

# KERSEY PARISH NEWSLETTER

May 2024



PHOTO: VIV MARSH

50p\*

[www.kersey.suffolk.cloud](http://www.kersey.suffolk.cloud)

\* **WHERE SOLD.** Delivered FREE to properties within the parish.  
(50p is the approximate production cost per copy. All contributions gratefully received.)

# CONTACT NUMBERS

## Parochial Church Council –

Vicar: Rev. Geoffrey Clement . . . . . revgclement@gmail.com or 01473 657316

Vice Chairman: Lucy Oldham . . . . . 07753 626899

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 . . . . . 01787 210859

**Footpaths** – Chairman: Kevin Pratt . . . . . 07854 390658

**Kersey Community Playground Committee** – Jonathan Marsh . . . . . 01473 822927

**Neighbourhood Watch** – Vacant

## Village Hall –

Chairman: Veronica Partridge . . . . . 01473 823188

Secretary and Bookings: Natalie Blyth . . . . . nablyth1@gmail.com or 01473 827805

Treasurer: Norah Orriss

## VPA (Village Produce Association) –

Chairman: Peter Partridge . . . . . 01473 827231

Secretary: Rachel Wells . . . . . 01473 822230

## Grays Trust –

Chairman: Mary Pearce . . . . . 07947 079422

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.kersey.suffolk.cloud

**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) .

*Please let us know of any changes.*

**Defibrillators** – There are two AEDs located within the parish at **The Bell Inn, Kersey IP7 6DY** and **Kersey Mill IP7 6DP**.

# PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

## Church Clergy:

Rev Geoffrey Clement  
01473 657316, revgclement@gmail.com

## Church Warden:

Mrs Rachel Wells 01473 822230.  
and vacant position.

**Weddings:** For all enquiries regarding weddings at St. Mary's Church please contact [adrianwaller@mac.com](mailto:adrianwaller@mac.com) or phone 01473 652561.

## IN MEMORIAM

A service attended by family, friends and neighbours was held at Seven Hills Crematorium in memory of the late Jean Jarvis who died at Ipswich Hospital in March aged 91 years. Jean was born in Lindsey and came to work at Stiff's shop in Kersey before eventually marrying Charles (Chubby) Jarvis and coming to live in the village 65 years ago. With her husband and friends she enjoyed many holidays and joined in village organisations like the Tuesday club, Forgetmenots and village produce shows. When she was able she liked working in the garden and feeding the birds. There was always a packet of biscuits on the window sill as an extra treat for the birds. Jean was a kind and caring person and will be greatly missed by those who knew her. Donations in her memory are for St Elizabeth Hospice.

## VILLAGE PRODUCE ASSOCIATION

An outing is being planned to the Botanic Gardens at Cambridge on 13th July. Price of coach and entrance to the gardens is £25. For more information and to make a booking contact Marvin Kuzamba at [greetham@outlook.com](mailto:greetham@outlook.com)

## MOVES

Farewell to Peter and Yvonne Martin who have moved from Row View to Woodbridge. Welcome to Richard and Karen Freeman who are moving in.

## CONGRATULATIONS

to Gillian Sacker (Dr Croot) and three colleagues who completed the London Marathon. They raised over £11,000 for Hospice UK and Crohn's and Colitis UK.

## INVALIDS

We send our best wishes to any who are are unwell at this time.

## FLOWERS

If anyone would like to help out with the altar flowers I would be grateful. The rota is on the board in church kitchen. **Rachel Wells**

## CHURCH CLEANING

Week beginning: 6th May – Bridgett Allen  
20th May – Marvin Kazamba and Esme Chapman  
3rd June – Sue Jones and Lynn English

# PARISH NEWS



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## NEW DEFIBRILLATOR!

Located immediately beside the road in a cabinet on the wall of a black farm building at West Sampsons Hall Farm, Kersey IP7 6EN, not far from the red Royal Mail postbox. The *what3words* location for this defib is: **person.special.playfully**



Installation of this second defibrillator for Kersey has been made possible due to generous financial contributions from:

- Robert Lindsay our Suffolk County Councillor
- Leigh Jamieson our Babergh District Councillor
- Kersey Freight
- Carter Jonas

With special thanks to Rob Partridge for carrying out the installation and hosting the cabinet on the farm building.



We now have two Parish Council managed defibrillators in Kersey, the other being at the back of The Bell Inn. There is also a defibrillator at Kersey Mill in the old red telephone box. This now means all properties in Kersey have easy access to a defibrillator.

The Parish Council will be organising a community awareness/training session one evening in Kersey Village Hall later this year run by the Community Heartbeat Trust. This session will show how easy it is to use a defibrillator and what to do in a cardiac emergency. Look out for the date in the newsletter.

## KERSEY VILLAGE PRODUCE ASSOCIATION

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## TUESDAY CLUB

At the April meeting members welcomed back an old friend Chris Parfitt from Rendlesham with his delightful photographs and stories. This time we enjoyed the Isle of Wight. Chris lived on the island from the age of six to fifteen and over the years since has regularly returned to see relatives or with parties of school children. As well as showing photos of the more well known places his local knowledge of the island took us away from the main tourist attractions to places not so many people visit. A very enjoyable meeting.

Competition for “Something from the seashore” was won by Tony and Janet Jacobs. On 7th May we are meeting at Groton Fox and Hounds 6.30pm for our annual meal. Competition is “Something beginning with G”.

**Rachel Wells.**

## MINDFUL LIFE GROUP

The Mindful Life Group is offering an online mindfulness course that is fully funded to support older adults (over 65) in Suffolk. The course is led by a clinical psychologist who is also a mindfulness teacher. The course is based on the

cont./

## PARISH NEWS (cont.)



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mindfulness-based stress reduction course developed by John Kabat Zin but has been adapted for these populations.

We have had really good feedback from participants, and we have found that it improves people's attention and memory, as well as reducing loneliness, low mood, stress, anxiety and chronic pain. Many participants have found it simply helps them deal with day-to-day stresses.

We currently have one course running every Thursday from 6th June for six weeks between 1-3pm. Places are free but limited to around 15.

More information can be found on our website: <https://the-mindful-life.com/>

#### KERSEY CRIME REVIEW 22/3/24 – 22/4/24

Within the time period above, there has been one reported crime in Kersey, that being a theft of a motor vehicle. This is unrelated to the previous burglary crimes in the Hadleigh area that I recently warned about, as the victim and suspect involved in the Kersey theft report know each other and the keys were not stolen during a burglary.

Here are some top tips for general crime prevention in relation to your garden and house perimeter :

**Create layers of security** – On your front door, have a door chain or door bar and viewer (spy hole).

**Front boundaries should be less than 1m high** – Your neighbours and passers-by clearly should be able to see the front of your property. Rear boundaries should be 1.8m high with locked gates (to prevent easy rear access – also remove climbing aids).

**Remove tools/bricks from the garden that could be used to force entry** – Always lock garages, sheds and outbuildings.

**Have dusk to dawn lighting at the front and back** – Always lock your doors with the key and keep your windows secure, even when you're at home.

**Install an alarm/CCTV** – Leave lights on timers.

**Register your valuables at [www.immobilise.com](http://www.immobilise.com) and mark your property with UV pen** – I have these available at my monthly events.

**Avoid keeping cash at home.**

**Hide car keys.**

By the time this article is published, my next monthly engagement location will be within Capel St Mary Library between 9:30am - midday on Wednesday 15th May. I know it is not particularly close to Kersey, but if you are nearby feel free to visit me. I am hoping to hold one of my monthly events in Kersey in October, I just need to source a good location.

Kind regards,

**PC 1293 Niall Johnson – Hadleigh Community Police Officer.**



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### Car Parking Charges

As you will probably all know by now the Council have decided to implement parking charges in the Hadleigh, Sudbury and Lavenham car parks this year. This is an extremely controversial topic and I know it is not something that any of the Councillors wanted to do. No one wants to burden the public with yet another cost and I, like many, do worry that this could have a knock-on effect on our delicate high streets. However, the Council’s financial situation is difficult with the outlook looking very challenging, and this is the first of many hard decisions that will need to be made over the course of the next year. Having said that I would personally have liked to see the first hour free and I urged this at both of the Overview & Scrutiny meetings that discussed the matter. Cabinet has another chance to consider this in June before the decision is finalised.

I remember when I first moved up to the area twenty years ago, it was a revelation to park without having to pay and it’s been a pleasure ever since. Losing that pleasure is sad and there is a fear that it could damage our towns, but I think they have much more to offer than just free parking. They also have potential to be even better with the right management. The internet, and Amazon in particular, are killing high streets everywhere. Now our towns need to offer something that can’t be bought online. Hadleigh, Sudbury and Lavenham can all do this in spades and hopefully with the Council’s help they will.

### Housing commitments

The Council housing team have made a number of commitments to improve both the service they provide and the state of their social homes. After committing to invest an additional £943,000 last year, from reserves, to aid the reduction of the backlog of repairs that still existed from the Covid lockdowns, the Council have now agreed to appoint a 3rd party company to supply an online tool that will make the turnaround of repairs even quicker. The Council has also now received further funding from the government to help to improve the energy efficiency of our social homes.

Having said all this I know that there is still a lot of work to do and at this stage we still do not know the state of all of our social housing. I would therefore ask anyone struggling in poor conditions to please let me know via email – leigh.jamieson@babergh.gov.uk or give me a call on 07548 156181.

**Leigh Jamieson (Cllr)**, Green Party

Babergh District Councillor – South East Cosford

Leader Babergh Green Group

Mobile: 07825 290605, leigh.jamieson@babergh.gov.uk

Websites: www.babergh.gov.uk www.midsuffolk.gov.uk

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# ST. MARY'S CHURCH

## Dear Friends,

When is your day off? I remember when I was first ordained, I was told by my bishop that I was to have Monday as my day off. His logic was that this was what vicars always have done and so I must too. I didn't mind having Monday off, usually after 3 or 4 services on a Sunday I was glad to take a rest. Add to this that I also used to drive 300 miles round trip on Saturdays to take services in a place called Fray Bentos – yes, the place famous for its corned beef and meat pies.

I kept up the practice of having Monday off until it struck me that if Monday was my day off and there was a bank holiday I was losing out. So I changed to Thursday and never looked back. This means that in May I have 2 extra days off to look forward to, although the weather on any given bank holiday never seems to be great. As Shakespeare put it:

“Thou art more lovely and more temperate: Rough winds do shake the darling buds of May.”

That was what Shakespeare thought about the month of May. I think in our case, rather than rough winds, like April we might have to endure perpetual rain! But if you look beyond the inclement weather, May really does have a lot to offer, not least two bank holidays: one secular and one religious. So why two bank holidays in the same month? The first is the “May Day” bank holiday instituted by Michael Foot, then the Labour Employment Secretary, in 1978. I vaguely recall the controversy that flared up by those who objected to the socialist connotations of the date. Then at the end of May we have what used to be called the Whitsun Bank Holiday, a public holiday celebrated in various countries to mark the church festival of Pentecost. In the Bible we find that Pentecost was when the Holy Spirit came to the first disciples in Jerusalem 50 days after Easter Day. The name “Whitsun” is derived from “White Sunday,” referring to the white garments traditionally worn by those who were baptized on this day in the Christian tradition.

Interestingly it was Ted Heath's government that made the change from Whitsun to Spring Bank Holiday. So, the first Bank Holiday in May is thanks to the Labour Party and indirectly we have the Conservatives to thank for the Spring Bank Holiday, or at least for renaming it!

Whatever your political or religious persuasion, I hope you are able to make the most of your 2 Bank Holidays in May.

Every blessing

Geoffrey

**Revd. Geoffrey Clement**

# ST. MARY'S CHURCH SERVICES

5th May 9am	BCP Holy Communion	tbc
12th May 11am	Parish service	Rev Geoffrey Clement
19th May 6.30pm	Evensong	Rev Adrian Waller
26th May	No service at Kersey	11am Aldham

## CHURCH FLOODLIGHTS

If you would like the church floodlit to celebrate a birthday, anniversary or in remembrance etc. the cost is £10 per night. Contact **Rachel Wells** 01473 822230.

## FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S 500 CLUB LOTTERY

Latest **500 Club** draw results:

	<b>March</b>	<b>April</b>
1st Prize –	Sarah Partridge	Suzie Rudkin
2nd Prize –	Trevor Stirling	Chris & Sarah Partridge
3rd Prize –	Colin Grannell	Linda Newbigging

Well done to all the winners and thanks to everyone who has already joined the club.

For details of the **500 Club** monthly lottery and FoSM membership information please contact either **Mark Rigby** on **07484 649235** or **Mark Pertwee** on **07919 166782** or email **fosmkersey@gmail.com**.

## ***Kersey Community Website***

*Remember to check **www.kersey.suffolk.cloud** regularly for latest news, information and updates.*

## **KERSEY CALENDAR ON-LINE**

We also have a Kersey Community *Google calendar* on the website:

***<https://kersey.suffolk.cloud/events/>***

If you are planning an event in Kersey please email the information to Sarah Partridge at ***kerseyipc@gmail.com*** so it can be included.

(If you already use Google Calendar you can add this to yours.)

# KERSEY SCHOOL



**To all past pupils, staff and governors,**

The whole of the Kersey school community warmly invites you to afternoon tea to celebrate our 150 years.

Please bring photographs, old school work, artefacts and memories to share!

Wednesday 26th June 2024  
1pm - 3pm  
Kersey Church of England Primary School

Please email [kerseyoffice@tilian.org.uk](mailto:kerseyoffice@tilian.org.uk) to confirm your attendance and let us know any dietary requirements.

# PARISH COUNCIL

The annual PARISH ASSEMBLY was held on 15th April.

Present were chair John Hume, three councillors, district councillor, clerk and five members of the public.

**Apologies** were received.

**The 2023 parish assembly minutes** were approved.

**Reports:** Suffolk County Councillor Robert Lindsay's report covered the recent flooding. He had also contributed to the new defibrillator. He was grateful to Kersey parish council for their contribution to reduction of speed limit on Union Hill. It also covered buses, pension committee, Highways contract, budget, special needs failure and Devolution deal.

Babergh Councillor Leigh Jamieson was pleased to be able to help the village with funding for the defibrillator, tea urn and chair mover for the village hall and playground improvements. Following elections last year, the Green Party are now the largest group on the council. Part one of the Joint Local plan came into effect. One area presenting challenges is housing. There are significant issues with the state of council housing stock. The report also commented on the financial issues including the proposed car parking charges. The Corks lane development continues to progress although it could leave the council out of pocket. The council have installed twenty-eight new electric vehicle chargers across the car park network this year.

**Chair's Report:** "Our aim is to make Kersey a great place to live, work and visit." He thanked councillors and clerk for their continuing service to the community. He was grateful to the advice given by County and District councillors. The council considered sixteen planning applications. A well-attended picnic was held on the Glebe to mark the King's Coronation. The school sign and the gate on the Glebe were replaced. The autumn floods caused disruption and misery to the middle of the village. Kersey Good Neighbourhood Scheme is being developed and work has continued on the Neighbourhood Priorities Statement.

**Website:** The parish council publishes all minutes, financial information, dates and contact information. There is also the Google calendar of events.

**Footpath Working Group:** The volunteers continue to do an amazing job repairing posts and sorting problems across the footpath network in addition to the mowing. A new mower and battery trimmer has been purchased.

**KCPC:** The ROSPA report highlighted a number of issues which are being sorted. The grass cutting rota is working well. A successful quiz night was held in November.

**Kersey Volunteer Working group:** This is a group of fourteen people who aim to make Kersey a cleaner and safer community. They report potholes, fly tipping and other hazards.

**Kersey Good Neighbours:** Volunteers will help residents with shopping,



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## PARISH COUNCIL (cont.)

collecting prescriptions and dog walking. Also, during power cuts and flooding.

**Forget-Me-Nots:** At present we have eleven members who try to meet up once a fortnight for coffee, eats and some shopping.

**Franey Rand and Pest House Charity:** Last year the trustees awarded grants to the Memories cafe, Hadleigh Elderly People's Welfare, Riding for the Disabled, Surviving Winter in Hadleigh and The Christmas Present Trust.

**Friends of The Bells:** Practices have continued but ringing for Sunday services has been difficult due to lack of available ringers.

**Friends of St. Mary's:** Five fund raising events were held during the year. All these were very popular and well supported.

**Grays Trust:** Grants were awarded to two sixth form pupils, nine university students and the Tuesday club.

**Kersey School:** The new pupils have settled in well. We had a successful sports week and open afternoon. We held pancake races and celebrated world book day. In June we will be celebrating our 150th anniversary with afternoon tea.

**Playing Field:** The Glebe continues to be used regularly. We have also provided car parking facilities for a few events. We are grateful for the generous donation from the Lewis Mowles Trust.

**Kersey Projects:** The biggest event of the year was the open gardens which proved very successful. £2,000 was donated to St Elizabeth Hospice. In December was the lighting of the Christmas tree and in January Burns night was held. A summer party on the Glebe is planned for August.

**Lewis Mowles Trust:** The trust was wound up in August and remaining funds donated to various organisations. Over the years the trust has donated £22,000 to the community.

**Nightingale Trust:** The trust is responsible for twenty-one allotments, twenty are let the other one has been returned for re-wilding.

**St Mary's Church:** We wholeheartedly thank the volunteers who keep the church open and well cared for. In September we hosted the licensing of Rev Geoffrey Clement he is settling well into our rota and pattern of services.

**Table Tennis:** Attendances were up on previous years. We meet Thursday evenings from September to June in the Village Hall.

**Tuesday Club:** A varied programme of events was held which included talks on researching the book Kersey through the centuries, Madagascar, the Titanic, Thatching and Romania. The club continues to sponsor Tilly at the Shelley Riding school.

**Village Hall:** Various committees over the years have modernised and repaired to bring the hall up to date. This year the project was to make easier disabled access. A new door was fitted to the committee room. The back of the hall has been made









## PARISH COUNCIL (cont.)



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into a more usable space with paving and drainage.

**Village Produce Association:** Another successful year with twelve marquee lets. On a very windy day an outing was enjoyed to Hyde Hall and a successful flower show was held.

There was time for questions after each report.

**Neighbourhood Priorities Statement:** The Council are working on a Parish Review to develop a NPS. This will focus on Planning and Development, Cultural and Sporting facilities, Environmental Sustainability, Public Transport, Road Safety, Natural Environment, Access to Information and connectivity, Local Democracy.

**A new defibrillator** has been installed at Kersey Uplands and is available for use. Kersey is in need of a **Local History Recorder**.

**National Grid** pylon consultation. This will be discussed at the next Parish Council meeting.

**Election** on 2nd May. Electors will need to show photographic ID.

A full report can be found on the website.

**Rachel Wells**

### DIARY DATES

1 May – PCC ..... St Mary's Church ..... 19.00  
7 May – Tuesday club meal ..... Groton Fox ..... 18.30  
13 May – Parish council annual meeting ..... Village Hall ..... 19.30

# FGS

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## FARMING NOTES

### Arable

The weather has still been a regular topic of conversation and required arable operations do need careful planning. We have had enough short windows between showers to get everything done but it remains unseasonably cold and growing conditions are not ideal. We are not growing sugar beet this year for the first time in 96 years although we have drilled 7 acres of fodder beet on the field nearest the playing field. These will be harvested in the same way as sugar beet in the autumn and used as livestock feed. The small amount of remaining land that was not sowed with a winter crop was finally drilled with spring barley during the second week of April. The final dressing of nitrogen is being applied to the winter wheat now, to encourage growth and yield. We may add a small amount nearer harvest to increase the protein content of the grain for bread making if I deem it necessary in a month's time. Machinery, hedge and ditch maintenance has been continuing when we have been unable to get on the land.

### Rob Partridge

### Sheep

All of the ewes and lambs are now out at grass and doing OK. I would like to say that they are doing well but the cold nights and frequent showers of heavy rain are not ideal. Lamb growth rate is probably not at its maximum, I think they (like the rest of us) would benefit from some warm sunshine on their backs! There have been two minor issues with the lambs: the first was an outbreak of scald. This is a bacterial infection between the cloves of the lambs feet, an outbreak spreads quickly through the whole flock and makes them very lame. Footbathing with the correct disinfectant however was very effective and they have all recovered. The second problem is an infection of pustular dermatitis (known as orf). Normally we vaccinate the lambs against orf by scratching them on bare skin on their underside with a deactivated version of the virus. In fact it has become a fun family tradition to catch and treat all the lambs at about Easter time. However this year the vaccine was not available to buy, so we did not treat. It goes to show what good vaccines can do, as now we have an outbreak of orf with several lambs showing ugly painful bleeding scabs around their lips. Once the condition has developed treatment is fairly ineffective, but immunity will develop soon. Orf is transmissible to humans so we are careful to wear gloves when handling the sheep.

### Cattle

As the weather warms up we are gradually getting all of the cows and their calves out to grass. This reduces the daily workload a little as strawing and feeding is replaced by going around the fields checking groups of cattle. By the time you read this a bull will be running with the group of cows and calves down just behind the village. With a gestation of nine months, if we put the bull with the cows in May, calving should start in February. The bull is a recent purchase, he is a Simmental and his name is Novak. In a change of policy we are using a Simmental bull rather than a British Blue

## FARMING NOTES (cont.)

because we need to breed heifers which are suitable to join the breeding herd and which will be our commercial cows of the future. The genetic benefit which Novak should pass on to his daughters include fertility, calving ease, good milk production and fast growth. I will be putting up signs to warn rambblers that a bull is present. Novak is a quiet bull and should not cause any problem to walkers,



however I always recommend to people that if they are going to walk a footpath through a field of cattle it is a good idea to carry a stick.

Thanks to all who supported our farm open day on Easter Saturday, it was lovely to see children (and adults) enjoying the sunshine, playing in the farmyard and feeding the animals. We were delighted to raise £1,030 on the gate which has been split between FoSM and Helen Keller International (a charity which supplies essential vitamin A to young children in Africa and Asia). Thanks also to the FoSM team who did the excellent teas and barbeque.

### Chris Partridge

#### The Kersey Parish Newsletter

The Parish Newsletter is sponsored and distributed by St. Mary's Church on behalf of all parishioners.

The newsletter is delivered **FREE** to properties within the parish 10 times a year and is also available to download from:

[www.kersey.suffolk.cloud/our-community/newsletter/](http://www.kersey.suffolk.cloud/our-community/newsletter/)

The approximate production cost is 50p per copy (£5 per year). All contributions gratefully received – please pass via your distributor or to:

**Rachel Wells, 1 Vale Corner, Vale Lane, Kersey.**

Or make online transfers (or arrange an annual standing order) to:

**Kersey St. Mary PCC, 30-13-52 00694777.**

For further parish details and events, please see [www.kersey.suffolk.cloud](http://www.kersey.suffolk.cloud)



All Kersey Parishioners are invited to join Kersey Projects  
for a

# Summer Party on the Glebe



on

Saturday, 24 August 2024

from 7.00 pm onwards



- We will be welcoming back the ever popular Dan Sharp to entertain us with his wonderful voice and eclectic song medleys.
- This is a free event that will take place on the Recreation Ground in a marquee kindly provided by the VPA. Seating will be available.
- There will be a complimentary welcome drink and a cold buffet.
- It is important that you register your interest in attending, so we have the right numbers for the catering.

We look forward to seeing you there!

RSVP: [kerseyprojects@gmail.com](mailto:kerseyprojects@gmail.com)

The next issue is **June 2024**.

Please send items for inclusion well before the deadline of 23rd May to:

**Rachel Wells: 01473 822230 - [rachel@kersey-village.co.uk](mailto:rachel@kersey-village.co.uk)**