

Kingston Parish & Church Magazine



November 2018

Village Diary

Saturday 3 rd November	Village Pub Night – Village Hall, 6pm-10pm
Wednesday 7 th November	Village Coffee/Tea – Village Hall – 10.30am
Tuesdays 6 th , 13 th , 20 th & 27 th November	Core Fitness Class, 10.00am & 7.15pm
Saturday, 10 th November	An Evening of Remembrance
Sunday 11 th November	Remembrance Day Service
Tuesday 13 th November	Parish Council Meeting
Saturday 17 th November	Live Music Cabaret – Blues and Folk, Village Hall, 7.30pm
Thursday 22 nd November	Next Meeting of the Music Club

Wheelie bin collection dates

Wednesday 7 th November	Blue and Green bins
Wednesday 14 th November	Black bin
Wednesday 21 st November	Blue and Green bins
Wednesday 28 th November	Black bin

Editorial

This November is a month of commemorations. First off, it is 100 years since the end of the First World War, commemorated each year of course on Armistice Day, November 11th. So this year is very special and Torrie Smith has been putting together some material regarding local men who lost their lives in the conflict. This exhibition will be available for viewing during the weekend of the Remembrance Day Service, including a special Evening of Remembrance (“Lest We Forget”) on Saturday, November 10th. It is also 74 years since the fighting in the Second World War entered its final phase, with the Allied advances on Germany from east and west. In this issue, as part of the push from France into Germany, the experiences of Kay Forsythe’s father, Richard H. Forsythe, are featured. Last but certainly not least is the first part of a wonderful three-part set of Kingston memories entitled “Kingston Remembered”, unearthed by Paul Wright and spread over the next three issues of this magazine.

Peter Holly piholly45@gmail.com 01223 264 556

Vicar's Letter

On a recent train journey I was looking out of the window at the passing scenery and reflecting that autumn is a season of revelation. In autumn, the leaves have fallen, the crops have been harvested, and the summer vegetation has died back. The 'bones' of the land have been revealed for a while before new crops spring up or, just possibly, a coat of snow smooths everything out.

Our lives have similar moments: times when our circumstances – sometimes good, sometimes bad – strip away the everyday routines and trivia and reveal to us the shape our life has taken on. Our route to our present situation becomes more obvious, and perhaps the choices we need to make about future directions are also made clear.

And as in our personal lives, so in our national life. There come days of crisis when what we *have* become is revealed, and what we *will* become needs to be decided. With the present debates about our future relationship with our European neighbours and the rest of the world, and about how we care for the most needy and vulnerable of our people, I believe we are in such a moment.

Into this moment comes the centenary of the Armistice which ended the First World War. It was a war which tested our nation and our world as nothing had before, destroying former certainties and generating repercussions which are still shaking us. It demands from us that we stop and consider whether the paths we are taking as individuals or as a nation are ones which will lead us away from war and deeper into peace.

Where are we to find the resources for such a time? How can we look at the 'bones' of our personal and national lives and see the shape we want them to become?

God delivered to Isaiah a promise of guidance: "you will see your teacher with your own eyes. Your own ears will hear him. Right behind you a voice will say 'this is the way you should go' whether to the right or to the left." Much later, Jesus announced the fulfilment of this promise in the coming of the Holy Spirit to "lead us into all truth".

In these testing, autumnal times, with ever-greater doubts about who we can rely on to speak the truth into our decision-making, let's listen out ever more carefully for God's voice to tell us "this is the way you should go."

Rev. Steve Day

Church Services for November

Sunday 4th November	Holy Communion 8.30am
Sunday 11th November	SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE 10.50am
Sunday 18th November	Family Service 10.30am

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

4 th November	Linda Smith
11 th November	Lee Steele
18 th November	Christine Stone
25 th November	Christine Allison

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.

Remembrance Day Sunday Service

This year's Remembrance Sunday Service is being held exactly 100 years since the end of the First World War. We will be starting the service at the slightly later time of 10:50am on Sunday 11th November. Unless it is raining, we will congregate initially outside the church by the memorial. We hope as many of you are able to attend as possible.

Jack Diggie

Mill Road Winter Fair : Sat 1 Dec 10.30am-4.30pm

Mill Road is closed from East Road to Coleridge Road, meaning that everyone can enjoy the day in a safe and comfortable atmosphere. Activities for all ages. Details will be available at <https://www.millroadwinterfair.org/>

'LEST WE FORGET'

AN EVENING OF REMEMBRANCE

Saturday 10th November at 8.30pm In Kingston Church

Readings, music and meditation in remembrance of all who have died or suffered as a consequence of war.

We hope as many people as possible of all creeds and faiths or of no faith will support this Act of Remembrance.

Armistice Day this year has, of course, a very special significance being precisely 100 years since the cessation of hostilities in the most costly war, in terms of loss of life and human suffering, that the world has ever experienced.

Although held in church this is not planned as a religious service.

The normal Kingston Remembrance Day service will be held on Sunday 11th November and will commence at the War Memorial on the West end of the church at 10.50am before continuing in the church.

World War 1 Exhibition

The exhibition is being mounted to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the cessation of hostilities in the most costly war, in terms of casualties and human suffering that the world has ever known. The war impacted every family in the land including your family!

The exhibition will be on display in the:

- **Village Hall over the period 2nd to 7th November**
- **Kingston Church over Armistice Weekend, 9th to 12th November.**

As outlined in an earlier edition of the Magazine I am planning, with the help of Peter Holly, to put on a modest exhibition about the impact of WW1 on Kingston Residents, both past and present, and their ancestors.

Do come and find out how WW1 affected the then residents of Kingston and also the ancestors of some of those whom you know in the village today.

Torrie Smith

Spotted Flycatchers: An Update from Joeeta Murphy

The message below might be of interest to Kingston residents. We at Walkers Field have had these flycatchers in the garden and so have several other residents. You may be interested to go to the talk by Michael Holdsworth.

Upcoming Talk

This is just to let you know that I will be talking about the project on Saturday 3 November at the one-day BTO/Cambridgeshire Bird Club Migration conference at Cottenham VC.

The day will feature observatories, nocturnal migration studies, Blackcaps, Swifts and Nightingales as well as Spotted Flycatchers.

More details and a booking form are now available at

<http://www.cambridgebirdclub.org.uk/documents/2018ConfBookingform.pdf>



KINGSTON CHRISTMAS FAIR

Sunday 9th
December
2:30 – 4:00pm.

- *Preserves, baked goods,*
- *plants*
- *Christmas gifts*
- *New this year! Artisan craftwork from the village*
- *Chocolate Tombola*
- *Raffle*
- *Tea, coffee, mulled wine and mince pies*



This is a great chance to do some Christmas shopping in Kingston, and meet and mingle during the festive season over refreshments.

Contributions please to Suzy or Miki
All proceeds to the Village Hall

Kingston Remembered

Kingston Remembered are reminiscences, mainly from the 1920s, published in 1977 as part of Kingston's celebration of the Queen's Silver Jubilee. This was also the year that Kingston took possession of the former school and converted it to become our Village Hall.

Peter Reynolds has provided me with the following background information.

Kingston Remembered is principally the work of Louis (pronounced Lewis) Jacklin. It's likely his sister Mary, who married George Pink, and remained in Kingston, asked him to do this and he was further encouraged and assisted by David Ellar. The Jacklins were formerly numerous in Kingston. Louis was born in Kingston in 1915. He had a younger sister and two brothers and the family lived in Orchard Cottage, Crane's Lane when it was a simple 2-up 2-down cottage. They all attended the village school. Louis became a gardener at the Old Rectory for the Revd Peake Banton in the 1930s. He then went to Bayham Abbey in Kent, from where he joined up in WWII, going over to France on D-Day. After the war he ended up as Parks Superintendent for North Norfolk District Council, which included Cromer, in charge of a team of about 25 gardeners. He retired in 1980, but Peter does not know when he died.

In the attached photograph (below), Louis Jacklin is at Kingston School in 1921, aged 6. He is in the back row on the left. Mrs. Washington (head teacher) is on the left and Miss Leach (junior teacher) is on the right, both of whom are referred to in these memoirs.

I have digitised my paper copy for publication in the magazine and we can provide a pdf version to anyone who would like one. I will also put a copy on the village website.

Paul Wright



KINGSTON REMEMBERED

By Louis Jacklin and others

1977

Kingston, Cambridge, as I remember it over 50 years ago, was a rural community of approximately 200 inhabitants, dependent entirely on earning a living from the land, either regularly or casually.

Transport was poor in this rural area. Whilst the railway ran just to the north of the village, the nearest passenger station was the Old North Road or Lord's Bridge. Kingston and the surrounding villages made use of the Kingston siding which was purely a goods depot. *Mr R Ingle* used to send tons of fruit away from this siding by rail. My paternal grandfather, *Peter Jacklin*, kept the Old Rose and Crown (renamed Tranquil). He was also the village carrier and made the journey to Cambridge twice a week, I believe Wednesdays and Saturdays. The conveyance used was a light horse drawn wagon and he carried fare paying passengers and goods. He was succeeded by the late *Mr David Custerson* (Jun) of The Chequers, the other public house, now The White House.

I suppose he followed the same pattern as my grandfather leaving the crossroads at 8.30 am making all good speed to Cambridge at about 5 miles per hour. On arrival at Cambridge the journey would terminate at the Carrier's Cap, a hostelry with stabling, which used to be tucked away somewhere between the town end of Exchange Street and the rear of Petty Cury. It was only the matter of a few minutes to be on Market Hill.

The return home began about 4-4.30 pm and after many stops dropping off goods here and there (which might be sugar for some grocer, plough shares for a farmer, horseshoes at a smithy, etc) one might get back to Kingston by 6.45 pm. The carrier's cart was superseded by a private bus service (the buses had solid tyres) operated from Longstowe by the late *Piper Bros*. This service did not operate through the village and by travelling along the Bourn-Toft road also picked up a few people from the South end of Caldecote. The 'Ortona' Motor Bus Co, based at Cambridge, followed the Piper Bros with a regular daily service to and from Cambridge, using the same route. This in turn was taken over by the Eastern Counties Service.

The Burwell and District did at one time run a Saturday only service to Cambridge via Kingston and Eversden, undercutting the other service aforementioned. Apart from these services one walked, rode a bike or used a pony and trap/gig.

Mr Marrit used to hire out such a conveyance and it was quite the thing to do to hire the pony and trap for a wedding or to visit relatives.

The late *Mr Geoffrey Hagger*, eldest son of *Philip Hagger* (Town Farm), owned the first car to belong to anyone in the village. This was a Model T Ford and was bought, I understood, to convey his mother about following an accident with a high spirited horse and trap in which she was a passenger. *Mrs Hagger* was (it was said) too scared ever to ride in a trap again after this horse had kicked the front in.

Social life was what the villagers made themselves and this was limited. The Parish Church used to organise an annual fete held in the grounds of The Rectory and although this was mainly a fund raising event it did something to relieve the monotony. There was usually a children's concert once a year and this was always interesting, there being many happy hours spent practising before the big night. I recall too that there was a branch of the Girls' Friendly Society attached to the Church, which used to meet weekly. There was a fairly strong cricket club which used to play in the now defunct Milton and District League. The home ground was the field (then a good pasture meadow) opposite The Old Chequers. Visiting teams were entertained to tea in this old house (chequers) at one shilling per head (5p) served by *Mrs Custerson*. Football was never popular. Someone started a winter social club for the young men of the village. This was held first of all at the school, which premises were soon vacated following complaints of excessive noise and unruly behaviour by the Schoolmistress, who lived in the adjoining school house.

The late *Mr W Rayner* then hired out to the Kingston Young Men's Club (as it then became known) a wooden barn – formerly *Mr W Webb's* fruit store, situated in Walker's just behind the Congregational Church. There was a three-quarter size billiard table (a team used to play in the Arrington and District billiards league), darts boards, cards, dominoes, tables and chairs. Sometimes a member would bring along a portable gramophone. Heating was by a slow combustion coke boiler and light by paraffin lamps. The occasional whist drive was held in this barn, organised by the YM's Club. Other whist drives were held in the school, sometimes followed by a dance. Whist drives, including refreshments, would only cost one shilling. If followed by a dance, one shilling and sixpence. Similar activities were held in adjoining villages and young people used to do the rounds, cycling to Cambridge for the Pictures or Theatre, but Saturday was always a special occasion when one would set

off about 2 pm and return at any time. I don't know why but nobody used to go to Eversden except to go to Chapel!

The two public houses, Rose and Crown and The Chequers, used to provide a social outlet for adults, mostly male. The former house held a full licence, whilst the latter was beer and tobacco only. There used to be a Slate Club attached to The Rose and Crown, with share-out night the highlight of the winter. There would be a hot supper, boiled salt beef (cooked in the copper) one pound of meat being allowed per man, with carrots, turnips, dumplings and potatoes, washed down with some good beer straight from the wood, brewed by J and JE Phillips of Royston, the owners of both premises.

Supper would be followed by a singsong, the songs being rather noisy and as the evening wore on, perhaps a bit bawdy. It was all good fun and everyone was happy. Any beef not consumed at the supper would be sold in small portions, say a pound, to the highest bidder.

There was one other social activity long since gone and that was the celebration of Plough Monday (it was always on Monday). This took place in early January and took the form of farm hands pulling a plough from farm to farm, cracking whips and calling for alms in a polite but extremely noisy way.

The evening usually concluded with a supper in one or other of the public houses.

Feast or Fair Days should, I suppose, be included under this heading. Kingston Feast Days were (and I suppose still are) during rogation time 17th-18th May. Travellers with various sideshows used to set up on The Green. There would be coconut shies, hoop-la, swings (sometimes), various confectionery stalls, soft drinks, brandy snaps, rock, etc all home made. One lady used to give rock making demonstrations and I can well remember seeing her spit on her hands as she pulled the sugary confection into shape. Needless to say the sweet was commonly called 'spit rock'.

I have heard my Father say that the stalls and side shows at the end of the last century used to overflow onto the side of the road and triangle of grass opposite Thatches.

Fireworks and Bonfire Night Display

Mon 5 Nov 6pm -10pm at Midsummer Common, Cambridge.

Fireworks display at 7pm, bonfire, food stalls and fairground rides.

Donations of at least £3 are encouraged. Text BANG to 70500. Some road closures and changes to Park & Ride buses. Last outward buses at 8.30pm.

Kingston Nativity Service

Sunday 23rd Dec

4pm at

South Sea House Barn

All welcome; children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews welcome to take part.
Mulled wine & mince pies after the service and a visit from someone special....
Ho Ho Ho!

Greater Cambridge Partnership: Development of “Greenways”

There is an initiative by the Greater Cambridge Partnership to build or enhance a series of 12 ‘Greenways’, i.e. cycleways, footpaths or combined cycleways/footpaths, linking Cambridge to surrounding villages. The project is in its early stages, with designs for the first two of the greenways (Barton and Haslingfield) having completed their consultation stage. A Comberton greenway is proposed, with possibilities mentioned of extension to Toft, Kingston, Eversdens and Bourn. I don’t have any more details but this would be an opportunity to press for a footpath from Kingston to Toft.

We have now been informed that the consultation on the Comberton Greenway is due to start on 29 October, running through to 17 December, and there will be an information event at Comberton Village Hall on 14 Nov – see below.

This autumn, the Greater Cambridge Partnership is launching a consultation on newly proposed cycle, walking and equestrian routes linking Cambridge to local villages, the Waterbeach, Fulbourn and Comberton Greenways.

The Waterbeach and Fulbourn consultations will begin on 15 October 2018 and will run until 03 December 2018. The Comberton consultation will begin on 29 October 2018 and run until 17 December 2018. Leaflets and questionnaires will be delivered to local residents on the week beginning of the consultations. An online consultation platform containing scheme details and questionnaires which will go live on the start dates can be found through the following link:

<https://www.greatercambridge.org.uk/greenwaysconsultation/>. You can request paper copies of the leaflets by getting in touch with us at consultations@greatercambridge.org.uk

We will be holding a set of events near the proposed routes for stakeholders to find out more information from officers on the proposed routes. Details can be found below.

Location	Date	Time
Cherry Hinton Leisure - Village Colville Rd, Cambridge CB1 9EJ	Tuesday 06 November	5:00pm - 7:00pm
Waterbeach Salvation Army - 7 Station Rd, Waterbeach, Cambridge CB25 9HT	Monday 12 November	5:00pm - 7:00pm
Comberton Village Hall - Hines Ln, Comberton, Cambridge CB23 7BZ	Wednesday 14 November	6:00pm - 8:00pm
Fulbourn Centre - 31 Home End, Fulbourn, Cambridge CB21 5BS	Tuesday 20 November	4:00pm - 7:00pm
Coton Village Hall - 56 High St, Cambridge CB23 7PL	Wednesday 21 November	6:30pm - 8:30pm

Parish Council News

Workday: with a good turnout of volunteers, most of the work planned for the workday on 20 October was completed. Observant residents will notice new playbark at the recreation ground, newly-treated timbers on benches and the basket swing, a trimmed-back hedge at the village hall car park and more space under the trees on greens on The Green and Field Road to allow our grasscutting contractor better access.

Many thanks to all who helped to get all this done. A couple of people who couldn't be present on the day have kindly agreed to clear up the piles of vegetation resulting from the work around the crossroads, so by the time you read this all should be neat and tidy.

Planning: S/3662/18/PA an application has been submitted for Prior Approval for a proposed change of use of a building from office use to a dwelling house at 2, Kingston Barns, Bourn Road.

Peter Stokes, Parish Clerk

Pop-up Coffee Morning in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support

Thank you so much if you attended, donated money or cake to the Macmillan Coffee Morning held in the Village Hall recently.

We have just paid in £160 which was wonderful for such a last-minute effort.

Thank you again

Jill Coleman, Sarah Wright and Suzy Stokes

KINGSTON VILLAGE HALL FOR HIRE

- One large and one smaller hall
- Both newly refurbished
- Up to 50 people sitting
- Tables and chairs supplied
- Fully equipped kitchen
- China, glassware and cutlery
- Fridge
- Alcohol licence
- Disabled access and facilities

Hire charges per hour:

Kingston residents: Before 7pm - £5. After 7pm - £7

Non residents: Before 7pm - £10. After 7pm - £13

Enquiries: Sarah Wright (secretary)

01223 263500 or 0787 999 1068

kingstonvillagehall@gmail.com

Village Website – Local Tradesmen Page

We have a page on our website in need of some care and attention, and I am hoping villagers will help me to revive it. Are these listings still relevant? What else can we add?

<http://kingstonvillage.org.uk/local-tradesmen.html>

The page started in response to a suggestion from a resident who had newly moved into the area and wanted help finding reliable tradesmen. The idea is to share our experiences of local services, recommending those we have found to be helpful and reliable. It is not an advertising page (we have a 'no ads' policy for the website) and tradesmen cannot recommend themselves for inclusion. We also ask contributors to include their name, as a check that the recommendation is genuine.

Do you have details of any local tradesmen you would be happy to pass on to family and friends? Please consider sharing these with the village, so we can build a useful local resource of ideas and contacts.

Contributions to me: kpcwebmaster@conder.myzen.co.uk Please include your name, and full contact details of the person/business you wish to recommend, including a brief note about the service they offer.

Julie Conder

Kingston Parish Councillor and Webmaster



The Doghouse Caxton

Dog Walking and Home Boarding

We provide a flexible home/day boarding service for dogs in our family home. Dogs are cared for as they would be in their own house. A dog walking service is offered providing regular or one off walks. We hold an animal boarding licence with South Cambridgeshire District Council and have public liability insurance.

For further information contact

Hannah Hope

hannah@thedoghousecaxton.co.uk

01954 719057 07522 964975

Date	Title	Bourn	Kingston	Caxton	Longstowe
Nov 4	All Saints 4 before Advent	10.30am FHC	8.30am HC	10.30 W4A	
Nov 11	3 before Advent Remembrance	10.45am W4A Remembrance	10.50am Remembrance	10.30am Remembrance	10.30am Remembrance
Nov 18	2 before Advent	8.30am HC	10.30am W4A		
Nov 25	Christ the King	10.30am Joint Deanery Service at Comberton Leisure		8.30am HC	8.30am HC
Dec 2	Advent	10.30am FHC	8.30am HC	10.30am W4A	3pm Christingle
Dec 9	Advent 2	10.30am W4A		10.30am MP	
Dec 16	Advent 3	6pm Carols	6pm Carol Service		
Dec 23	Advent 4	3pm Crib Service	SAT 22 at 4pm Nativity	10.30am Carol Service	3pm Carol service
Dec 24	Christmas Eve	11.30pm HC	11.30pm HC		
Dec 25	Christmas Day	10.30am FW		11am HC	9.15am HC
Dec 30	Christmas 1	8.30am Team HC at Caxton 3pm Team EP at Elsworth			

HC = traditional Holy Communion (BCP)

MP= traditional Morning Prayer (BCP)

EP = traditional Evening Prayer (BCP)

FHC= Common Worship/All Age Holy Communion

W4A/FS = Family Service

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

BLUES, JAZZ AND FOLK IN CABARET

Saturday 17 November 7.30 pm

Kingston Village Hall



VAL SINCLAIR

With the Kingston Blues Band

Rum Punch Band

Greg Alvey & Roger Wright

Wine, Spirits, Fine Ales and Pizzas

FREE ENTRY



- ✎ Corns and calluses
- ✎ Difficult or painful nails
- ✎ Nail surgery
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📍 3a Penn farm Studios, Harston Road,
Haslingfield, CB23 1JZ





QUIZ AND CHIPS

SATURDAY 26 JANUARY

Commencing 7.30pm

In aid of Kingston Village Hall funds

(kindly hosted by Helen and Mark Underwood)

Bookings being taken for team tables of six

Price per head, including £5 entrance fee

Fish and chips £12

Chicken and chips £11

Sausage or veggie burger and chips £10

Pub bar will be open for wines and beers

(£5 corkage on brought-in bottles)

Contact Paul Wright on

kingstonvillagehall@gmail.com

Our MP Heidi Allen's Newsletter

Parliament returned at the beginning of September and although the next few months will inevitably be dominated by Brexit, I continue to work on many other issues, both at a national and local level.

I've had a significant number of emails from residents wanting to know more about the Oxford to Cambridge railway project, crucially asking where the route will be. A meeting I hosted with the East West Rail company last month reassured me that no decision has yet been taken, though route options are anticipated towards the end of the year. I have been clear, that in line with the National Infrastructure Commission's view, I support a route that is aligned with the A428 corridor which would provide much needed transport connections for Cambourne, its surrounding developments and Northstowe. I do not agree with a route that cuts through the south of the constituency, not least because this part of South Cambs is already well served by the Kings Cross line. I will of course let you know as soon as I have any updates.

It wouldn't be a newsletter if I didn't mention trains! Last month, I met with the new Chief Executive of GTR and had a robust discussion about the significant impact that the timetable disruption continues to have on the lives of my constituents - particularly those using the smaller stations.

I can report that GTR are working incredibly hard to restore as many services as possible as they build up to delivering the May timetable we have been promised. I am told this will be in place by the end of 2018. After continued pressure and lobbying on behalf of constituents, I was pleased to hear that the 06:57 Cambridge to London and 17:51 London to Cambridge services were being reinstated from 24th September onwards. This has alleviated some pressure in the peak and there have been encouraging signs of stabilisation over the past month. Our villages still desperately need more support and GTR have committed to a restoration of the May timetable service levels from 10th December onwards.

I am continuing to press for a New Year fare freeze until the full timetable has been delivered consistently for a 3 month period and will monitor the situation very closely to ensure GTR's commitments are finally delivered.

Having mentioned trains and cars, it would be a shame not to mention carts...yes, that's right, carts! I had the time of my life when I was invited to Duxford to start the annual Soapbox Derby race in aid of Cancer Research. I haven't laughed so much in ages, you really had to be there to believe what an awesome success the day was. The ingenuity of the DIY carts brought tears to my eyes! I'd like to bottle this project and replicate it in every village in South Cambs, with a grand final cart-off!

Later in the month, I was back in Duxford for the air show at IWM. Although the weather was less than kind, the displays were spine tingling as always and this year's event particularly poignant as we celebrated 100 years of the RAF. Thank you to all the staff and volunteers who made the day so memorable for my dad, my husband Phil and I.

One of the greatest pleasures of being the MP for South Cambs is witnessing the number of growing and successful businesses we have. So I was pleased to be invited by Meteor Inkjet to open their new premises at Harston Mill. Their recent expansion required a purpose-built space and so after a tour and loan of a white coat and fetching safety specs, I was pleased to do the honours.

In recent months, I have been inundated with emails from constituents who were concerned about proposals to construct a waste incinerator in Waterbeach. Having shared those concerns and submitted my own representations to the Council, I was delighted to learn the application was rejected. Yet again, just as with the decision to save Cambridge Magistrates' Court, our submissions to public consultations really can make a difference to local decisions.

At the beginning of my newsletter, I mentioned the "B" word - Brexit. Whatever your views, I think we all know the next few months will be critical. Your emails haven't stopped since the referendum result in 2016 and you may be aware that such was their volume, I held two public meetings to respond to constituents' concerns. As negotiations reach their climax, I have therefore decided to hold further public meetings in order to hear your views and answer questions. Pre-registration will be required to manage numbers attending, so please look out for further details as they are posted to my website in the coming weeks - <https://www.heidisouthcambs.co.uk/>

If there is anything you would like to talk to me about more generally, my next "by appointment" surgery will be on Friday 2nd November between 3 and 5pm in Bassingbourn. If you would like an appointment, please call my office. My next "drop in" surgery where no appointment is necessary will be on Saturday 1st December in Sawston at the Parish Council office, Links Road, CB22 3GB between 10.30am and 12.30pm. You can find more details on my website here:

<https://www.heidisouthcambs.co.uk/residents-drop-surgeries>

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!

Music Club

Following a fascinating evening with Simon Draper presenting, the next meeting of the Kingston Music Club is scheduled for Thursday 22nd November at 8pm. Ron Leslie will be the presenter and, given his encyclopaedic knowledge of musical forms, we should be in for a treat. We are looking for guest presenters for future meetings so please be sure to contact Simon Draper or myself and book your slot.

Peter Holly

Dick Forsythe's War

In his memoir of his exploits in World War Two, Kay's father, Richard H. Forsythe, describes his time in a Tank Destroyer Battalion attached to Patton's Third Army. As a 22-year-old officer, he landed in Normandy (on Utah Beach) on August 27th 1944 and took part in Patton's southern sweep through France from St. Lo to Le Mans to Orleans and then on to Toul, reaching the latter on September 12th. His vehicle was then one of the first to enter Nancy, but, east of the city, the advancing troops ran out of petrol for their tanks and other vehicles. Grounding to a halt, they took up defensive positions and dug in opposite the enemy, much as had occurred in the previous war.

By this time Battalion headquarters were located in a small village called Arracourt and Dick's men took up position in the hamlet of Rechicourt, 4 miles to the east, overlooking another small village called Bezange-la-Petite. Several skirmishes occurred locally on Hill 265 (both sides were vying for possession of this high ground) and the church spire in Bezange-la-Petite was also being used as a forward observation post by the Germans, which meant that all those travelling from Arracourt to Rechicourt (along what they called "Suicide Ridge") were in full view of enemy guns. Forsythe asked one of his gun crews to take out the church spire which they did by scoring a direct hit on the church clock.

By early November petrol supplies had been replenished and a "big push" was scheduled for November 8th. Forsythe's anti-tank guns became part of the 4th Armored Division's artillery bombardment that began at 0300 hours, with the 26th Infantry Division advancing at 0600 hours towards Saarbrücken. On November 16th, occupying a cross-roads position near the town of Weisse, they came under fire from German tanks and had four casualties, Dick Forsythe himself being the fourth when he was hit by shrapnel. With his war over, he was evacuated to Nancy and then Paris, reaching hospital in England just before Christmas.

On the way home from our holiday in the South of France this summer, Kay and I visited the area described in her father's memoir. We drove down the "Rue de L'Armee Patton" in Nancy and then made for the three villages. In Bezange-la-Petite we discovered the church with the clock tower still standing with two memorial plaques either side of its front door. Both plaques commemorated US soldiers who, for their gallantry in the fighting there, both earned the Medal of Honor, the highest combat honour. One, James H. Fields, on September 27th 1944, led his platoon (part of the 4th Armored Division) located on the infamous Hill 265 in a morning counter-attack on enemy positions in Rechicourt. He left cover to aid one of his troopers, was injured himself and still managed to silence two machine gun posts, successfully defending the hill for six hours. The other plaque celebrates Alfred L. Wilson, a US army medic in the 26th Infantry Division who on November 8th (the day of the big advance) was caught in a fire-fight near Bezange-la-Petite. Severely wounded, he



refused to be evacuated and continued to treat fallen soldiers until he fell unconscious, later dying of his wounds.

Driving into Arracourt this summer we came across a Sherman tank standing in pride of place in the town square, accompanied by another commemorative plaque. This one concerned John S. Wood, Major General in the US Army, who trained and commanded the 4th Armored Division which spearheaded Patton's Third Army drive across France. A soldiers' soldier, Wood shared their deprivations (eating the same food and always sleeping in a tent), but fell out with the top brass, partly because of his outspokenness, and was relieved of his duties on December 3rd, 1944, just before the Battle of the Bulge. Previously, on September 18th, Hitler had ordered von Manteuffel's crack Fifth Panzer Army to counter-attack against the advancing Americans from Luneville towards Arracourt, only to be repulsed by Wood's forces in the biggest tank battle since Normandy. In the four days of fighting that followed, the German forces were shattered with their 98 tanks being reduced to 7. Military historians have lauded General Wood's role in this victory. It was at this point, however, that a combination of autumn rains, lack of petrol and a surprising amount of caution on Patton's part, led to a stalemate in Lorraine that was to last until the new year.

Visiting these three villages and the various reminders of the action in that corner of France helped bring alive Dick's memoir, something that Kay had wanted to do for several years, especially since his death in 2015.

Peter Holly

Editor's Note: In various issues of this magazine in 2019, 75 years after the end of the Second World War, the intention is to include several similar sets of memories of local people caught up in the fighting.



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Harvest Festival

At the request of the Rector, Suzy Stokes gave the following reading to the Harvest Festival service in Kingston Church on Saturday, 13 October.

This reading reminds us that the potato famine was not confined to Ireland. Other areas were affected – in this story, the island of Ulva, off the West coast of Scotland. It also reminds us that a supply of basic food, something we now take for granted, was not always available.

Story from Ulva: the year the potato went away

The year the potato went away – 1846 – was when the crop failed in Ulva. The large population – 500 people – who relied on potatoes for their existence, were faced with destitution and starvation, with no money to pay their rents and no other crop to feed themselves and their families. They survived on shellfish, dulse and other seaweed.

From Glasgow, a minister of St Columba's Gaelic Church, Dr Norman MacLeod (great-grandfather of George Macleod, who founded the Iona Community) worked incessantly to relieve the sufferings of his fellow Highlanders, bringing their plight to the notice of the public, and collecting money and meal for their relief. He was called 'Friend of the Gaels'.

When he asked other ministers for information about the impact of the potato famine, one of the first to respond was the Rev William Fraser, minister of Ulva, who reported that the state of most of his parishioners was 'miserable beyond description'. The old hand-querns were being put to use to grind what corn remained.

'I believe,' he wrote that December, 'that it is beyond the power of many individuals to keep themselves in life till summer'. He talked about whole families who had no food for days at a time. He believed that many would die.

Help was given in the short term, but in the next few years the potato famine, the collapse of the kelp industry and widespread poverty meant that many families were evicted and many then emigrated except for the oldest and weakest who ended up on Starvation Terrace, the row of tiny cottages whose name says it all. A population of 500 was reduced to 150 in five years (by 1881 there were only 53 people living in Ulva). It wasn't just the potato that went away.

Jan Sutch Pickard

Harvest Thanksgiving

A very big thank you to all those involved in decorating the church for Harvest – it looked really beautiful.

Linda Smith

MARK STEELE

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Papworth Team Ministry (C of E)

The Papworth Team Ministry Team Office:

Lower Pendrill Court
Ermine Street North
Papworth Everard
CB23 3UY

Email: papworthteamministryoffice@gmail.com

Web: www.papworthteamchurches.org

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.

For enquiries about weddings, baptisms, funerals and general parish matters, please contact Chris (as above), visit the website or speak to one of our clergy...

> The Revd Nigel di Castiglione, Team Rector – 07770 697240 - 01954 267241

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Rev Stephen Day (1st contact) revdsmday@cantab.net	01954 264226
Rev Nigel di Castiglione (Team Rector) nigel.dicastiglione@gmail.com	01954 267241 or 0777 0697240
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Trish Dunlop (Councillor, Footpaths)	
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Village Hall MC	Mark Stalham (Chair) mark.stalham@niab.com	01223 263510
	Chris Reid (Treasurer)	

Sarah Wright (Secretary)
kingstonvillagehall@gmail.com

Committee members: Katherine Reid, Peter Stokes, Suzy Stokes, Paul Wright, Ron Leslie, John Easy, Lee Steele