early shift (best with 2 people)		Late shift (only one person needed really)	
				Person 1	Person 2	Person 1	Person 2
Nov	2018	03/11/2018	Monthly pub night	Pat	Simon	No late pub as fireworks night	
Nov	2018	17/11/2018	Music night	Chris	Mark S	Chris	Mark S
Dec	2018	01/12/2018	Monthly pub night	Keith Tan	Lisa Tan	Rachel	
Jan	2019	05/01/2019	Monthly pub night	Paul	Sarah	Chris	
Feb	2019	02/02/2019	Monthly pub night	Heather	Lance	Jill	Rachel
Mar	2019	02/03/2019	Monthly pub night	Peter	Suzy	Peter	
Apr	2019	06/04/2019	Monthly pub night	Linda	Charlie	Pat	Simon
May	2019	04/05/2019	Monthly pub night	Greg	Paige		
Jun	2019	01/06/2019	Monthly pub night	Chris	Katherine	Chris	
Jul	2019	06/07/2019	Monthly pub night	No pub night as it is BBQ ! Put in your diaries			
Aug	2019	03/08/2019	Monthly pub night				
Sep	2019	07/09/2019	Monthly pub night				
Oct	2019	05/10/2019	Monthly pub night				
Nov	2019	02/11/2019	Monthly pub night				
Dec	2019	07/12/2019	Monthly pub night				

Chris Reid (Treasurer)

Weather Alert

With the recent high winds, electricity suppliers alerted us to the dangers of system failures and power cuts. Julie Conder pointed out that the phone number to use in case of power failures (formerly on the inside cover of the magazine) is incorrect. We are now asked to call 105 to report power cuts and damage to the electricity network or 0800 3163 105 from corded phones or mobile phones if you have no power.



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Come Worship With Us!

This Easter @

Kingston Parish Church

Palm Sunday, 14th April, 6pm~ Evening Prayer

Good Friday, 19th April, ~ Noon Stations of the Cross
(at Bourn)

Easter Day, 21st April, 10.30am ~ Holy Communion



For the sake of the family

A core understanding of what it means to be a Christian is we become part of a new family, God's family on earth, and this transforms our perspective on what it means to be family as Christians. In addition to our natural family, as Christians, we are part of something much bigger – local, regional, national and global! One area this relates to is how we manage the resources we have and been able to build up over many years. This came home to me loud and clear just before Christmas 2018. At the end of a service, someone volunteered to give a five-figure sum into a village church as an expression of thanksgiving for a relative who had left money to her. There was more to come: by the end of the evening this was matched by another generous donor. These gifts will make a huge difference towards ensuring their church facilities and activities will serve the village for many more generations.

The Bible tells us: *"A good person leaves an inheritance for their children's children ..."* (Proverbs 13v22).

Money and resources was a regular topic in the teaching of Jesus. Over the next few weeks I am convening a number of Annual Meetings for churches in the Papworth Team Ministry. Another good-news story I will repeat is of one of our parishes where, this time last year, we began – ever so gently – to remind folk of opportunities and responsibilities we have with money; by the end of the year we saw (year-on year compared to 2017) an 87% increase in regular planned giving plus a 46% rise in general plate collections on Sundays in this particular church.

The lessons are loud and clear to me:

- a) There are some very generous people living in our villages. Thank you.
- b) People are often waiting to be asked to give or increase their support. If we don't talk about money, we prevent some from doing their bit; when we ask, we do receive!
- c) As we grow older it becomes natural to want to leave our affairs in good order. This is a time of life to think (with suitable advice, of course) about leaving legacies; an added benefit is to do so can offset some taxation liabilities AND make a huge difference to the generations following in our footsteps.
- d) Because (thankfully) we are not a monochrome bunch, true wealth and value is never truly measured by how much money we have; true wealth and generosity is a way of thinking and behaviour which means we can all make equivalent sacrifices to invest in things we believe in that will bless those who come after us.

In the next few months we hope to say more about important events being put on and work we need to finance for the ongoing repair and care of your church.

Meanwhile, do join us for worship this Easter; details of local services and activities are shown elsewhere in this edition. Easter is when we celebrate how God gave his best, Jesus, so that we could be reconnected as family; and without the death of Jesus there could be no reconciliation and resurrection. It is a powerful metaphor of how sowing resources and appearing to let them die produces a whole new harvest in the next season.

And remember: we aim to open the church for your use throughout the week, as a place to be quiet, have space to think and pray and be a place of peace for all the village in a turbulent and busy world.

Nigel di Castiglione (*Team Rector*)

Kingston Music Club

A Taste of France

On March 14th, Pat Draper led the session and presented music with a taste of France. She began with a selection of classical pieces by Hector Berlioz, Erik Satie, Camille Saint-Saens, Claude Debussy, and Maurice Ravel. Before playing each excerpt, Pat provided a really interesting commentary about the composer's background and his music. In the second half of the evening, she played some famous "chansons" by the likes of Edith Piaf ("La vie en rose"), Charles Trenet ("La Mer"), Yves Montand ("C'est si bon"), Juliette Greco ("Les feuilles mortes"), Charles Aznavour ("Yesterday when I was young"), Jacques Loussier ("Air on a G-string"), Jacques Brel ("Ne me quitte pas"), Pink Martini ("Je ne veux pas travailler"), and Carla Bruni ("Ta tienne"), finishing with a rousing version of Edith Piaf's "Je ne regrette rien". Again, each track was preceded by Pat's commentary on the song, the singer and interesting background information which served to enhance the enjoyment of the evening. Tres magnifique!

The Next Evening

THURSDAY April 18th at 8pm

Linda Rimmer is our next presenter and an evening of music personal to her is planned. All are welcome to attend what should be a great evening of musical bonhomie.

Next Presentations

June 13th – Music with a Portuguese twist, presented by Celia Whitworth who hails from far afield - Barton.

Dates to be set – Team Peter and Suzy Stokes and Miki Ellar have kindly agreed to ransack their respective attics for records and come up with their personal favourites.

Parish Council News

Defibrillator: The Parish Council has agreed to fund a public access defibrillator for Kingston. It is now on order and will be installed in a special cabinet on the side of the village hall. As many of you will know, defibrillation is an essential part of trying to save life should someone in the village be unfortunate enough to suffer a cardiac arrest. Seconds count – there is little hope of an ambulance arriving in time, hence the need for an immediately-available defibrillator. More news on this next month.

Goal nets: The goal nets have again been replaced at the playground, as the previous ones had a number of holes. It is not known what causes this damage – the material is rot-proof and pretty strong. Possibly the damage is caused by children climbing the nets – if you are supervising children at the playground please discourage this or any other activity likely to cause damage.

Overgrown area in playground: Some years ago, we marked out a corner of the playground and instructed the grass-cutting contractor to leave this unmown. The idea was to create an area with hiding-places which children could play games in. It is now well-overgrown, and several saplings have appeared. Please let us have your views – should we leave it to continue to develop naturally, or thin out the saplings? Cut paths through it? Make it bigger or smaller? Or any other ideas?

Speeding through Kingston: As previously advised the Parish Council decided that before proposing any other speed-reducing measures for the village we should acquire current objective data on traffic speeds to see whether or not we have a problem. Following investigation, it turns out that the most economical way of doing this is to do it ourselves. We have bought a calibrated pocket radar gun (looks like an iPhone) and the plan is for volunteers, acting in pairs, to carry out some data gathering sessions close to the crossroads. When we have gathered data for a number of sessions – perhaps one hour each – on different days, at different times of the day, we will be able to analyse the data to see if further action to discourage speeding is needed or not. **If you would be willing to do a stint at the crossroads please contact me** – timing to suit you. Choose your own partner or we'll find you one!

Planning: S/4291/18/FL application to build a replacement dwelling at Kingston Wood Manor has been granted.

Peter Stokes, Parish Clerk

Kingston Parish Council

BEWARE: HARE COURSING

Hare coursing has been seen in fields next to Eversden Road, south of Kingston. A resident who approached them received unpleasant and threatening responses. The matter has been reported to the police.

If you see hare coursing, the police ask that you dial 999 and inform them. Signs of hare coursing include vehicles, usually 4x4s, in fields with groups of people and dogs. Without putting yourself in danger it is obviously helpful if you can provide registration numbers and photos.

Peter Stokes



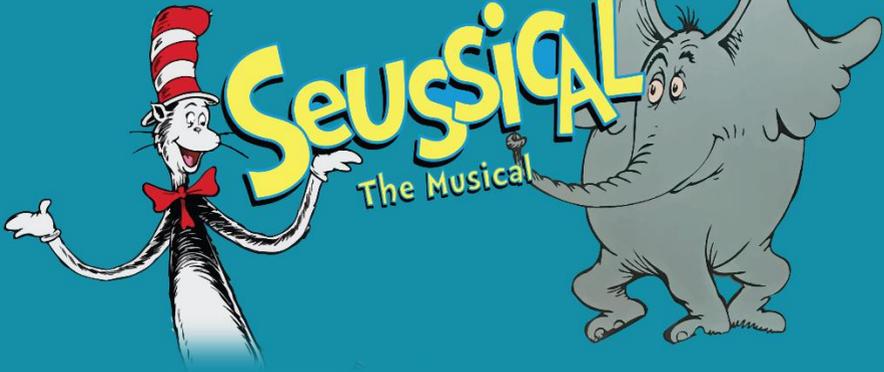
May in March

*Seen in Kingston
on 17th March*



This amateur production is presented by arrangement with Music Theatre International (Europe)

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LYRICS BY LYNN AHRENS

BOOK BY LYNN AHRENS &
STEPHEN FLAHERTY

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Date	Title	Bourn	Kingston	Caxton	Longstowe
Apr 7	Lent 5	10.30am FHC	8.30am HC	8.30am HC	
Apr 14	Palm Sunday	10.30am W4A	6.00pm EP	10.30am MP	10.30am MP
Apr 19	Good Friday	9.30am FS 12.00 Stations of the Cross			
Apr 21	Easter	10.30am HC	10.30am HC	11.00am HC	9.30am HC
Apr 28	Easter 2	8.30am Team HC at Bourn (also 10.30am Team HC at Eltisley, 10.30am Team Praise at Papworth, 6.00pm Team EP at Elsworth)			
May 5	Easter 3	10.30am FHC+Baptism	8.30am HC	10.30am W4A	
May 12	Easter 4	10.30am W4A	6.00pm EP	10.30am MP	8.30am HC
May 19	Easter 5	8.30am HC	10.30am W4A		
May 26	Easter 6	10.30am FW		8.30am HC	10.30am MP

HC = traditional Holy Communion (BCP)

EP = traditional Evening Prayer (BCP)

W4A/FS = Family Service

P&P=Prayer & Praise

MP= traditional Morning Prayer (BCP)

FHC= Common Worship/All Age Holy Communion

FW = All Age Worship/Morning Prayer/Prayer & Praise/Morning Worship



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For further information contact

Hannah Hope

hannah@thedoghousecaxton.co.uk

Heidi Allen's Latest Newsletter

As you probably now know, on the 20th February I announced my resignation from the Conservative Party and joined The Independent Group of MPs. This was an incredibly difficult decision but I believe our country deserves better. More competence, more collaboration, more expert analysis, more transparency, more care, more fairness and less entrenched political ideology. So I have joined, alongside 10 other MPs of both Conservative and Labour backgrounds, The Independent Group. In time, our intention is to form a new political party, positioned in the centre ground of British politics. More information, including my resignation letter and statement can be found on my website - <https://www.heidiallen.co.uk/>

I know that not everyone will be happy, but I can honestly say I have been bowled over by the overwhelming support that literally thousands of my constituents have shown for my decision. It means so much to me to know that my decision, hard though it was, has been received so well locally.

I became an MP in 2015 as I wanted to serve my country and give a voice to those who did not have one - that has not changed. It remains a great honour to be your Member of Parliament and although I may have lost my party label, I have not lost my determination to serve you with everything that I have. I'll continue to fight for the very best for South Cambridgeshire: providing excellent local services, ensuring fairer funding for those services, delivering on the vital infrastructure projects we need and continuing to be a voice for the vulnerable in our community.

I'm still "Heidi" and whenever you need my help or are concerned about a local or national issue, to coin a phrase, "nothing has changed!" You can still contact me as you always have. I'll be organising some public meetings and get together in the coming weeks and months so you can talk to me about my decision and learn more about my ambitions for this new political party.

However, for now - back to the day job!

There have been some important developments on transport infrastructure in recent weeks. These vital announcements will shape our local infrastructure and transport for many years to come so please do have your say! Grab a cup of tea and a few minutes to look at the following plans and make your voice heard!

East West Rail - For the last year, East West Rail (EWR) has been developing route options for the Bedford to Cambridge section of the new railway and they now want to hear your views on the five options available.

As I said at the beginning, it's business as usual and if there is anything you would like to talk to me about, my upcoming surgeries are:

- **Friday 5th April** between 3.30 and 5pm, I'll be at Bar Hill Tesco, CB23 8EL.
- **Saturday 6th April** between 10.30 and 12.30pm is a "Drop in" surgery at Abbeyfield, Girton Green, Wellbrook Way, Girton CB3 0GQ. No appointment necessary!
- If you would like an appointment to see me, my next "by appointment surgery" will be on **Thursday 2nd May** between 3.00 and 5pm at my office in Hardwick. If you would like an appointment, please call my office on 01223 830037.
- On **Saturday 8th June**, I'll be in Gamlingay for a drop in surgery. Full details to follow in my next newsletter.

In the meantime, if you would like to contact me, please email heidi.allen.mp@parliament.uk or call my office on 01223 830037.

See you next month!

Friday meditation and Compline at St Peter's Boxworth

Every Friday in Lent, St Peter's is open from 8pm for silent meditation by candlelight. Service closes with Compline at 9pm.

Egg-stra Recycling For Easter

Around 80 million chocolate Easter eggs are sold in the UK, generating almost 5,000 tonnes of foil, plastic and card. These can be recycled by South Cambridgeshire residents in their blue bins.

Extra waste generated in the UK at Easter is equivalent to the weight of around 600 double decker buses!



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Book of the Month

“Galveston” by Nic Pizzolatto (Sphere)

On The Edge

“Galveston” has been described as a dark thriller, very much in the tradition of James Lee Burke and *Paris, Texas*. The author, Nic Pizzolatto, is also the writer of the “True Detective” TV series (featured in this month’s Music Corner) which shares the same kind of southern noir sensibilities. Essentially, the story line focuses on a road trip through the guilty secrets of America’s Deep South, but it is not any old road trip. This is one steeped in blood and vengeance. The journey from New Orleans and Louisiana to Galveston and Texas traverses the Interstate 10 corridor on the southern edge of the US mainland, along which many live on the edge: on the edge of mainstream life, on the edge of poverty, on the edge of crime, and on the edge of violence. After living on the edge as a “button man” (a cross between a fixer and a hit-man) for his New Orleans bosses, the central character – Roy Cady – now wants out of his life of crime and ends up symbolically in Galveston which – in terms of its history of devastating hurricanes – is itself constantly clinging to life on the edge of survival.

Cady is said to be a “bad man” with bad prospects – he’s just received a cancer diagnosis – and whether he’s allowed to leave his current life is an open question. To make matters worse, he’s just had a fling with his boss’s lover and is being sent on a mission which is a set-up and which his chances of surviving are slim. Walking into the death-trap aware of the dangers means he’s able to emerge with his antagonists mostly dead and himself mostly alive – plus he now has a female travelling companion (Rocky) who had been looking to escape from the same hide-out. On the run with a price on their heads, they move westwards in the vain hope that if they travel far enough their pursuers won’t be too bothered to follow. As a reader, you just know that this is a pipe-dream and that the prospect of vengeance is around every corner. In fact, you keep wondering which will get him first – his cancer or his assailants.

As they flee west, our strange “heroes” listen to country music tapes (Waylon Jennings, Hank Williams, Patsy Cline, Billy Joe Shaver and Loretta Lynn amongst others) and cross the heart of the South, following a path through the Atchafalaya Basin, Lafayette, Lake Charles, Beaumont and Orange, Texas, where further complications wait for them. Along the way, they visit seedy bars, fleabag hotels and down-at-heel trailer parks. This is definitely not a high-end travelogue. As Cady pertinently remarks,

“I found a place I’d been to years before called John’s Barn. Kind of small, it has a low ceiling and three pool tables, stuffed with fat women and angry men drinking Miller Lite and waiting for a fight. Lake Charles was one of the easiest places to get your ass kicked on the Gulf Coast. And any place south of here was a white trash terror camp.”

As to be expected, reaching Galveston and its open beaches is only a temporary respite as the story builds to its climax. I’ll leave it to the reader to unravel the plot’s eventual twists and turns – some expected and some unexpected.

Peter Holly

Summer Offering

Swaffham Bulbeck Summer Theatre is proud to present ‘The Grand Duke’ by Gilbert & Sullivan in June 2019.

As in previous years the productions will be staged in the wonderful 'Theatre in a Barn', Downing Farm, Swaffham Bulbeck, Cambridge CB25 0NW; dates as follows:

- Wednesday 12th June 2019 at 7.30pm - £9
- Thursday 13th June 2019 at 7.30pm - £9
- Friday 14th June 2019 at 7.30pm - £10
- Saturday 15th June 2019 at 2.30pm - £7 and 7.30pm - £10.

Tickets will be available after 1st April via our website, www.sbsummertheatre.com or by e-mailing sbst.tickets@gmail.com or telephoning 07708 577570. For further information about the show please contact Ruth Dennis on 01638 730659.

First performed in 1896, The Grand Duke was the last of The Savoy Operas. Despite its short run, it contains some of Sullivan’s best music, but Gilbert’s plot was capricious and wordy resulting in an overly long operetta which soon faded from public acclaim and is rarely performed. However, we have cut unnecessary dialogue and a few of the repetitive songs to deliver a comic and fast moving show, true to its traditional origins but of normal length, that needs a bit of concentration to keep up with its twists and turns, too numerous to go into here! If you have not had the pleasure of seeing it before we recommend this opportunity, and we are sure you will enjoy it.

INSPIRE, EXPERIMENT, CREATE: Spring Family Workshops at Wysing Arts Centre on Tues 9, Wed 10 & Thurs 11 April, 10.30am–12.30pm
Come and experiment and uncover new ways of working together. The exhibition will be open from 10–10.30am for a relaxed introduction before the workshops. Book at http://www.wysingartscentre.org/whats_on/families/spring_half_term_workshops

Music Corner

Music from True Detective

Thank goodness that “True Detective”, the American crime series, is back for a third season. Written by Nic Pizzolatto and brilliantly acted by the central character, Wayne “Purple” Hays (played by the award-winning Mahershala Ali), this is film noir at its best and perfectly located in Ozark-land, north-west Arkansas. But as is often the case with these feasts of crime and violence, it is the music that helps to set the mood. Supremo T. Bone Burnett, as in series 1 and 2, creates the background music and selects the kind of tracks to fit every situation. The music is generally “southern” – the kind of music the protagonists would have as the back-drop to their lives.

The emphasis, therefore, is on country but not the kind of country music played on Nashville’s top 50 stations. Whether it’s called Outlaw Country or alt-country, at its heart this is rebel music. Artists such as Mickey Newbury, Waylon Jennings, Kris Kristofferson, Dwight Yoakum, Townes van Zandt and Steve Earle are all featured on Spotify’s comprehensive compilation of the tracks featured in all three series. Newbury’s work is a revelation. Previously well known as a songwriter (he wrote “An American Trilogy” for Elvis Presley), he sings two of his own songs here - “Just Dropped in (To See What Condition My Condition Was In)” and “Nights When I Am Sane”), both of which are not only standout songs in this selection but set the kind of introspective mood which, as one observer has remarked, enables the listener to visualize the singer holding a whisky in one hand and a gun in the other. Not typical country music, you might say.

A feature of each series of “True Detective” is the brilliant choice of the song played over the opening credits. In series 1 it was the Handsome Family’s “Far From Any Road” and in series 2 Leonard Cohen’s echoing “Nevermind” was the scene-setter. This time around it is former jazz singer turned sultry country artist Cassandra Wilson singing a superbly atmospheric “Death Letter”. Every time the latter is played the viewer gets the message and settles down for a new session of menace and intrigue.

Other standout tracks include “Champs Elysee” by the late Bobby Charles (whose career began in the ‘50s when he wrote “See You Alligator”, was re-energized in the ‘70s with the excellent track “Small Town Talk” and concluded with the first-rate compilation “Last train to Memphis” in 2003), the plaintive Patty Loveless slow-burner “Too Many Memories”, and Warren Zevon’s “Desperadoes Under the Eaves”. A surprising inclusion is “Can’t Find My Way Home” by the late ‘60s British supergroup Blind Faith. Actually the fit is perfect with Stevie Winwood’s ethereal voice adding to the mystery of the jigsaw. Straight down-the-line country is served well by “She Even Woke Me Up To Say Goodbye” by the reconstituted Jerry Lee

Lewis (how come country music has all the best titles?) and R&B and the Blues are represented by Bobby “Blue” Bland, John Lee Hooker, Slim Harpo, the Staple Singers and Bo Diddley. All these tracks, of course, are examples of “southern”, down-home music, with Jo-El Sonnier’s Cajun classic “Evangeline Special” taking its rightful place in the mix.

This Spotify compilation is a treasure trove of music new and old. Some of my personal favourite tracks would fall in the “oldies” category. Juice Newton’s “Angel of the Morning”, Dillard and Clark’s “Polly, and “Train Song” by ‘60s folkie Vashti Bunyan (her work is well worth seeking out), are all pleasingly melodic. “True Detective” stays true to the very end with Series 3 Episode 8 closing with Jon Batiste’s wonderful version of “Saint James Infirmary Blues” being played over the closing credits. In truth, there is music here for everyone. My advice is to sit back and get in the mood.

Peter Holly

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Our Team Administrator, Chris Westgarth, works in the office normally on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday mornings; serving the parishes of Bourn, Boxworth, Caxton, Conington, Croxton, Elsworth, Eltisley, Graveley with Papworth St Agnes, Kingston, Knapwell, Lolworth, Longstowe, Papworth Everard, Toseland and Yelling.

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