

### JANUARY DIAR

MONDAYS: Short Mat Bowls Parish Room 7.30pm WEDNESDAYS: Step Aerobics Parish Room 8.30pm THURSDAY: Quiz Night at Journey's End 9.00pm FRIDAY CLUB: 8th & 22ndParish Room 5.30pm

Kit Taylor's 100th birthdayl

Table Tennis Tournament at JE 2.30pm 17th

19th Parish Council WI Hall 7.00pm

20th RHS WI Hall 7.30pm 'History of a Local Family' Inter-Parish Quiz Holbeton v Ringmore 8.00pm

Burn's Night Dinner at JE 7.30pm 23rd

29th Pasties & Quiz Evening Parish Room 7.30pm

Feb

Sir Douglas Hall's 90th Birthday 1st

4th Live Music at JE - GIN

### DEADLINE Tuesday 26th January

### Mobile Library

January

Dates:- 8th & 22nd Ringmore Church 12.05 - 12.30 Challaborough 12.35 - 12.45

St Ann's Chapel 3.15 - 3.30

Kingston Fire Station 3.45 - 4.30

Rainfall 25th Nov - 26th Dec

Ave Dec for last 10 years - 31/4" High Dec 1997

Dec 1988 - 1361

The Newsletter is solvent . . just . . but 'just' is enough! No need for the begging bowl to come out yet. This is due to some prudence but mainly to donations from our contributors and the support of our advertisers. We, that means everyone, are grateful for their continued interest.

Nick Walker Printing in Kingsbridge charges a very generous rate but nevertheless our annual costs are in the region of £450

If you are still reading this note you might wish to know, if you haven't worked it out, that the monthly Newsletter costs approximately 30p per household.

Those of you who knew Kit Taylor will know, most likely, that she celebrates her 100th birthday on Tuesday 12th January. Centenarians still form a select club and no doubt everyone in Ringmore will send Kit their 'Good Wishes' . . . . an address is printed elsewhere. In 1982 a lady, Margaret Watson, known as Aunt Peggy, who lived at Carmel, also celebrated her centenary. She was Kit Taylor's aunt!

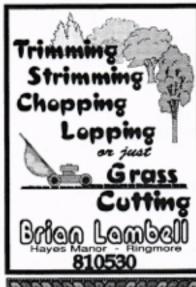
A decade behind but no less worthy of mention, is Sir Douglas Hall, who will celebrate his 90th birthday on 1st February.

The Short Mat Bowls Club has written a 'thank you' note regarding the Mediæval Banquet but perhaps it is we who should be thanking them for having organised such an enjoyable evening. The costumes (monks, knights, bishops, ladies, jesters, serfs) were brilliant, the minstrels' music was just right, the food and the company - it was an unbeatable combination.

The P's & Q's is planned for Friday 29th and should be an enjoyable, light-hearted evening.

The Inter-Parish Quiz is upon us again and Ringmore faces Holbeton (away) in a one-leg first round.

Finally, from you all, a big 'THANK YOU AND HAPPY NEW YEAR' to the distributors of the Newsletter. Fiona Batten, Andrea Stanesby, Sue and Adrian Muller, Thelma Mann and Stan Brunskill. In all winds and weather, whichever day of the week, they are dependable. Without them. . . . .







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### Parish Church of All hallows, Ringmore







As I write, Christmas is but two days away, and the divisions caused by the bombardment of Iraq hang like a cloud over the preparations. For our Muslim friends, these attacks on the eve of the holy month of Ramadan are incomprehensible and revolting. How do we feel, then, at this holy time of Christmas? This alone should galvanise us into prayer, above all for the innocent victims. It is so hard to know what is right in such circumstances; so we must pray – hard.

I wonder, indeed, just how much we place into God's hands in prayer every day. Sometimes people ask me to "say a little prayer" for them – and I always <u>refuse</u>. Why? Because, as the hymn-writer put it, "thou art coming to a King / large petitions with thee bring". What's needed is a <u>big</u> prayer, a <u>fervent</u> one, a <u>persistent</u> one. Have we the patience – and the faith – to pray like that? I am sure the world would be a far better place if we did.

Our month's programme is – until the last day of the month – according to what has become the accepted pattern. But the 31st, though a fifth Sunday, will not see just one Team Service. Partly because we had one at the end of November, but also because we thought that Bob Campbell-Smith's Institution as Team Rector six days later is such a Team event that we could afford to drop the Team Service on the 31st. So I've planned for a second third Sunday, if you see what I mean.

And on that confusing note, I wish you all a very happy and peaceful - and just - New Year. Make the most of it; there won't be any more this millennium!

#### DIARY FOR THIS MONTH:

Date:	9 a.m.	11 a.m.	6 p.m.
January 3	Kingston Holy Communion (ASB) & Children's Church	Ringmore Worship at Eleven	Bigbury Evening Prayer (BCP)
January 10	Ringmore	Bigbury	Kingston
	Holy Communion (ASB)	Worship at Eleven	Evening Prayer (BCP)
January 17	Bigbury	Kingston	Ringmore
	Holy Communion (ASB)	Worship at Eleven	Evening Prayer (BCP)
January 24	Ringmore	Bigbury	Kingston
	Holy Communion (BCP)	Communion at Eleven	Evening Prayer (ASB)
January 31	Bigbury	Kingston	Ringmore
	Holy Communion (BCP)	Worship at Eleven	Evening Prayer (BCP)
February 6	3 p.m. Institution of the Reverend Canon Bob Campbell-Smith as Team Rector in the Modbury Team Ministry		
February 7	Kingston Holy Communion (ASB) & Children's Church	Ringmore Worship at Eleven	Bigbury Evening Prayer (BCP)

### Ringmore Parish Council

Meeting: Tuesday 22nd December Present: 7 councillors, the clerk, Mr Anstey and two members of the public.

#### District Council

Mr Anstey spoke on the following points: 1 He was involved in a committee promoting Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). He will report more about this in the future.

2 In some areas seagulls are becoming a nuisance and various methods of controlling them were being discussed.

3 Council Tax will most probably have to be increased next year, due to diminished funding from the government.

#### Matters raised by Parishioners

Concern has been expressed by some residents about the icy road conditions due to an over-flowing spring on the road leading down to the Journey's End. Action was taken immediately but neither South West Water nor Devon Highways could do anything about it. Further discussion will take place at the next meeting to try to resolve the matter.

#### Planning Applications

Application for a single storey extension to The Lodge - no objections.

Application for a new sign at Haven Leisure - there were objections to the size and colours proposed.

#### **Next Meeting**

Tuesday 19th January 7.00pm WI Hall Thelma Mann

On
Monday 18th January
at 7.30pm there will be a
South Hams Police Liaison
meeting at the
Recreation Ground Pavilion,
Estate Road, South Brent.
There will be a special presentation
on Drugs.
Anyone wishing to go should call
David Young on 810389

### Sir Douglas Hall's Birthday

Sir Douglas will be having a party to celebrate the occasion, probably on Saturday 6th or Sunday 7th February, to which everyone is cordially invited. More details will appear in the February Newsletter

# RINGMORE HISTORICAL **PRESS RELEASE** SOCIETY

At the Annual General Meeting of the Society in November, a number of changes occurred in the make up of the committee.

The most notable was that Col George Grimshaw stood down after fourteen years as the Chairman. George has been the main driving force behind the Society since its inception in October 1984 when he was elected founder Chairman and Secretary! In those 14 years the Society has grown, if not significantly in numbers, in the wealth of information both documentary and photographic. George should feel justly proud of his achievement. He would be the first to point out the support he has received from many people over the years but every ship needs a captain and George has been an enthusiastic leader of his team. To ensure his continued involvement, the Society elected George as Hon President and Antiquarian.

He has been succeeded by Mrs Ardene Bennett who has been an ardent committee member for a number of years.

Another 'retiree' was Mr Frank Williams who has been our long-suffering Treasurer for the past few years. His role has been taken by Gordon Allan. Dr John Parry was re-elected as Hon Secretary.

The rest of the committee for 1999 is Mrs Carol Allan, Dr Di Collinson, Mr Geof Dykes, Mrs Jacqueline Patterson, Mrs Meribah Stark, Mr Reg Trant and Mrs Naomi Warne

The first activity of the new year will be on Wednesday 20th January at 7.30pm in the WI Hall. Harry Bardens will talk on 'History of a Local Family'. The name Bardens can be found throughout the history of Ringmore and Bigbury. Next month, on Saturday morning, 13th February, in the Parish Room, there will be a talk about the Natural History of the Kingsbridge/Salcombe Estuary by Nigel Mortimer, the Estuary Conservation Officer. This will be an entertaining morning for all the family - children will be free.

On the following Wednesday, 24th
February, there will be an evening talk in
the WI Hall by Dr Michael Tisdall on
'Carvings in Churches and their meanings'. Dec

Non-members are welcome at all of the Society's open meetings. For a mere £1 they can join in the activities and enjoy a cup of tea and a biscuit. Anyone wishing to know more about the Society should contact any member of the committee.

John Parry, Hon Secretary

#### Anti-Fouling Paint

Salcombe Harbour Authority requires boat owners who scrape off anti-fouling paint to sweep up the scrapings thoroughly and to place them in a specially designated bin on the quayside. Ancillary rubbish such as brushes, rags, tins, etc, can also be placed in the bin.

Apple Tree pruning

One-day courses on the best way to prune mature apple trees are being arranged as part of the Coast and Countryside Events programme. Course dates are as follows

Saturday 16th January at Berry Pomeroy Saturday 6th February at Dartington Saturday 6th March at Dartington

Contact: Trudy Turrell 01803 861140 £14

# Short Mat Bowls A Mediatral Success!

Ringmore Short Mat Bowls Club would like to say a very sincere 'Thank You' to all who supported the recent Mediæval Banquet. From comments made during and after the event it was clear that a great time was had by all!

In excess of £400 was raised enabling the Club to purchase much needed equipment which will allow us to continue once the items, at present on loan from SHDC, is returned.

Remember, Bowls Night is Monday at 7.30pm, in the Parish Room. Why not come along and have a go. We look forward to seeing you.

# Royal British Legion

# **100** CLUB

Recent winners in the RBL 100 Club are as follows:

Oct £20 No 30 Mr K Crooks £5 No 42 Mr R Randle Nov £20 No 53 Mrs R Bell £5 No 38 Mr T Curtis Dec £20 No 25 Mr J Brunel-Cohen £5 No 37 Pam Trundle

Christmas Draw

£300 No 47 Mr Bertram Toms (The longest serving member of our Branch!) Notice to all Members:

Subscriptions (£12) are due by the end of January 1999. Please hand cheques, payable to RBL, to Colin Jackson 810292, Tony Walters 810566 or Pat Kingdom 810322. If need be, we will collect them.

Colin Jackson

## TEN YEARS AGO

Dr John Parry was elected to the committee of the Historical Society for the first time.

According to the JE report, Kenny Dann and Jim Freeman won most of the prizes in the Christmas Draw.

The Church Institute was reported as 'newly decorated'!

In an article on the Village School, it was noted that in 1871 Ringmore's population had been 237 but by 1929, when the school closed, the number had fallen to 146. In the 1991 the census figure was 251.

## P's & Q's

The P's & Q's Quiz evening will take place in the Ringmore Parish Room on 29th January at 7.30pm. It should be a lot of fun. No one should be put off by talk of 'Brain of Britain' or 'Mastermind'. The questions will be eeceaasy, the sort to make you kick yourself if you do get one wrong. 'Of course, I should have known that one!' will be heard no doubt and so will 'That's what I said! Why didn't you write it down?' Bring your friends along for a good time-January can be such a drab month.

Why not enter a team? Perhaps the Choir, or the WI or even the Parish Council could enter a team. How about former members of the Ringmore Inter-Parish Quiz Team showing that they can still sparkle? It will not matter if you cannot form a team of your own, there will be the opportunity to join up with others on the night.

The format will allow teams the opportunity to play a Joker for double points on their 'strong' subject. The topic range is broad (History, Geography, Entertainment, Food & Drink, The Natural World and much more) so you are bound to find something to your taste.

On the subject of taste, refreshments will be provided. The assembled 'quizzers' will be served with hot soup and a hot Portlemouth Pasty. To avoid administrative difficulties you are invited to bring your own wine; glasses will be provided.

There will be modest prizes for the winners and even more modest ones for the losers.

Tickets for the Quiz can be obtained from Geof Dykes 810123 and Colin Jackson 810292. The evening is a fund-raiser for the Parish Room and it would be grand to see the Room full. Your starter for . . . . one, is 'Which King was the last Regent to rule this country?'

Book now to avoid disappointment!

## Journey's End Journal

We would like to express our thanks to Geof for producing a very enjoyable Newsletter and for his patience and help with our monthly Journal during 1998.

This month we celebrate the birth of Robbie Burns with a Burns Night Dinner on Saturday 23rd at 7.30pm. There will be a piper and a four-course meal to include a blessed Haggis and a wee dram for £15 per person. Tartan should be worn.

Our Table Tennis Tournament will take place on Sunday 17th. Play will begin at 2.30pm and finish around 7.00pm with the winner receiving the coveted John Bracey trophy. Please register in the bar before Friday 15th

### Happy New Year to You All

James & Gillian

Thurs 7th The Landlord's Quiz Thurs 14th John Freeman's Quiz Sun 17th Table Tennis Tournament

Thurs 21st Robbie's Quiz

Sat 23rd Burn's Night Dinner



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Thurs 28th Phil's Quiz

February

Thurs 4th Terry's Quiz

Fri 5th Live Music - GIN



WOMEN IN THE COMMUNITY

On 18th December Ringmore WI celebrated with their Christmas Party and, to coin a phrase, a good time was had by all! Actually, to meet with friends, eating and drinking, in an atmosphere of good fellowship and harmony, is as good a way to spend an evening as any I know- and this we did at our own party!

Michael Tagent produced an excellent quiz, keenly contested; carols were sung with fervour (the old piano came up trumps again!).

Members all produced memorable food and loyal helpers worked wonders decorating the hall and tables. They never fail - almost as the old Windmill Theatre used to say, 'We never closed!'. Thanks to them all.

Ringmore WI will celebrate its 75th Anniversary this year and no doubt great things will be planned to mark this milestone. One thing we would like to do in the coming year would be to attract new members; we know there are many newcomers to the village who are potential members. We need your talents and enthusiasm in the WI and we have much to offer you. Husbands also are most welcome when we have speakers of particular interest. So make up your minds and contact any committee member or me on 810214.

A date to remember - Group Meeting in April at Ringmore. Happy New Year!

Naomi Warne



Wednesday 20th January 8.00pm

### HOLBETON V RINGMORE

at

# The Mildmay Colours

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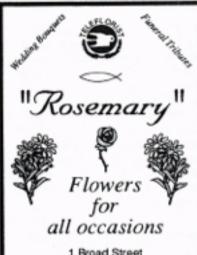


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# SCOUTSABOUT

Thank you to everyone who made cakes and supported the Cake Stall in Modbury on 5th December. The Stall and Raffle raised £147 for Scout funds, an increase on the previous year.

More Scouts are looking forward to attending a BCU\*1 canoeing course in Paignton following the success of Scout Leader Hugh Shepley and Scouter Paul Green. Both achieved an award on the course. All Scouts had a great time 'wall walking' at the Kittow centre in Plymouth. The event was a good exercise in team work since the 'wall walkers' were relying on the rest of the team on the ground, to keep them going overhead.

Cubs and Beavers enjoyed their Christmas parties on 10th December. The Scouts' party was a Christmas Karaoke disco on 9th December at Southleigh.

Please check the starting date for Scouts. Cubs and Beavers with your leader.

Your Scouting contact is Sue Green on Modbury 830889.

The Scout Group wishes everyone a Happy New Year.

Yvonne Sheppard

Friday 29th January 7.30pm The Parish Room

Answer a few questions Right or wrong you will still have a hot Pasty and Soup

Bring your own drink Glasses will be provided Join your friends

### Come and enjoy the fun Tickets are only £4

Available from Geof Dykes 810123 Colin Jackson 810292 In aid of funds for the Parish Room

### December Solution

A number of you enjoyed December in the US. Naturally you all chose a different route (pronounced routel). Everyone claimed to have journeyed at breakneck speed but you all arrived back safely. I don't think there is any need to list the states visited but I would comment that all itineraries were disjointed and required much hopping about - a nightmare for Fare your yashmak slip! Dealst

Full marks to The Furry Boys whose entry was painstakingly colour coded; to the Matchman whose Christmas wishes were much appreciated; to Yog-Sothoth who has done his best to save the rain forests by using the smallest 'entry form' every month and also to the lovely Sue Brickay whose warm Christmas Greetings almost lit the Christmas Pudding!

Well done everyone, including the Beginners who failed to begin again this month and Cleriwho who would be a definite contender if he or she could muster more consistency. Thank you all for taking part. In an effort to increase the number of competitors, a Loyalty Card is being considered under which bonus points would be awarded for introducing a new entrant. A further announcement will be made when the committee is ready.

### Please let me know how you wish to claim your prize bearing in mind you must not let

Here we go again! Fill in the missing letters of the following words, all of which have a mineral connection.

January

So the Lovely Sue, only by dint of being

right more often, has triumphed. She, if

she is a she, has won a bottle of wine.

- O - N - L - N - E

-T-L-C-I-E

Final standings for 1998 are:

33

32

24

23

11

The Lovely Sue Brickay

The Furry Boys

The Beginners

Yog-Sothoth

Matchman

Cleriwho

- O - R - A - I - E

-H-S-H-R-S

- I - E - T - N -

- E - E - R - T -

- O - A - S - U -

-1 - C - B - E - D -- E - P - N - I - E

- A - G - N - S -

This puzzle is not expected to beat the 'big six'. It has been claimed at Christmas Drinks parties by wannabe winners that 'we do it every month but we don't submit our answer'. Prove it, I say. Don't hide your lights under the proverbial. Good Luck everyone.

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EURO SI 103

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Beware, advanced level graduates have difficulty integrating.

EURO SI 104

Feigning Knowledge.

This is a half day module giving a thorough grounding in keywords for a variety of subjects. This is a god-send for closet poseurs.

EURO SI 105

Assertive Pessimism.

How to let everyone know your glass is half empty even when it is full! SI 103 is a prerequisite.

EURO SI 106

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EURO SI 107

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EURO SI 108

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EURO SI 109

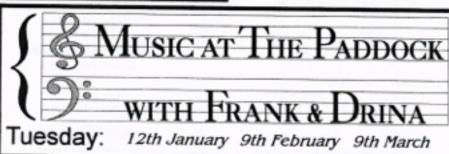
Solitude

Find out how objectionable social habits can increase your personal space.

EURO Si 110

Jumping to the wrong conclusion

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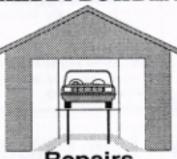
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## Mrs Kit Taylor

Kit Taylor was born on 12th January 1899. She went to Kenya with her parents when she was five and lived there from 1904 -1910 and again from 1920s to 1960s. She married Major Charles Taylor in 1927.

Of Kenya, Kit said, 'It was a wonderful country to be a child in. It was the complete fantasy land for a child, a wonderful place in which to live and grow up. I went to Kenya when I was five and loved it so thoroughly that when I left at the age of 11 I swore to myself that I would go back and I did!.

My father was the first town clerk of Nairobi. He had fought in the Boer War and his health was so undermined when he returned to England that he was told to winter abroad. He was a schoolmaster before he was a soldier so he got a job in Johannesburg. He got my mother and me to join him there. Johannesburg after the Boer War was not a very nice place. My parents decided to go to see British East Africa for themselves. They had no money but they parked me with friends for six months and set off."

it was a long journey. They had to travel by rail to the coast, take a ship to Mombasa and then travel by rail again into what is now Kenya. It was a gruelling journey which Kit was later to make herself.

They camped in their tents in the middle of what is now Nairobi but what was then just a railway stop. When I joined them I went to school in the Railway Institute and the railway people took precedence over everybody else. It was a 600-mile long railway and four miles on each side of the track was set aside for farmers from England to try to see if anything would grow. It also ran between warring tribes. My mother and father lived in a tent quite contentedly. My mother felt positively uplifted when she eventually got china cups instead of tin ones. As Nairobi grew, the elders thought. The man she was later to marry had been it was time they had a town clerk. It had gassed near the end of the war. new houses but the roads, for example, were still full of potholes. They became so bad that one farmer who couldn't get the Public Works Department to improve the roads, came into town at night with a cart load of banana plants and planted one in every pothole! When people went to their offices in the morning, there was a banana plant in each pothole. My father said he didn't know anything about being a town clerk but I'm told he was a very good one. There was a Sanderson Road named after him in Nairobi.

By the 1920s Kit had been back in England since 1910. She was desperate to return to Kenya. Her enthusiasm was fuelled by a chance encounter in London where she trained to be a nurse.

'I had finished my training. A friend of my as a very young man to start a coffee farm. father's came to see us but father had flu so. He came to lunch with my great uncle who I was asked to entertain him. This old friend was a coffee farmer to ask for advice. I had just bought a place in Kenya and showed remember quite distinctly this young man me photographs of his new property. It coming up the verandah steps. I would wasn't until after we were married that I have been very surprised if somebody had found out that the house I was being shown told me that he was to be my future husband. was Charles' house, which had been bought. After we were married I was taken hunting. by this old friend of my father's."

Her opportunity came when her sister married at Christmas 1924. She was to go to Kenya to look after some young children at a remote farm but Kit's grandfather said he couldn't spare her. Kit volunteered, saying she'd already applied for jobs in Kenya. Her elders said there was no work in Kenya and advised her to go to south Africa and work her way to Kenya. Kit said she would try it.

By now she had joined the Royal British also the chairman of the Coffee Marketing Legion and during the early 1920s she was Board and the East African Power and to be found selling poppies outside Harrods. In 1921 Kit was at the unveiling of the Cenotaph and the dedication of the tomb of the Unknown Warrior at Westminster Kit was delighted to be back in Africa, Abbey.

There was a long, long queue coming out of the mist with mounted policemen seeing that everybody was alright. There are people who can join a queue and without being seen, can worm their way to the front. When we were half way, a little urchin with red hair, clutching a bunch of red roses, emerged from the mist to get into the queue. I think the policeman, deliberately reined his horse around and went to the front of the queue. We pulled the boy between us. His father had been killed in the war. By the time we got to the Cenotaph it was covered with poppies and flags. It was 11.30pm by the time we had gone up Northumberland Avenue and Whitehall and into the Abbey to see the grave of the Unknown Warrior. The queue, had it been single-file, would have stretched from London to Edinburgh. It was an amazing thing to be part of."

'He was gassed on 30th September 1918. He was a gunner and his battery had been pulled back for rest. They weren't expecting anything. There was no warning. Suddenly a stray shell came over and they were all gassed. My husband was blind for nearly four days and his lungs were damaged for the rest of his life."

Mounted Rifles at the outbreak of war but moved to Wiltshire to be near her daughter. when the regiment was split up to re-inforce Her address is: incoming troops, he went to Europe.

Kit had already unwittingly met him twice.

'I had been staying with my great uncle on his farm. Charles had come out to Kenya

We came down a little river. My husband reminded me that years ago I had seen a pony stuck there with a young man trying to get it out. He was the young man and I didn't think he had remembered me at all!"

Her husband had started coffee farming in 1909 but re-currency in Kenya after the Great War bankrupted many farmers. It took the Taylors until the outbreak of World War II to recover financially. In 1922 her husband had to sell his coffee farm. He became an agent for 18 farms and was Light Company. Kit married Charles Taylor in 1927, in Africa.

having got over her initial disappointment of being trapped in South Africa unable to get a job in her beloved Kenya. In the end she had a chance offer to return to Kenya just as she had been given a prestigious job. She promptly found somebody else and pushed them forward to take her place.

Trains used to have lamplighters who walked along the roof of the carriages lighting the lamps. We children would use the rungs put there for the lamplighter to climb onto the roof. When I returned to Africa at the age of 26 there were no rungs to climb and I was unable to clamber up to enjoy the view as I had years before."

During the Second World War Kit ran a kitchen for troops in transit through Nairobi. She also helped to look after Italian prisoners of war and entertained visiting soldiers, of all ranks, at the family home. She and Charles had kept up their work for the Royal British Legion and attended the Annual Remembrance events in Nairobi where Charles paraded with fellow old soldiers. Her husband's failing health forced them to return to England in the early 1960s where they settled in Ringmore. Charles Taylor died in 1968, aged 81, from leukaemia. Kit returned to Kenya on three occasions after her husband's death.

She continued collecting for the RBL. Her last Appeal was 1989 after which failing Charles Taylor had joined the East African health forced her to 'retire'. In 1995 she

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