



KINGSLEY NEWS

MAY 2011

The news and voice of your village
Community

Kingsley Community Association is a Registered Charity

KINGSLEY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
OFFICERS 2010/2011

Chairman	Mike Butler	788125
Vice Chairman	Steve Easton	788050
Treasurer	Steve Easton	788050
Secretary	Vacant	
Kingsley News Editor	Elizabeth Wilson	787678
Bookings Secretary	Elizabeth Batey	788788

(Available from 12.30-7.30pm)

COUNCIL MEMBERS (elected)

Della Bunney, Sue Elliott, David Fletcher, Carol Rowlands,

COUNCIL MEMBERS (not elected)

**One representative from each of the affiliated groups and clubs
(NB. This is a condition of affiliation).**

KINGSLEY PRAYER DIARY

Each week of the year Christians in Kingsley pray specially for people in a different area of the village and its surroundings. During May we think of, and pray for people living in: -

W/c May 1st Chapel Lane
W/c May 8th Westbrook Road
W/c May 15th Church View
W/c May 22th Smithy Lane
W/c May 29th Horseshoe Close

We invite you to add your own prayers

EDITORIAL NEWS AND VIEWS

Dear Readers

There is a lot happening in the village this month.

The Parish Plan Steering Group have now completed their survey. The next step will be to deliver a questionnaire to all the households in the village during the next few weeks. Please take time to complete your questionnaire, as this is important for the future development of the village.

On 25th May there will be a question and answer session for those who are interested in the affordable homes which are being built on Pike Lane.

And finally, don't forget the Borough and Parish Council elections, together with the referendum, on 5th May. Your vote is important so make sure you use it.

Elizabeth

PS: I am still looking for people who would like to write the editorial, so if you fancy having a go, give me a ring or email me as below.

**Articles for the magazine to be sent to the Editor
by email to - ewilsonsecretarial@yahoo.co.uk**

Tel: 01928 787678

Copy deadline is the 21st of each month

www.kingsleyvillage.co.uk



What have we been doing recently?

Whole School

Visit from Zoo lab so that the children could experience first hand many animals.

Whole School

Visit from Winston who taught the children some African songs, dances and drumming patterns. Our Year 1 children particularly enjoyed dressing up for the carnival.

Whole School

We had a visit from Paul Delaney, the author of the children's book 'Sparrowlegs' recently. He led an assembly then worked with children in Years 3 and 4 developing their writing skills.

Cross Country

The school organised an inter-schools cross country event in Delamere Forest. The event was a huge success and children from many schools enjoyed competing. Well done everyone!



Trade Fair

Recently our Year 5 and 6 pupils, who have been taking part in the Mind Your Own Business Club, ran their first Trade Fair in the school hall. Many children attended the event. The stalls included items for sale as well as events to enter such as the Football tournament. The children have had to make the items that they were selling, plan their sales strategy and then sell directly to the public: they have learnt a lot about business skills through the project so far. As a result, the teams have

reviewed their progress and are planning to hold another Trade Fair on Thursday 16th June, just before Father's Day.

We would like to thank Mrs Kay and Mrs Whitehead for their work with the children in the club.



The Parish Survey is coming



The Parish Plan Steering Group has now finished the survey which will collect information from everyone in the village about how we would like to see the village develop over the next five to ten years. We hope that as many people as possible will complete a questionnaire which will be delivered to every house and available on line. There is also a junior questionnaire specially designed for younger people in the village.

Your questionnaire will be delivered over the next few weeks. The closing date for returning the questionnaire is the 13th of June 2011. You will be able to drop your questionnaire at many points around the village and there will be a prize draw for anyone who takes part in the survey.

The more people that respond to the survey, the more powerful our voice will be so we hope that you will help to guide the future of the village by returning your form.

For more information contact Claire Jones on 788567.



plus dane group

Q&A Session about the Affordable Houses - Paddock View, Kingsley

The PlusDane Group has secured planning permission for 13 affordable homes in Pike Lane, Kingsley. The homes will be available for Rent and for Shared Ownership.

In response to the level of interest in the development, representatives from Plus Dane, Cheshire West & Chester Council, Chester & District Housing Trust (who will be operating the letting scheme), and Kingsley Parish Council will be holding a Q & A session to discuss the project and to talk about who will be eligible for the homes and how to apply for them.

Please come along to the Community Centre at 6:30pm on Wednesday 25th May 2011 to find out more.

Kingsley, Crowton & Norley Mothers' Union

The speaker at our April meeting was Mrs Sue Hawkes. Sue gave us a fascinating talk on her life and faith in France, telling us about finding the right home in the right place and getting used to church services in French. She spends half the year in France and the other half in England, as do her cats. I'm not sure if they (the cats) are bi-lingual but they have accepted their different lifestyles.

We look forward to welcoming Rev Gill Stanning to speak at our May meeting. She has been our curate since last July and the title of her talk is 'How I got here'.

We meet on the first Tuesday in the month at 7.30 p.m. in the Church Room, Kingsley, and anyone is welcome to join us.



News Bulletin

Western Rural Round-up – Week commencing 25th April 2011

NPT Voicemail- 0845-458-6393

1. 5 men were stop checked in Helsby in the small hours this week in Green Landrover index number K 156 FVC. I would be interested to receive reports regarding this vehicle in our area.
2. Reports from residents in Sutton Weaver of a man acting suspiciously in a Brown vehicle with a part registration number of RV 04.
3. We have received reports of garden furniture and ornaments being stolen across the rural area in the past week. Cuddington, Sutton Weaver and Kingsley have had incidents of theft with items ranging from garden benches to small ornamental bushes.
4. Mark Tyrer was sentenced to 4 months imprisonment for a spate of burglary offences committed in Cuddington and Northwich.
5. A Runcom youth was arrested in Helsby on Saturday evening following him damaging street lighting near to Tesco. He has been charged and appears at court later next month.

Regards

Inspector Phillip Hodgson
Frodsham Police Station
Western Rural NPT
0845 458 6393

8:00 pm, Wed 18th May

@ THE HURST METHODIST CHURCH :

Café Church Kingsley

A new kind of Church with a welcoming and relaxed atmosphere. Live music.

Plus excellent coffee and cakes!

*Offered by St John's Church
& The Hurst Methodist Church*



Caremark are an established, reputable Care agency recently established in the Vale Royal area. Our fully trained Care Staff provide a service tailor-made to your needs, 24 hours a day and 7 days a week. These are just a few tasks our carers deliver already –

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For further information please call 01606 530025 or email valeroyal@caremark.co.uk

Caremark (Vale Royal) is a Caremark Franchise operated under licence by J.O.T Limited.
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Margaret Hosker

We would like to thank everyone who so kindly sent cards, messages of sympathy and flowers after mother passed away. Thank you also to the Knoll Surgery and District Nurses who together with the home care team gave invaluable help. The generous donations to Halton Haven – the charity that the Hurst is supporting - are also very much appreciated.

Christine, David and Peter

Kingsley St John The Evangelist Parish Church

Vicar. Revd.Pete Rugen. 01928 787180

Curate. Revd. Gill Stanning. 01928 788623

May 1 09:30 Holy Communion

May 8 08:15 Holy Communion

09:30 Morning Service

May 12 10:00 Holy Communion

May 15 09:30 Holy Communion

11:15 All Age Service

May 18 20:00 Café Church (at the Hurst)

May 22 10:00 Celebrating Holy Communion Together (at Crowton)

May 29 To be announced

ALL ARE VERY WELCOME

Litter Pick Update

On **Saturday 9th May** 13 of our litter pick team cleared the village of litter 13 bags of litter. We were again able to clear some of the out lying areas of the village and are hoping to continue this in the coming months. Thank you to the team and also to those who collect litter as they walk around the village.

The next litter picks will be on **Saturday 14th May and Saturday 18th June** starting at 10.00 am at the Community Centre. New helpers are always welcome. We provide all the equipment needed.

Eila Birtwistle – Litter pick co-ordinator.

FREE TO GOOD HOME

**GOOD ROTTED HORSE MANURE NOW READY FOR
COLLECTION.**

FREE IF YOU COME AND COLLECT IT YOURSELVES!

£1 A BAG DELIVERED

50P A BAG IF BAGGED UP READY

**ALL PROCEEDS TO THE HURST METHODIST CHURCH
CHARITIES**

Please call Gill on 01928 788841

COMING SOON:

WARBURTONS

**NEW CHESHIRE
POTATOES**

at

**HATLEY FARM,
HATLEY LANE
FRODSHAM
WA6 6XX**

Look for the signs along the A56

Tel: 01928 788329/732292

Christian Aid Week commencing 15th May 2011

Jesus commands us to love our neighbour as ourselves. He also taught us to care about those in most need. He healed the sick; he preached justice; he spoke against those who twisted God's word to suit their own agenda. He chose his disciples from unlikely sources and he championed women.

Christian Aid is following Jesus' teaching by choosing to challenge poverty in all its guises. Its Manifesto **Poverty Over** states that poverty is a global scandal; it is an absence of power and it is man-made. The root causes of poverty are corruption, conflict, inequality, lack of food and agriculture, climate change, disasters, poor health and unfair tax systems. Christian Aid has faith that poverty can end by dealing with these root causes, more information is available at christianaid.org.uk/poverty over.

An example is Christian Aid's campaign **Tax: It's time to transform lives**. Christian Aid's purpose is to change the tax system in the developing world. It is estimated that the developing world loses US\$160bn a year through tax dodging by some unscrupulous companies. This is more than the entire annual global aid budget. Christian Aid lobbied G20 to end tax haven secrecy and since Christian Aid's involvement there has been a heightened public awareness and companies are beginning to take notice, for more information go to: chrstianaid.org.uk/G20.

Christian Aid is firmly based on Christian principles. Through its work people are seeing the face of Christ. By its name Christian Aid is working in the name of Christ. As we carry out our house to house collection we are taking part, with tens of thousands of people, in one of the biggest acts of Christian witness. For those who are unable to join in this witness there is, an opportunity to join Christian Aid in prayer on Sunday 15th May for more detail go to www.caweek.org/praywithus.

Audrey Griffiths CA representative for Kingsley and Rita Boon CA representative for Norley



KINGSLEY WALKING GROUP

The walk on 30 March was a 5 miler from Acton Bridge to Pickering's Lock, returning via Acton Cliff. Twelve of us set off, though one had to retire early to the pub due to over-training. We finally reconvened at the Hazel Pear, by which time our early retiree was well acquainted with the day's newspapers, and enjoyed a good lunch.

Kingsley Walking Group have two walks each month, meeting at the Community Centre at 9.30am. On the second Tuesday there is a long walk, bring a packed lunch. On the last Wednesday a short walk with a coffee break and a pub lunch. We are a friendly group. For more information tel. 787055 or visit our website at www.kingsley.walkers.btinternet.co.uk

“GREEN GRASS GARDENERS”

**ALL ASPECTS OF LANDSCAPING
UNDERTAKEN**

**ALSO PRESSURE WASHING OF
DRIVEWAYS, PATIOS, PATHS
AND RUBBISH REMOVAL FROM
GARDENS AND GARAGES**

**PLEASE RING
01606 49278 or 07759 468738**

Simple Gestures – Joining Jack

It has been a couple of months since I posted an update on Jack, his program and how he is progressing. Thanks to a lot of questions and kind interest I have put a brief update together. It is so thoughtful when people stop me and ask of him and especially when we were recently bag packing at Morrisons in Frodsham and a lot of people from the village came over and spoke to me. It is such a special community and great strength to me that you are all thinking of him.

Jack's team has recently increased, after speaking to a class of Teacher students at Chester University we gained a couple of ladies and also a lovely young lady Called Ellie from the village. Jack loves new volunteers he tests them all in his own way and also the new personalities that he gets to meet.

A couple of weeks ago I decided to take Jack to get his feet measured (not a favourite task of Jacks). We were too early for the shops so we popped into Sainsburys and I decided to try for a coffee in the cafe, which has never happened since pre-regression. To my surprise Jack sat in his chair and watched everyone walking past the window. We then went into Clarks and Jack did everything the lady asked of him and didn't get stressed at all. On the way home we went to Co-Co's playbarn at Lady Heyes. Martin the owner seemed shocked I had asked and just said of course he could this again was the first time since regression. Jack watched the other children and went down the slide and after a short time sat down and had a juice with me. This day was such a big step forward for Jack and what a lot of people take for granted but he just showed me how far he has come.

April has been Autism Awareness month with Sky TV showing various Autism Documentaries and true story films like Temple Grandin & Autsim songs. There is also a now a channel that has a designated time slot for Autism information and advice, this is on channel Sky 166 and Free Sat 402. If you would like me to loan you the true story film behind Jack's Son-Rise then please ask.

At the moment Jack's team are working on Simple Gestures, helping Jack to communicate his needs and wants for example Pointing, clapping and nodding. With the whole team working on this together Jack is really starting to grasp the idea and pointing at the shelves. The really exciting thing that has come of us all working on gestures that when we are not all working on Jack's speech he has started to say some more words as well.

We have recently had a couple of fundraisers for Jack a Pampered Chef night at Frodsham Methodist Church and a Children's Easter Party at Helsby Methodist, we would love to thank all those who attended and showed their support. The big fundraiser Jack's Team are working on at the moment is the Manchester 10k Run on Sunday 15th May, when 12 of Jack's team and family will be running for Jack, Jack's mum included, not built for running, more the sit down with a glass of wine and box of chocolates! If you would like to sponsor Jack's mum, Steve at the Red Bull has kindly let us have a sponsor form at the Pub. Or even come along and cheer us on at the run we will need it.

In June we have Gerd a Teacher from Son-Rise coming to us for the weekend who will be training the whole team and working with Jack and giving us all feedback on Jack's progress. We will of course keep you all updated. Thank you all once again for you support and kindness you have shown us all.

Mark, Natalie, Jack and George Armstrong x



Spain

Get away to a little piece of paradise

LUXURY HOLIDAY APARTMENT FOR RENT
EL SOTO DE MARBELLA, COSTA DEL SOL, SPAIN

5 STAR APARTMENT, SET IN A BEAUTIFUL, PEACEFUL LOCATION WITH STUNNING VIEWS AND ONLY MINUTES FROM SOME OF THE BEST BEACHES AND GOLF COURSES ON THE COAST.

EL SOTO BOASTS ITS OWN GOLF COURSE, TENNIS COURTS, GYM WITH SAUNA, JACUZZI, STEAM ROOM ETC. AND A FRIENDLY, INFORMAL CLUB HOUSE SERVING FIRST CLASS FOOD.

THE APARTMENT OFFERS THE HIGHEST STANDARD OF ACCOMMODATION AND FURNISHINGS. MARBLE FLOORS THROUGHOUT, AIR CONDITIONING, SOFT LEATHER SOFAS, TWO BEDROOMS AND TWO BATHROOMS, GOOD SIZED TERRACE AND FULLY EQUIPPED KITCHEN PLUS SKY TV / DVD / MUSIC SYSTEM

RENT £295 - £595 PER WEEK

10% DISCOUNT ON BOOKINGS FROM THIS
ADVERT

TO RENT THIS LITTLE PIECE OF PARADISE, CONTACT THE KINGSLEY BASED OWNER ON: 01928 787224 OR 07944 126001
EMAIL: gra1@gra1.freeserve.co.uk

LOCAL PRODUCE MARKET

Saturday 11th June, 9.30AM - 1.00PM

Kingsley Community Centre

Lots of fresh fruit and veg, fresh beef, cheese, cakes etc. Face painting for children

ALLOTMENTS

Significant progress is being made toward development of allotments on the Chapel Lane site. A meeting has been arranged for those who have expressed an interest for 10.00am Saturday 14th May at the Kingsley Community Centre. Participants will be fully updated at that time.

COMMUNITY CENTRE PV SOLAR PANEL PROJECT

An application for funding 50% of the cost of installing panels on the roof of the Community Centre has been submitted to Cheshire West and Chester Council. A reply is expected before end May.

ENERGY CONSERVATION

The Energy Group has been informed that a new "Able to Pay" insulation scheme at a basic price of £49 each for cavity wall and loft insulation will be offered shortly by Cheshire West and Chester council (subject to restrictions on size etc.) The balance of any costs are planned to be met by the CERT programme and/or the council.

THIS SCHEME IS TOO GOOD TO MISS !

Kingsley W.I.

At the meeting on April 6th it was reported that the Cheshire Show group is making progress with the exhibit for the Show in June. The activities for the month include the walk, an outing to a local pub for the Luncheon Group and scrabble evenings. There will be a fund raising Coffee Morning in Frodsham where members will sell cakes, books, bric a brac and plants in aid of WI funds.

The speaker was Dr Andrew Fox a Methodist minister from the South Liverpool Circuit. During the time he had off for his sabbatical he set himself the challenge of doing the Coast to Coast Walk through the Lakes and the Dales . He illustrated his talk with slides showing the variation in the terrain and the weather. He was accompanied by his 16 year old son, sometimes camping and other nights staying in Bed and Breakfast accommodation. The walk took 2 weeks to complete and was a wonderful experience. One of our members has already done the walk and one of our visitors was planning the trip this summer.

Joy Dann was presented with a basket of flowers and a card from all members as she and husband Len celebrate their Diamond Wedding

The next meeting is on May 4th when the speaker will be Mr J Van Suchtelen, his talk entitled "Busy as a Bee"

ROOM AT THE TOP

Rooms with kitchen facilities available for hire at The Hurst Methodist Church.

Ideal for children's parties etc. Moderate charges.

Contact Brian Moores on 787442

KINGSLEY & NEWTON VILLAGE INSTITUTE
Top Road, Kingsley

What's on in May

Bingo	Monday 2nd, 16th & 30th	7.30pm
Art	Monday each week	2.00pm
Bridge	Monday 9th, 23rd	7.00pm
Line Dancing	Tuesday each week	8.15pm
Quiz	Wednesday 4th & 18th	9.00pm
Bridge	Friday each week	10.00am

The Bowling season has now started. We are always looking for new players. Anyone interested please come along and join in this friendly club. For more information contact John Fleet at the club on a Tuesday night.

The Tennis Courts are now open. For those wishing to play the cost is £1.00 each player, could you please put your money through the letterbox of the club. The courts are in need of repair and we need the funds to do them up, so payment would be appreciated. This also applies to those playing bowls to do the same. Thank you.

Our club is for hire for parties etc and we can provide a good catering service at reasonable prices. For more information please contact 01928 788505.

Our condolences go to David Ewart on the death of his wife and our friend Helen who passed away. Helen will be missed greatly by us all.



NEWTON AND KINGSLEY SCOUTS

CHARITY BOOK COLLECTION

During the month of June Kingsley scouts are collecting books for young people in developing countries. This is in response to a Scout Association partnership with Scouts in Germany (www.bookbridge.org/scouts). So if you have any books please contact any of the scout leaders listed below and we shall arrange for some scouts to come and collect them.

Peter Storey (788789)
Graham Harrison (788189)
Peter Leyland (735538)

Feline Visitations!

We live on Top Road and have noticed that we are receiving increased visits from a shy but engaging feline. A black cat with four white socks, a white chest and a thin white vertical line on their forehead. It also has a black spot on their rear white left paw. We feel she may have been or is a local family cat?

If you have any further information can you please call Brenda or Rob on 01928 788081



KINGSLEY COMMUNITY PRIMARY
AND
NURSERY SCHOOL
are pleased to announce that
our *Maintained Nursery Class* is here to stay.
Places available now.

From September 2011 we will be opening a new teacher
led, purpose built Foundation Stage Unit.
Places available for children from 3+years.

Flexible hours offered.
Ring 01244 981300



**KINGSLEY NEWSLETTERS ARE AVAILABLE
AT THE PHARMACY AND THE
POST OFFICE COUNTER**

THE RED BULL

NEW SUMMER MENU

LAUNCH NIGHTS - MONDAY 9th MAY & TUESDAY 10TH MAY

Come and try a Starter and Main Course from our New
Summer Menu
and receive a Complimentary Dessert

WEDNESDAY STEAK NIGHTS

are continuing on 4th 11th and 18th May
Rump Steak with all the trimmings only £7.50 plus other
Steaks available

BBQ'S

The Famous RED BULL BBQ'S are back - starting
Wednesday 25th May !!!

A MID SUMMERS NIGHT GOURMET EVENING

Due to popular demand following the success of our New
Years Eve Gourmet Evening
Our next Gourmet Evening is for
MID SUMMERS NIGHT (almost!) Saturday 25th June

A SHAKESPEAREAN THEMED 8 COURSE GOURMET
MENU!!!!

For Full details please drop into the pub - Limited Spaces
Book Early !!!

The Hurst Chapel Anniversary Celebrations

June 2011 sees the 140th anniversary of the present Hurst Chapel in Kingsley. (This is the third chapel to be built on the same site, for the original Wesleyan community was active from the mid 1780s.)

To mark this occasion a programme of events has been arranged throughout June and you are warmly invited to attend these. There is a cost for two events; and for others we need to know numbers as there are limited places, so please obtain tickets in advance.

Sat 4th June

15.00 Opening of the new Kingsley Community Peace Garden

15.30 Treasure Hunt

17.00 Hymn-sing in the Peace Garden

18.00 Refreshments

Sat 18th June - 19.30 Concert at The Hurst by Frodsham & District Choral Society. Refreshments available (no charge; admission by ticket from Stuart & Julie Clark 788775, or Jon & Jan Batey 788706)

Sun 19th June - 12.00 Family picnic (bring your own food & drink) at The Wyches. No charge; admission by ticket from Jean & Brian Moores 787442

Sun 26th June -12.30 Church Anniversary Lunch at The Hurst. Fundraising for the church project; entry by ticket only, £10 per head from Sue Wood 787461 or Wendy Withenshaw 788943.

Sat 2nd July -12.00 Kingsley Garden Trail. The Community Peace Garden at The Hurst will participate. There will be refreshments and a small selection of stalls, raising funds for the church project.

Former Ministers will lead our Sunday 10.00 am worship throughout June :

Sunday 5th June - Revd C Norman R Wallwork

Sunday 12th June - Revd David Blanchflower

Sunday 19th June - Revd Ann Rigby-Jones

Sunday 26th June - Revd Ian Rigby

Dine and Theatre with Kingsley Players

Friday 20th & Saturday 21st May 2011

If you have not yet been to one of our now famous supper and play evenings then we think you have missed a real treat and the bargain of the year. For the ticket price of £12 per head you can either book your own personal table (from 6 to 10 persons) where we will serve your meal and from which you can watch the play that follows. A selection of fine wines and real ale will be available from the bar operated by Steve Wales, that well known purveyor of the finest beverages.

The Menu

<i>Main Course</i>	<i>A choice of Hotpot or Quiche Salad (which is also the vegetarian option)</i>
<i>Desert</i>	<i>Chocolate Pudding</i>

And to follow, One of Ray Cooney's latest and most popular farces:

***It Runs in the Family** directed by Malcolm Barker*

Dr David Mortimore (Neil Silcock) is about to address a neurologists' convention, which will probably earn him a knighthood. While putting the final touches to his speech an old flame (Laura Williams) arrives and announces that their liaison years ago resulted in a son (Nicky Chambers) who is downstairs desperate to meet his dad. Frantic to hide this catastrophic news from his wife and the hospital authorities, David is forced to invent not one but two non-existent husbands! The cast also includes Lesley Silcock, Steve Powell, Sue Elliott, Emma Crosby, Lynn Pegler and Liz Langton.

There are Wednesday and Thursday performances, 18th & 19th May with a conventional auditorium (no food served) at £6 per head (£4 concessions)

Box Office: online at www.kingsleyplayers.co.uk or telephone 07925 516769 or from Hollands Pharmacy, Kingsley

Kingsley Players

Presents

It Runs In The Family

Directed by
Malcolm
Barker

A farce
by RAY
COONEY



at Kingsley Community Centre

Tickets available from
our Box Office at www.kingsleyplayers.co.uk
also Holland Pharmacy, Hollow Lane, Kingsley
or Telephone (07925) 516760

Theatre Auditorium
Wed 18th and Thurs 19th May

Supper & Theatre
Fri 20th and Sat 21st May

FARM UPDATE APRIL 2011

Hello again, I'm back in the Kingsley News, giving you an update of what has been going on at Warburtons Farms over recent months. It is a little time since I did my last write-up, and there is quite a lot to get through.

After the coldest winter I can remember, March and April have been the driest for over 50 years. On Christmas morning, it was so cold, the only water running on the farm was from the farmhouse, so before any presents were opened, we all had to carry containers of water to every cattle, sheep and hen shed on the farm.

Potato planting started on 25 February and continued uninterrupted by rain: we finished on 10 April. Spring barley was sown into good conditions in March and has now emerged. We now need some warm April showers. With no March winds this year, the daffodils and blackthorn has been a picture and the fleece covering the early potatoes has not ripped and blown off. Now the cherry trees and magnolias are at their best. Spring has definitely sprung.

There have been some significant changes to the Farm Partnership over the last 12 months. My nephew Richard has completed his joinery apprenticeship, and my son George has gained his degree at Manchester University. Both lads have now decided to join the farm as junior partners. We are delighted to have them both on board with their new ideas, energy and enthusiasm.

We have been quite successful in winning some farming awards since my last article. Firstly, last March we were invited to the House of Lords, to the Beautiful Farm Awards, and were delighted to win the North West Region Award. Our award was presented by celebrity chef James Martin. The Beautiful Farm Awards is focused on farms who farm in harmony with the natural environment. We then won the Cheshire Farms Competition, Farming & Wildlife Award judged by RSPB.

In September I was short-listed for Countryside Farmer of the Year 2010 organised by Farmers Weekly. This prestigious awards ceremony was held in the Great Room at the Grosvenor House Hotel, London. All the great and good in agriculture were there, including the Secretary of State at Defra Caroline Spelman, and Prince Charles, giving the introduction

speech. The compare for the evening was Liza Tarbuck, who did a splendid job, and I was delighted to take second place in this national competition.

In October 2010 I was honoured and privileged (and a little shocked) to be invited to Windsor Castle to a reception hosted by HRH The Queen and Prince Philip for 'Services to the Rural Community'. About 300 people, all from rural industries met in the Long Room, at Windsor Castle, and after we officially met Her Majesty and the Duke, they mingled among us talking to as many people as possible. The Queen holds these receptions occasionally to find out what ordinary people think about rural issues. Princess Anne was also present along with Sophie Wessex, and the Duke of Gloucester.

Finally in December 2010, we heard we had been short-listed for Farming Family Business of the Year 2010 in the Food & Farming Industry Awards. This time we **all** went down to London, when we were awarded second place at a dinner/awards evening at the House of Commons hosted by James Paice MP, Minister for Agriculture. Before the awards we were invited to a guided tour of the House of Commons. It really is a fantastically ornate building, steeped in history. We then enjoyed an amazing After Awards Party at the County Hall Hotel till the early hours, with the 'Junior Partners' taking full advantage of the free bar!!! I didn't even try to keep up. The highlight of the evening was meeting Adam Henson (Adam's Farm) of Countryfile fame.

After all this, and before I get above my station, I really do need to get on with some proper farming work!! And there is plenty to be done!

Agriculture has gone through a massive change in the last few years. The huge food surpluses that have suppressed our prices for over 20 years have suddenly gone. A combination of huge demand from China and other countries with burgeoning populations and poor harvests in Russia and Eastern Europe, plus the opening of several new bio-fuel plants making ethanol etc. have used up all the surplus grains in store around the world. This time last year, wheat was around £90 per tonne, now it is over £200 tonne, and the price looks like staying high for this harvest, fingers crossed. There are three or four large bio-fuel plants in Britain, each using approx 1m tonnes of wheat a year to produce ethanol to mix with diesel.

Lanterns:

The latest trend at parties now is to release Chinese Lanterns. These bright globes of light float away into the night sky and look very pretty. Unfortunately for us farmers, when the flame is burnt out, and it falls to the ground, it ends up either polluting the countryside with plastic and wire, or worst still being eaten by cattle which has been fatal in many cases. I have picked many of these up from around our fields. Also as smouldering lanterns come down they can set crops alight and straw stacks. The NFU wants them banned and government is looking into it on animal welfare grounds.

Sheep:

We still have the same 6 Ewe sheep. They are lambing as I write and hopefully will have finished by the time you read this article.

The latest idea from Europe is EID, Electronic Identification. Each sheep must have an electronic tag in its ear when it is sold. As usual with European CAP ideas, it has been made as complicated as possible to implement. (The EID rulebook is about an inch thick). This means we have to use new electronic tags, which cost twice as much as the usual ones, plus special new pliers to insert them. It has been a nightmare to introduce, and only time will tell if it is successful.

Did any of you watch Lambing Live this season? I really enjoyed it, and think Adam Henson and Kate Humble are great ambassadors for agriculture. Portraying the sector in a very positive and realistic light.

TB:

The bovine TB debate rumbles on. At present our cattle are tested for TB (Tuberculosis) every year. This takes some considerable time. Each animal has to be brought in from the fields to the farmyard. They are then run individually through the race and cattle crush. The vet places 2 small injections in the cattle's neck. Three days later the process has to be repeated again and they are all checked. Any animal that has a lump as big as a golf ball on the injection site is called a 're-actor', because they have reacted to the injection. Luckily we have never had any reactors. Any 're-actors' are taken for slaughter and farmers are compensated. This is costing the country a fortune, approx £30 million last year. Present thinking is that cows catch the disease from grass that badgers have infected with TB. The Government wants to try a badger cull in specific areas to remove all badgers to see if cases of TB start to diminish. Badger groups and other wildlife bodies are strongly

opposed to any cull saying the badgers could be catching TB from the grass that cows have been eating. Passions are running high on both sides and no one really knows what to do for the best.

Renewables:

Since the Government signed the Renewable Energy Directive (RED) in 2009, setting a target of 15% of all energy used in the UK to be renewable by 2020, farmers have been bombarded with offers by companies to set up wind turbines. I am seriously thinking of fitting one to the end of my outbuildings

The latest idea to generate electricity is PV panels, either on the roofs of buildings or free standing in large blocks in open fields. PV (Photo Voltaic) panels look like solar panels and generate electricity from sunlight and feed it back into the National Grid. To encourage people to invest in this, the government introduced generous Feed In Tariffs (FITS). These are guaranteed for 25 years, index linked. The FITS would pay me for example 35p per unit for the electricity I generate. I would then buy it back from my electric supplier for the normal price of say 10p unit. Since we had our outbuildings restored and renovated last year, the roof is now strong enough to accommodate the weight of a block of PV panels.

THE FUTURE:

There are exciting times ahead for the agricultural industry, with ever more millions of mouths to feed. Farmers feel as though they are needed once more. This years huge leap in cereal prices has made Governments and the population realise that you can't take food for granted.

All the following issues are at the cutting edge of technology, however controversial they may seem today; they will form part of the future of food production in the near future.

GM Technologies

Cloning of Animals

Hydrogen powered tractors

Renewable Energies is massive at present

PV (Photovoltaic) Systems to generate electricity

Biomass (Willows, coppicing for burning in power stations)

Biogas (Collecting methane gas from animal waste)

Wind Turbines

Tidal barrage

Biofuels (Ethanol from Oil Seed Rape, Wheat and Sugarbeet) The factory at Manchester takes 1 million tonnes of wheat per year, and 1 tonne of wheat produces 340L of fuel.

Super Dairies

TB in Cattle – Proposed badger cull

Halal Meat

Supermarket Dominance – depressing prices.

Global Warming?

Future of CAP

Battery Hens

And

Satellite – GPS

Some of these topics have been covered in this Update, and I hope to highlight the rest in future issues.

The public at large has never been more interested to know where their food comes from. Our farm visits have highlighted to me the importance of farmers to demonstrate and communicate to the general public exactly what we do best: - produce high quality food, along side good animal welfare standards, but at the same time care and look after the British Countryside.

We will be opening our New Potato Shop at Hatley Farm, Frodsham towards the middle of May. Do call in for your local fresh New Cheshire Potatoes and eggs.

Any plastic carrier bags and egg boxes for recycling would be gratefully received too. Just drop them off at either farm.

I will be standing for the Parish Council again on 5th May, and hope I can rely on your support again. VOTE FOR ME!

If anyone has any questions or views (including youngsters) on any farming topics, please feel free to e-mail me, and I can reply in my next Farm Update.

Kind regards

Graham Warburton

Depmore Farm

01928 788329

warbies.depmore@btinternet.com

NEWSLETTER FROM ST. JOHN'S PRIMARY SCHOOL:

Visits Welcome



Hollow Lane
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Cheshire
WA6 8EF

Tel: (01928) 788536 Fax: (01928) 787600

Head teacher: Mrs A Griffiths

email: head@kingsley-stjohns.cheshire.sch.uk

Class 1 trip to Quarry Bank Mill & Styal Estate

Class 1 had a great day out at Quarry Bank Mill & Styal Estate. The children listened to the story of Sarah the Weaver and helped her with some of her chores. The children decided that they would rather go to school and play with their friends than spend all day cleaning, carding and spinning wool. After lunch and a quick play on the adventure play area they went for a look around the mill. They were fascinated with the giant waterwheel, the noisy looms and the interactive displays. We finished the day with an ice-cream in the sunshine.

Charlie liked the part where we got to do our own weaving on a loom and Ben just thought the day out was 'Fantastic!'



WORSHIP AT THE HURST METHODIST CHURCH

Minister: Revd Steve Santry

Sunday 1st May

10.00 am : Holy Communion. Revd David Copley
6.30 pm at Blakelees : Revd Bernard Dodd

Sunday 8th May

8.15 am : United Holy Communion. Revd Sue Levitt
10.00 am : **NB - No service**
6.30 pm at Blakelees : Chapel Anniversary. Revd Brenda Shaw

Sunday 15th May

10.00 am : **All Age Worship**. Theme: "Birthday Surprise".
Revd Steve Santry
6.30 pm at Blakelees : Holy Communion. Revd Steve Santry

Wednesday 18th May

8.00 pm: Café Church

Sunday 22nd May

10.00 am : Family Worship. Mr Brian C Moores
6.30 pm at Blakelees : Mrs Elizabeth Holmes

Sunday 29th May

10.00 am : Family Worship. Miss Heather Rowland
6.30 pm at Blakelees : Prof Neville Ford

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DATES IN MAY

Mon 2 May Bank Holiday

3 May Schools back

Sun 8 May - 8.15 am at The Hurst: United Holy Communion.

Mon 9 May - Noon to 1.00 pm: Hurst Soup Lunch

Tues 10 May -9.30am Kingsley Walkers, meet at KCC

Sat 14 May - 10.00 am from KCC: Village Litter Pick

Sun 15 May - 10.00 am at The Hurst: All Age Worship. "Birthday Surprise".

Revd Steve Santry

15 to 22 May - Christian Aid Week

Wed 18 May - 8.00 pm : Café Church

Wed 18 to Sat 21 May - Kingsley Players production

Wed 25 May - 9.30am Kingsley Walkers, meet at KCC

27 May Schools out

Mon 30 May Bank Holiday

JUNE DATES

A month of special celebrations at The Hurst commemorating the 140th Anniversary of the present chapel. See details on separate page.

Sat 4 June - 3.00 pm: Formal Opening of the 'Kingsley Community Peace Garden' at The Hurst.

6 Jun Schools back

Sun 12 Jun (Pentecost) - 8.15 am at St John's: United Holy Communion

Mon 13 Jun - Noon to 1.00 pm : Hurst Soup Lunch

Wed 15 Jun - 8.00 pm : Café Church

Sat 18 Jun - 7.30 pm at The Hurst: Celebration Concert by Frodsham & District Choral Society

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