

Keeping in Touch..... Number 27

Thank you as always to those who have sent in contributions this week—we have a good variety for your pleasure. The KIT deadline is noon on Wednesdays. Please send anything to c.a.curtis@ntlworld.

If you are lucky enough to get away do send us a “postcard” —three or four photos and where they are from.

Changes ahead in Free Church Passage

It looks like changes are ahead for our former church hall building in Free Church Passage. Because the building is listed, an application has been submitted to the Planning Officer at HDC for 'Listed Building Consent' (LBC). This is the first stage for making changes to listed buildings. Once this consent has been given, then a full planning application can be made.

The building is in the process of being sold to the same developer who has built the new flats in Bull Lane and they intend to change the building's use from retail to residential by creating four two bedroomed flats - two up and two down. You can view the plans on-line at HDC's website. Use their 'Public Access' portal and search using the reference no: [20/01138](#)/LBC. There are plans and elevations and the usual statements.

It appears that the very large arched windows at first floor level will be retained on both the front and rear elevations. The arches at ground floor level on Free Church Passage where currently there are the recessed window displays of the former bed shop - these arches will disappear to be replaced by modern windows and matching those of the former building as it was in 1980 before being altered - and as seen in this photograph.



St Ives Civic Society have expressed concern at the loss of two retail sites in the town centre - which I have some sympathy with. I am not sure that living accommodation, and especially ground floor bedrooms, with windows facing onto Free Church Passage is desirable. Although not a good time commercially, a better solution might have been two office or retail units on the ground floor with just two residential units above? SMD

Remembering the Revd. Kate—from Philip Simpson

KATE'S KUPBOARD

Sadly, very sadly, today's Food Banks are a necessity. Britain, the world's fifth richest economy, has thousands of them. Some eight million of us still go to bed hungry. I find this a staggering statistic. What went wrong! Meanwhile. Praise the Lord for Food Banks.

But who introduced them to Britain? They didn't arrive here until 2006. There are such charities as the Trussell Trust to thank for that. Praise the Lord that they did. But who, prophetically, beat them by four decades in realising that there would be this vital need in the future? And then did something about it.

I dare to suggest that it was probably our first Community Minister, the late Rev. Kate McIlhagga. I also suggest that notta lotta people know this.

Ca. 1980 she encouraged the then membership to donate non-perishable foodstuffs which she kept in a cupboard at the manse for the needy. One day I took round a few tins and packages to add to her stock.

"Is this really necessary?" I said to her. "Surely we all live in a Welfare State! No one can be that desperate for food in this day and age!"

She soon put me right. "You would be surprised how many people slip through the Welfare net and turn up on our doorstep when there's nowhere else to turn to for help. Countless thousands suffer. This need just won't go away and we must do what we can to help."

In her own modest way, she did, throughout her ministry. An unsung heroine.

Since 2013, St Ives has established its own Food Bank at All Saints Parish Church, through Churches Together in St Ives (CTIS) and generously supported by local businesses and individuals. It helps thousands.

But let's give due credit to the late Rev. Kate and her humble Food Cupboard a mere four decades previously. She left us all a lasting legacy. Nice one, Kate! We love you!

Philip Simpson—top right a "recent" photo of Philip which he sent! Lower down a photo of Mull from Kate's seat behind the Abbey on Iona taken by us on our last visit.



A postcard from Aldeburgh—From Mary and John Cox



A photo quiz from Philip in France.....

Hello KIT readers,

I note that previous editions are sprinkled with pictures of flowers. Very pretty!

But are they as pretty as mine here in the Delightful Dordogne?

£100 goes to a charity of choice to the first person to spot anything unusual.

Email: philip.simpson@orange.fr

Please respond directly to Philip by email, nominating your chosen charity, by Friday 30th October.



Give Nature a Chance by Sally Runham

'Doubling Nature' across Cambridgeshire is a strategy that began in September with Natural Cambridgeshire launching a series of initiatives to support community action.

Natural Cambridgeshire is a coalition of environmental groups including the RSPB, organisations such as National Farmers' Union, local businesses, councils and charities. Their aim is to ensure Cambridgeshire is a sustainable place to live and work.

St Ives Eco Action is keen to challenge the Town Council to make a pledge for nature and to evaluate the Local Nature Recovery Toolkit to assess the nature situation now and compare it when everyone has played their part in doubling it. Some people remove mature trees from gardens when a prune or reduction would suffice. Some farmers are just too tidy, when they should leave some flowers to seed on their verges, trim hedges on one side only each year, and have a ditch management regime that helps dragonflies as well as keeping the area well-drained.



An old log pile, alive with mini beasts and mushrooms

The churches in St Ives have some wonderful advocates for nature, shown at the regular Eco Action Eco Faith group online meetings. Sapling exchange takes place regularly, the St Ives Methodist church are instrumental in saving tree seed vernalising them in fridges, and wildflower planting is promoted.

Mushrooms in the lawn, grass mown around

Many of our own church members defend natural resources against development, and promote wildlife friendly gardens. If you have any examples, please let us know.



Ivy being left to flower and "weeds" to flourish!



DECISIONS

I watch the news on tele
It gets grimmer day by day,
The Covies numbers rising
It's not going,so they say.

It's easy criticizing
All the rules they've put in place,
But life and death decisions
Must be made, we have to face.

The biting of the bullet
Never easy choice to make,
But prayer and faith and trust in God,
Will help the steps we take.

The arguments can rage all day
There's lot to think about,
Economy, our liberty,
And why the rules they flout?

But time is of the essence
Health and welfare number one,
The dithering time is over now
The battle must be won!

cc IRENE CARTER

A Note from Freda

Well done Irene you certainly have a talent for verse. I particularly liked the 'Trump' one. I recently received an email from friends in Australia with all their news and observations. Of course it turned to 'Trump' and Pauline's little comment was to quote "Trump says nobody gets Covid 19 – this means he is a NOBODY " !!!

Answers to last weeks local quiz

Who was Bridget Ireton?

Cromwell's daughter wife of General Henry Ireton

What was King's Lynn's original name?

Bishops Lynn

Where was a merman imprisoned?

Orford Castle

Where were the green children found?

Woolpit Suffolk

Where was John Clare born?

Helpston

Where is Cromwell's widow buried?

Northborough church

Where should "he who would olde England win" begin

Weybourne Hope Norfolk

What is the connection between Mildenhall, Thetford and Hoxne (Suffolk)?

Roman treasure hoards found

Why is the building of Burwell castle incomplete?

Because of Geoffrey de Mandeville's death

What did people sometimes call the Midland and great Northern railway?

The Muddle and get Nowhere

Where was Samuel Pepys an MP ?

Harwich

Which town was called Gippeswyk?

Ipswich

Where can you see Black Shuck's footprint

Blythburgh church

Anyone get them all right?

Char and her sister Louie in Spain wonder if anyone knows the story behind the beautiful Passion

Flower?



A mini card from Barbara and David from Fen Drayton earlier this week—as the seasons turn.....



And more from Char's sister Louie

I am re-reading Emma. This is as good as any sermon if there is room for it in Keeping in Touch:

“Mrs. Bates, the widow of a former vicar of Highbury, was a very old lady, almost past everything but tea and quadrille. She lived with her single daughter in a very small way, and was considered with all the regard and respect which a harmless old lady, under such untoward circumstances, can excite. Her daughter enjoyed a most uncommon degree of popularity for a woman neither young, handsome, rich nor married. Miss Bates stood in the very worst predicament in the world for having much of the public favour; and she had no intellectual superiority to make atonement to herself, or frighten those who might hate her, into outward respect. She had never boasted either beauty or cleverness. Her youth had passed without distinction, and her middle of life was devoted to the care of a failing mother, and the endeavour to make a small income go as far as possible. And yet she was a happy woman and a woman who no one named without good-will. It was her own universal good-will and contented temper which worked such wonders. She loved every body, was interested in every body's happiness, quick-sighted to every body's merits; thought herself a most fortunate creature and surrounded with blessings in such an excellent mother and so many good neighbours and friends, and a home that wanted for nothing. The simplicity and cheerfulness of her nature, her contented and grateful spirit, were a recommendation to every body and a mine of felicity to herself. “

See what i mean? Lovely isn't it. Austen is SUCH a wonderful writer, i have been laughing aloud at some of her amazingly subtle phrasing and sly digs. **Louie**

