

Collingbourne Ducis - Everleigh - Collingbourne Kingston

COURIER

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THE COURIER

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The deadline for May copy is 6.30 pm on 18th April 2019.

COLLINGBOURNE KINGSTON PARISH COUNCIL

Stephen Matanle, Chairman, writes:



We have had to change the Village

Maintenance Day to 13th April. Hopefully

that will still work for many of you; please can we gather at the Village Hall at 10 am. The principal target for the Day will be to clear the pavements running towards Ducis and Aughton. They both need to be widened by clearing back the growth. If you are able to bring any implements that you think will help, please do so. Strimmers, edge-cutters, spades will all be very useful. We will be finishing at noon in good time to repair to the Barleycorn for a pint!

The area at the top of King Hill has most recently hit the headlines following the accident that involved a car ploughing through it and destroying everything in its path, including the Coronation Monument. That has been successfully replaced, and the area is somewhat less overgrown than it was. However, I can't help thinking that there is an opportunity there to create more of a feature for the Parish. I would be interested to hear from the W.I. and the Gardening Club in particular if they agree with me and would like to get involved in a project to fill the area with plants and anything else that would be appropriate.

It is pleasing to see that the work that we had been promised to widen the pavement under the Church has now been done. It may not seem like much but the pavement is now much safer for pedestrians.

We can now look forward to the two other measures we have been working on with Wiltshire Council: the re-mapping of the Brunton Roundabout and the installation of Gates at each end of the Parish. We have made meaningful financial contributions to both of these. The monies that was raised at the 2018 Fete to go towards the cost of the Gates, was sufficient to cover the contribution that we had to make. Thank you again to all those who attended the fete and thereby made possible this part of the overall Traffic Calming Plan for the Parish. The

Gates and the re-mapping are scheduled to take place towards the end of April/early May.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on the 9th April 2019 at 7.30 pm in the Ruth Fisher Room.

All members of the Parish are welcome to attend this meeting.

THE VIEW FROM EVERLEIGH

Denis Bottomley (01264 852731) writes:

Our village Litter Pick took place on Saturday 2nd March. Many thanks go to the eleven volunteers who took part and collected eighteen bags of rubbish.



Everleigh is certainly looking a lot cleaner as a result.

Our next gathering will be a village work party on Saturday 13th April from 9.30 am until lunchtime to conduct general maintenance and tidying up at the playground; please bring paint brushes and strimmers if you have them. We are very proud of our playground which remains a key village asset developed over many years, so let's look after it.

The St Andrew's Church Fete takes place this year on Saturday 11th May 12 pm – 4.30 pm on the Ducis Village Hall recreation ground. Everleigh has been invited to participate in fun games activities with Ducis and Kingston folk, which will all be informal, nothing serious, and totally flexible numbers and ages. Events could include egg and spoon and obstacle races, etc. If anybody wishes to co-ordinate or participate in a Team Everleigh for what promises to be a really good community event with our neighbours from the Collingbournes, then please get in touch (my contact details are above).

Then, on Sunday 19th May, we will be Walking the Parish Boundary which has been held previously in 2015 and 2017 and is an enjoyable way to promote both community spirit and fitness. We will assemble at 9 am at the V Tank Crossing/Weatherhill Firs, situated 1km south of The

Crown on the Netheravon Rd, and then conduct a leisurely eight-plus mile hike around most of our scenic parish boundary, to finish at about 1 pm. This is a great event – not to be missed.

Last January, following concerns raised by several parishioners, we submitted a proposal to Wilts Council to reduce the speed limit on the A342 and Marlborough Road from 50 to 40 mph. Justification is based on the density of housing and high number of bends, junctions and access points, with limited street lighting and pavements. Wilts Council have agreed to conduct a speed limit review which should be completed by the Autumn this year. The cost of this review is £2,500, of which the Parish Council will be contributing 25% (£625).

Sadly, Tim Symonds resigned from the Parish Council last month. Tim has contributed a great deal over many years and his effort and enthusiasm has been much appreciated. In particular, it was his initiative to reconfigure the playground to a single community hub. He has been a valued member of the team. Consequently, there is now a vacancy on the Parish Council. No special skills are required, just a willingness to represent and promote the interests of the village. Interested volunteers are asked to contact Phil Gill, the Parish Clerk: **01264 398534**; e-mail **philip.gill101@ntlworld.com**.

Finally, the next Parish Council meeting will take place on Tuesday 7th May at 7 pm at the Collingbourne Primary School. There will be two sessions: the Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual meeting of the Parish Council. Everyone is welcome to attend. The minutes of our last meeting are available on village noticeboards and the Everleigh website at **www.everleigh.org**

MOBILE LIBRARY SERVICE

Information about the mobile library service is available online at **<http://services.wiltshire.gov.uk/MobileLibrary/>**

COLLINGBOURNE DUCIS PARISH COUNCIL

Peter Knowlson (01264 850812) Chairman writes:

Electoral Review - As some of you may be aware, Wiltshire County Council's electoral boundaries are being reviewed and amended. Local people and organisations have the opportunity to comment on the draft recommendations for the new division boundaries across Wiltshire Council which will be changing from 2021. In Collingbourne we will be falling under the newly named boundary 'Ludgershall North & Rural'



You can submit any comments to the Local Government Boundary Commission by viewing further details on their webpage:

<https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/node/14518> This stage of the consultation closes on 15th April 2019.

Tidworth Area Rights of Way Improvement Community Project -

Following a request from the Clerk of Netheravon and Fittleton Parish Councils, Nick Cowen (Rights of Way Officer for South Wiltshire) gave a briefing at the Nov 18 meeting of the Tidworth Area Board. In this he outlined the experience of a successful community project in SW Wiltshire and following a brief discussion there was clear enthusiasm for a similar project in the Tidworth Area. Following the meeting the three Board Members agreed that Cllr Ian Blair-Pilling would sponsor a Councillor led project within the Tidworth Area, and two further separate meetings have been held with Rights of Way officers and Men's Shed leaders in which there was clear enthusiasm for the envisaged project.

Aim: To improve the access and usage of the Rights of Way in the Community Area by developing, and utilising community resources in a collaborative manner, that will offer health and social benefit to the participating groups and communities.

Objectives and Anticipated Benefits: Improved Rights of Way with better access and usage. Increased usage particularly by groups and individuals not previously able or interested. Increased physical activity with health benefits. Greater awareness and community ownership and responsibility for our rights of way and environment. New opportunities for intergenerational and other collaboration with accompanying transfer of knowledge and skills.

It is hoped that there will be participation from many groups such as Tidworth Area Board, WC Rights of Way staff, Town and Parish Councils, User Groups (Walking, Cycling, Equestrian ...), Land Owners (Private, Commercial and Government particularly MOD), Youth Groups, Schools, Ludgershall and Tidworth Men's Shed, Tidworth, Bulford and Netheravon Garrison.

On the 15th May there will be a Starter Workshop which will be held at Collingbourne Ducis Village Hall. There will be further information on this which will be posted on the Collingbourne Ducis website, so please come along and see what it is all about.

Outdoor Gym Equipment Project - Following an update from Cllr Hartley, I am pleased to say that he has been in contact with several companies and updated the Parish Council at the meeting in March with further details and the preferred options. Over the next four weeks, final confirmation will be made on the equipment, siting location at the rec, costs etc. We are hopeful that the equipment will be in situ by the summer.

Village Spring Clean - We will be holding our Village Spring Clean event this year on Saturday 6th April. The meeting place will be at Collingbourne Ducis Village Hall and the event will be between 9 am and 12 pm, refreshments will also be provided. We will have a supply

OUR LINK COORDINATOR'S NUMBER IS CD 850807

Please try to give them at least 48 hours' notice to find a volunteer

of hi-vis vests, litter pickers, gloves, black sacks etc. Look out for the posters around the village soon.

Cllr Millard - Finally I would like to take the opportunity to say a big thank you to Ken Millard who has now stepped down from the Parish Council. Ken had been a councillor for two years and in that time has been a dedicated member of the team and his efforts will be missed.

The next meeting of the parish council will be at Collingbourne Ducis Village Hall and is due to take place at 7 pm on Thursday 9th May following the Annual Parish Meeting. All members of the parish are welcome to attend.

COLLINGBOURNE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Dan Crossman, Headteacher, writes:

It's been a typically jam-packed first few of term at Collingbourne School!

I enjoyed taking the hockey team to Wellington Academy to compete in the area tournament. It was a well-attended event with fourteen teams taking part. The team played brilliantly! Tom H was our leading goal scorer whilst Connor D displayed some amazing midfield skills and Sarah H terrified everyone with some 'robust' tackling. The team won three of their games, drew two and lost only one... a great performance!

Another enjoyable event has been 'World Book Day'. The children (and staff) created some marvellous costumes and it was great to hear the children recommending their favourite books to each other throughout the day. The day was themed around William Shakespeare and our children were highly impressive with their knowledge of the Bard's plays and books.

We are lucky to have so many volunteers in school now to help with a 'Reading buddies' programme. That said, there's always room for more



so if you'd like to become more involved in our school please contact Mrs May in the school office **01264 850346**

1ST COLLINGBOURNE AIR SCOUTS

Martin Stichbury, Akela, writes:

We are having an exciting and adventurous time at Cubs.



We meet on a Monday night at Collingbourne Kingston village hall at 6.30 pm.

We have been looking at communication this term. The Cubs have been sending messages in Morse code, using radios, and listening to instructions. We did find time to make pancakes and eat them. I'm sure the hair on the back of their hands will grow back shortly, but at least they know how to light a stove now....

We are looking at producing a code of conduct. We have got the Cubs to write out what they want to do and what they want to achieve. Next is to present it in a manner that they will remember, and get them to sign or fingerprint it.

We are hoping to join up with another Scout group in Wiltshire to go on a camp in the near future, more on that another time.

We have capacity for more Cubs (and Beavers) and are looking to grow. We still need people to help with the Scout Group, and anybody who has a couple of hours a month can help. So, shake off that winter apathy, spring is here and it's time to support your local Scout group.

We have a closed private group on Facebook, you can find us and leave a message, then we can get back to you.

Our Community Support Officers can be contacted on 101

WILTSHIRE BOBBY VAN TRUST

Terri Hills informs us:

The Wiltshire Bobby Van Trust

The Wiltshire
Bobby Van Trust



has been securing the homes of elderly and vulnerable people in Wiltshire for over twenty years and has provided information to over 1,200 community groups.

The Trust's original aim was to secure the homes of elderly and disabled people who had become, or were at risk of becoming victims of house crime or domestic abuse. They offered practical help and advice on home safety by undertaking a full home security assessment before fitting appropriate security hardware.

The Trust has since increased its remit to meet the changing needs of our community and where appropriate conducting a full fire risk assessment and/or installing smoke detectors and carbon monoxide monitors where necessary.

The latest 'Stay Safe Online' initiative meets the current challenges of living in the digital community. Cyber-crime is the Nation's fastest growing crime – with around one third of fraud occurring online. The Trust now has a team of seven volunteers who carry out home visits, improving awareness through education and helping to prevent computer enabled fraud.

The Trust has a dedicated and efficient team that deserves recognition for the vital service they provide. It is responsive and versatile and continues to work closely with the Police to make Wiltshire a safer place to live.

The Charity does not work in isolation but cooperates with a wide variety of other organisations, such as Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service, Victim Support and Swindon Women's Aid.

Addressing the 'fear of crime' is an ongoing challenge and the Trust provides invaluable support to vulnerable individuals and those

suffering social withdrawal in dealing with the aftermath of crime and/or domestic abuse.

Home visits by volunteers are undertaken in the strictest confidence.

This service is free to all over 60's or 18+ with a registered disability and we are fortunate to have such a team helping us keep safe in our homes and online. If you meet the criteria and would like a home visit or group talk please call:

Home Security Service: **01380 861155**

Stay Safe Online: **01380 861191** Or visit:

www.wiltshirebobbyvan.org.uk

COLLINGBOURNE KINGSTON WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Sandra Fisher (01264 850363) writes:

At the meeting on Thursday 14th March the President, Wendy Brown, welcomed twenty-one members and opened the ordinary meeting, at which the minutes of the previous meeting were signed as being correct and forthcoming events were discussed. Among the many items listed celebrating the County WI Centenary was the intention to create 100 bags of useful products for homeless women. The president asked the members to think about the two resolution topics for this year.



Wendy then opened the AGM. A report for the past year was read by the Secretary, Lesley Nichols, and Wendy read the President's report. This was followed by the Financial report from the Treasurer, Karen Preece.

The Committee was re-elected en bloc and two further members, Laura and Claire were co-opted onto the Committee. The AGM then closed. A further instalment of the WI play 'Raising Agents' was performed by Jane Crook with more willing members playing the amusing characters.

The Speaker for the evening, Mr Terry Greenwood, was then introduced to talk about 'The Memoirs of an ex-Swiss Fireman'. Terry had lived and worked in Switzerland from 1973 to 2000 and from 1985 until 1996 he was a fireman in a village. He told us about the highly regulated society in Switzerland in those days. Moving from one canton (Swiss district) to another was like moving to another country, and every incident ended with cheese and white wine. His anecdotes were amusing and brought to life by actions, helped by the fact that he was wearing his official fireman's overalls.

Terry was warmly thanked for an enjoyable talk and the evening concluded with a raffle and delicious refreshments.

Correction re last month's report, and an apology to Mr Peter de Savary, who never owned or lived in Avebury Manor. The owner at that time was Mr Kenneth King.

Next meeting: 11th April

Speaker: Laura Trick on 'Becoming my Childhood Dream before thirty'

Tea Hostesses: N. Binge and M. Cross

Hostess: L. Nicholls

Raffle Prize: M. Clifton

Group Meeting: April 24th at Shalbourne.

Visitors and new members are always welcome. Second Thursday of the month in Kingston Village Hall at 7.30 pm, £4 donation per visit.

COLLINGBOURNE DUCIS VILLAGE HALL DRAW

Jane Crook (01264 850436) writes:

The March winners of Collingbourne Ducis village hall draw were

£50 Carol Harman 218

£10 Clive Heathcote 76

£25 Alan Wilkins 51

£5 Mary Doherty 222

CRICKETING COMMENT

David Malley writes:

Collingbourne Cricket Club held their annual Quiz Night in the Ducis Village Hall on 16th March. The event, which was to raise money to replace a sight screen and to refurbish the practice net facility, was attended by nearly one hundred of the finest minds from the local area. Questions had been set by club chairman, John Baxter and ranged from details of arts and artists, to Irish music, in recognition of St Patrick's Day, which was the next day. Congratulations to the winning team 'Overburden' who took home the quiz night trophy. The Club is really grateful to all the volunteers on the night for their efforts in putting the quiz on and especially to everyone who attended and helped raise the money that will allow the club to complete a couple of it's current major projects.



This was the first of the social events to be held by the Cricket Club for 2019. Other events in the pipeline are breast/prostate cancer fund-raising weekend (18th/19th May) and the Beer Festival (29th June).

As you could probably imagine, as a cricket club we get through a fair amount of cake through the summer. So, if you're a keen baker and would like to make a cake for our hungry players and spectators then please do get in touch. All offerings would be greatly appreciated!

Currently Collingbourne Cricket Club is going through a rapid expansion, we have two adult teams, a growing women's section and flourishing junior section. The new season will shortly be upon us and the club is always welcoming to players of any age and ability. Our pre-season indoor net sessions at Tidworth Leisure Centre are planned for the mornings of 7th and 14th April, so feel free to pop along.

Further details on all of the above, including contact information, can be found on our web site www.collingbournecricketclub.co.uk

THEFILMPLACE – YOUR COMMUNITY CINEMA

Jim and Tracy Plenderleith write:

Showing at THEFILMPLACE on Friday
3rd May is the musical fantasy MARY



POPPINS RETURNS. Decades after her original visit, the enchanting nanny returns to help the Banks siblings through a difficult time in their lives. With her unique magical skills, and the aid of her friend Jack, Mary Poppins helps the family rediscover the joy and laughter missing in their lives. This delightful sequel to the 1964 film stars Emily Blunt as the eponymous character with Dick Van Dyke, Julie Walters, Ben Wishaw, Colin Firth and Meryl Streep in supporting roles.

Doors open at THEFILMPLACE, Collingbourne Ducis Village Hall at 7.00pm for pre-film drinks and refreshments; the film show starts at 7.30pm. Tickets are £6 available now from Collingbourne Ducis village shop or by telephoning Jim Plenderleith (CD) **01264 852734**, Robert East (Everleigh) **01264 850449** or James Robinson (CK) **01264 850858**. Tickets will also be available on the door, if not previously sold out.

It is through the community's excellent support that we can continue to keep THEFILMPLACE going. It is your monthly film show. Please keep giving us your feedback personally or by email to the following:
thefilmplacecd@gmail.com

BURBAGE & DISTRICT MODEL RAILWAY CLUB (BDMRC)

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday 8th April, starting at 7 pm.
Contact Sonny Hamid on **01672 811933** for details.

SPTA

The SPTA newsletter can be found at the following web address:

www.gov.uk/government/publications/salisbury-plain-training-area-spta-newsletter

OUR OIL BEETLES NEED YOU!

Alexandra Gumm, (07966 700 457), writes:

As an avid gardener I welcome the spring with open arms but in recent years this has become not just about the appearance of those first snowdrops or the brightly coloured heads of crocus breaking through my largely ignored overwintering lawn, but for that joyful moment I see a certain large black and blue beetle wandering across our steps to a new succulent section of grass, usually also searching out the tastiest of our crocus, so these never last very long!

This charismatic and instantly recognisable insect is the Black, or sometimes Violet, Oil Beetle (*Meloe proscarabaeus*)

I first noticed these wonderful beetles, which I had never seen the likes of before, in our front lawn over seven years ago and this has led to an interest not only in this species but all the incredible insects



we take so much for granted in our gardens and countryside including bees, wasps, hoverflies, beetles, moths, spiders.... and so, the list goes on!

Now, I am by no means an expert, but having seen these beetles in various areas of Collingbourne Ducis I wanted to share a little info with you about these amazing creatures and hope that this will not only help to answer your own questions about what these creatures are doing wandering along the village footpaths but also to help those of you who may like to do more in support of our local insect species during this time when like most insect populations of the world they are under threat. In fact, over the last 100 years it is thought half of the UK's eight native species of oil beetle have disappeared, largely due to changes in

countryside management, with the largest habitat losses being seen in the South-East. Another contributing factor in the oil beetles decline is the drastic decline in our solitary bee populations, on which they rely. In this respect, oil beetles can act as an early warning system that habitat quality may be declining in an area.

So, what are they, where are they and what do they look like?

If you take a walk about the village on a sunny spring day there is a chance you may notice a large black beetle crossing your path. I've seen them described as looking like 'Portly gentlemen who've outgrown their dinner-jackets' where their wing-cases are so much shorter than their bulbous abdomen!

They are primarily black but many have a wonderful blue/purple metallic sheen of colour to the legs and antennae.

Oil beetles can grow up to 3 cm long and get their name from a toxic oily substance they release from their leg joints to deter predators, so please ensure you wash your hands if you happen to touch one!

You will usually encounter oil beetles from March to June when there is plenty of food available and the solitary bees, they rely on are also active.

They thrive in wildflower grasslands but can be seen on short turf on downs and commons as well as along paths, where unfortunately they can be easily trodden upon. They are particularly fond of south facing, well drained soils with a succession of nectar sources through the spring and early summer, which explains why our own garden is such a popular spot.

One of the things that makes the oil beetle so unusual is their life cycle, being a nest parasite of solitary mining bees.

The female oil beetle will wander, looking for suitable ground to burrow in and create a nest where she lays hundreds of eggs. Once

these eggs hatch the larva, known as triungulin, climb up nearby flowers and wait for a passing solitary bee. While the bee goes about its business some lucky larva will hitch a ride on the bee and using their hooked feet, hold on until the bee returns to its nest. Here the larva will feed on the bees' eggs as well as pollen and nectar stores before it pupates, ready to emerge in the spring as an adult oil beetle and begin the somewhat gruesome but fascinating life cycle again.

What you can do to help:

The survival of our oil beetles is naturally intertwined with that of the solitary bee so in order to help one we must also look to help the other.

Both solitary bees and oil beetles need rich food sources through Spring and Early Summer. I've found Crocus, Muscari (grape hyacinth) and our good old friend the dandelion are particularly popular but each species of solitary bee will have their own preference.

Both species are ground dwelling and as such your treatment of that ground is very important. Where possible leave any mowing until after beetles' numbers have declined. Miner bees are considered to be non-aggressive so you are still able to mow and they will disperse momentarily, but I usually leave mowing until as late as possible to avoid disturbing young, freshly emerging bees.

Ensure you have plenty of pollen and nectar rich flowers from early spring to summer and if possible, maybe give over an area of garden to wildflowers.

Do not use chemicals on your garden, even on the 'weeds' and ensure any plants you buy have not been treated with pesticides.

And, most importantly...

Leave them be, allow nature to do what nature does best and enjoy sitting back and marvelling at this amazing little ecosystem going on, on your doorstep!

For more information on oil beetles including a very useful identification guide and info on the oil beetle species recovery programme and survey you may like to look at the Buglife website: www.buglife.org.uk

MORE OF MIKLE

Basil Frost (01264 850593) writes:

Laurence McGowan in his wonderful tribute to the late Mikle Coker omitted one important detail about Mikle - his love of cats and especially his Siamese, Sophie and Boris. I appreciate that they were not Siamese having been often corrected. That was Mikle in that he would correct you without offending you. These cats were his life and I am sure he shared many thoughts with them. He once shocked a meeting by calling me Boris and needless to say, being Mikle, it was used thereafter.

R.I.P. Mikle

CANCER RESEARCH UK – PROGRAMME OF EVENTS FOR THE YEAR

Val Patrick and Pat Lincoln write:

COLLINGBOURNE KINGSTON SPRING FAIR will be on Saturday 4th May from 10 am until 1 pm, at Collingbourne Kingston Village Hall.



RAMSBURY SILVER BAND will be performing during the evening of Friday 12th July at the Bouverie Hall in Pewsey.

THE EVER-POPULAR CURRY LUNCH AT THE GOA BALTI IN EVERLEIGH, will be on Sunday 13th October from 12 midday.

OUR CHRISTMAS FAIR will take place on Saturday 9th November at the Bouverie Hall in Pewsey.

THE LINK COMMITTEE – A THANK YOU!

Ken Wright writes:

Dear Readers

It is now just on twelve months since I was admitted to Salisbury District Hospital and was moved on to Queen Alexander Hospital, Cosham, where I stayed for five weeks. Having been discharged it was not long before I was back in QAH for a further two weeks. Then followed a series of further admissions to SDH and one to Kimberley Lodge West for Rest and Recuperation. My latest admission was on 23rd December to SDH again – thereby missing Christmas and our 52nd Wedding Anniversary.

During all of that time the Link Committee never failed to provide transport for Meg to visit me, take both of us on medical appointments and some shopping jaunts for Meg who is no longer driving. The drivers were always on time, friendly and very helpful. It is an absolutely splendid service that is provided. Without it both Meg and I would have been very isolated.

Hopefully admissions will be curtailed from now on although I will continue to have medical appointments.

We both would like to register our appreciation to the Link Committee and to the many residents of our villages who also helped out.

RURAL ARTS TOURING

Jane Crook (01264 850436) writes:

Book your tickets now to see Rachel Newton, singer and harpist and winner of the BBC Radio 2 Folk Musician of the year 2017. She will be performing at Collingbourne Kingston Village Hall on Friday May 10th at 7.30 pm. Tickets and further information from Jane Crook, **01264 850436**. Tickets are £10 an adult and £5 for a child.

Bringing great musicians to village halls.



CATS PROTECTION

Martin Bevan writes:

Timmy, the puss from last month, has since been rehomed. He joined another one of our rescue cats who had been adopted previously.



Fluffy, despite her name, is actually not fluffy at all. She is seven years old and would need to be the only cat in the household but can live with dogs. She would also be better suited to a home with older children.

We have the Rotations charity shop in Whitchurch for two weeks starting from Friday 12th April. This is a major part of our fundraising so please pop in. It is also the time of year for a reminder about neutering your cats. We can help with the cost, meaning you need only pay as little as £10, please do get in touch for more information.

Did you know that a cat's nose pad is ridged with a unique pattern, just like the fingerprint of a human?

Homing Enquiries **0345 260 1501** or **andover.cats.org.uk**

Fund-raising and volunteers **07733 242196** or email
coordinator@andover.cats.org.uk

Items for resale **01256 892773**

COLLINGBOURNES AND EVERLEIGH GARDENING CLUB

Pam Haverson (01264 850609) writes

At our February meeting Simon Tucker, a member of the British Trust for Ornithology, talked about Wildlife in the Garden, mainly focussing on birds, as he is a qualified bird ringer and recorder. His enthusiasm for his subject was infectious and members asked questions about bird numbers and habitat.

In April we will be having a trip to Cricklade to see the Fritillaries in flower.

LETTER FROM A CONCERNED DUCIS VILLAGER

(Name and address supplied)

PLEASE, PLEASE pick up your dog's mess - it is particularly bad up Church Street and on the path by the Bourne. How can you ignore what your dog has just done if they are on a lead?

There are on the spot fines of up to £80, known as fixed penalty notices. If a person refuses to pay, they can be taken to the local Magistrates Court for dog fouling offences and fined up to £1,000.

Please, please think of other people, especially children who step in the mess.

POSTMAN TO LEAVE

Richard Horsell, delivery postman for Collingbourne Ducis, writes:



I would like to inform everyone that I will be retiring at the end of March 2019. I have worked with the Post Office/Royal Mail for over forty-four years and have recently decided to take early voluntary retirement.

My career with the Royal Mail began when I left school in July 1974 and started work as a counter clerk at Marlborough Post Office where I remained until October 1978. I then transferred to Swindon where I carried out many administration roles. In April 2007 I became a Postman and most of the time delivered to addresses in Collingbourne Ducis.

I have really enjoyed my time in the Collingbournes and would like to thank all my customers for being so friendly and I wish them good health and happiness.

BURBAGE & DISTRICT VIDEO & CAMERA CLUB (BDVCC)

The next session will take place on Wednesday 17th April, 7.30 pm, at the British Legion Hall, Burbage.

COLLINGBOURNE BEERFEST UPDATE

David Malley writes:



Ticket news: The organisers of

Collingbourne Beerfest are pleased to

announce that tickets for the event will go on sale in the first week of

May. A selection of Wiltshire real ales, local ciders and draft lagers

alongside the popular gin and fizz bar will keep everyone hydrated,

and the Beerfest BBQ will be fired up once again – and watch out for a

few surprises on the food menu too! Live music played an important

part last year, and Beerfest 2019 will be no different, with two bands

already booked to keep us all dancing well into the evening.

Tickets will be £10 per person and includes entry to the event, a

commemorative half pint glass and a complimentary drink token. Due

to the size of the venue and the nature of the event, Collingbourne

Beerfest has a strict maximum number of tickets available; so, in an

effort to allow as many of our local community as possible to attend, the

organisers have once again decided to release the tickets to individuals

with local connections that meet one of the following criteria:

- live in the villages of Collingbourne Ducis, Collingbourne Kingston or Everleigh

- be the parent/guardian of a child at Collingbourne Primary School

- be an active member of Collingbourne Cricket Club

- work regularly in the Collingbournes or Everleigh and/or contribute to local groups/clubs

There will be two ways to secure your tickets - via email, or in person at

one of our ticket office sessions at the village hall. Full details will be

included in next month's Courier and on our website and Facebook

pages closer to the time.

Our sponsorship packages proved hugely successful last year, so if your

company would like to get involved then do please get in touch. Email

sponsors@collingbournebeerfest.co.uk, and we'll make sure that your company has its name on one of the barrels at Beerfest 2019!

The money raised on the day will once again help support local groups, organisations and good causes. If you'd like to keep up to date with the latest developments then please find us on Facebook or visit www.collingbournebeerfest.co.uk

ST ANDREW'S CHURCH FÊTE

Tish Leigh (01264 850867) writes

St Andrew's Annual Church Fête is being planned for Saturday 11th May, 12 noon until 4.30 pm, at the village hall. As you will see from the enclosed flyer, we will be having all the usual, much loved stalls. However, we are also planning to have a BBQ and hot dog stall; a Pimm's, beer and cider tent and a friendly, fun-filled Tri-Village Tournament! The events will include parent and child egg and spoon race, parent and child three-legged race, dash & splash races (how much beer / lemonade will be left in the pint mug by the finish line?), a tug of war, boules, gladiator competitions and tomahawk throwing! Each village will have its own colours – blue for Ducis, red for Kingston and green for Everleigh. If it rains (it won't!) there will be a Tri-Village Quiz held in the village hall instead. There will be a cup for the winning team but the competition will all be in the spirit of good sporting fun and enjoyment! If you would like to be part of your village team, please get in touch with me. If you have a suitable stall that you would like to run, there will be a limited number of pitches indoors and outdoors for an agreed fee. Again, please get in touch with me, if you would like more details. All proceeds from the fête will go to St Andrew's Church building fund for the urgent repairs to the roof and to the church tower. Please come support us and help make this our best church fête ever.



ARMADA HOUSE

Peter Olliver writes:

My daughter Kim, is currently building her house on the plot next door to my house and called it Armada House. This is because of our Spanish Ancestry from the times of the Spanish Armada which she also studied at Collingbourne C of E primary school.



The weather was very bad when the Spanish Armada in 1588 sailed up the English Channel and some galleons were shipwrecked along the British Coastline. My ancestors were shipwrecked off the Sussex coast. In those days they had no choice but to settle down where they were shipwrecked. At this time farm workers were scarce in this area and those shipwrecked were welcomed by local farmers.

In my younger days I was very interested in galleons and have drawings and paintings of them hanging up in the house. One of these, Kim is hoping to get her brother, Viktor, to produce a 3D printed image for her signage of her house.

FREDERICK HUGHES MM

Patti Marsh writes:

My uncle Fred was born in Ludgershall and except for the time he was in the army, always lived in Wiltshire. Several years ago, after a Sunday lunch, Fred started to talk about his war-time memories. He was then in his mid-eighties and until that time he hadn't spoken much of his personal history so we knew very little about his early life.

We suggested that Fred should start recording his memories otherwise they would be lost forever. He bought a small electric typewriter, taught himself to type (not an easy task due to his painful arthritis) and during the cold winter months, when he couldn't go out walking, produced his memoirs.

Fred was a very modest man and was reluctant to let people read his notes; he said 'Why would anyone be interested?' After he died last October aged ninety-nine, my family asked to see his papers, so I collated and edited them. They were originally intended as a family record of Fred's life during the 1940's but several people have asked to read them.

This is Fred's story but many of our parents and grandparents lived through the war years and although they may have spoken about their memories they rarely wrote them down, which is a great pity.

The Beginning of the War

In May 1939 at seventeen and a half years old, I joined the Territorial Army in Ludgershall along with other lads from Ludgershall, Tidworth, Everleigh and the Collingbournes. In July 1939 I was 18 years old and was waiting to be called up to do my two years conscription in the army. However, in September 1939 war was declared and we heard over the wireless the order that all TA personnel were to report to their TA Centres.



At Ludgershall we were a platoon of approximately 36 men of the Hampshire Regiment, later to be known as the Royal Hampshire Regiment. We were transported by a double-decker bus to Romsey and were billeted in the Crossfield Hall. We were issued with three blankets and slept on the wooden floor.

At first, as a platoon, we didn't have any cooks or kitchen utensils and breakfast consisted of just two hard-boiled eggs. Eventually we received

more personnel and were made up from a platoon to a company. We were moved from Crossfield Hall to what was the Scouts Hall, near the Abbey. I remember that Sundays were taken up by church parades in the Abbey.

When we became a Company, we had to have a Headquarters, which consisted of a captain and some office staff. I was made a runner and my duties were mainly answering the phone and delivering messages to the other three Hampshire companies in Romsey. Our office was in The Bell Pub, in Bell Street.

While we were in Romsey, we took turns with the other companies doing guard duties down in Southampton Docks. We were lucky, we had the New Docks - the Old Docks were considered not to be at all safe to walk around at night! Our guardhouse was in an electric generating powerhouse. At least it was warm in there and we slept on the concrete floor, but you couldn't get much sleep because the floor was vibrating so much from the great generators.

One night I was walking around the great Graving Dock, which was empty at the time, and I thought, 'What am I supposed to do if a submarine comes up Southampton Water and puts a torpedo into the Graving Docks' gate?' Only a few months previously I had been a full-time civilian and our early army training had not yet prepared us for such eventualities. After each round of guard duty, we were relieved by another company of the Hampshires and then had to march back to Romsey.

After our time in Romsey we spent a while in Faversham, Kent. We were under canvas in white, round army tents, ten men to a tent, feet to the middle tent pole, and then to Pegwell Bay, a sandy shallow bay between Ramsgate and Deal. Here we were billeted in the local golf club and during the day we dug trenches and fortified the coast. Now and again we had a few hours off in the afternoon so my friend Billy

Wise, who was later to become my brother-in-law, and I would walk along the cliffs to Ramsgate where we would buy a mug of tea and beans on toast in a café, and this cost us sixpence. We then had to be back at the clubhouse before dusk for stand-to and man our trenches for two hours. *To be continued*

APRIL TEAM LETTER

Michael McHugh, Team Rector, writes:

'Remember that thou art dust and unto dust thou shalt return'

These words are used for the beginning of the period of Lent and at funerals. I smile and regret that my body will not have the old priestly privilege of being buried under the church path. In this season which leads up to the Resurrection of Jesus that is celebrated on Easter Sunday, we are called to remember that God formed us out of the earth and will return us to that same earth. In this way there is a beautiful completeness in the cycle of life.

My atoms and molecules are not just my own; they are shared throughout generations changing by 98% every year.

As with Jesus' followers, it is our memories that are the true source of our veneration of those who have gone before us. That place where we put the body is only a temporary resting place as those atoms return to the earth. Look closely in your local church graveyard, you will see that it is a myth that a grave is bought for eternity

Out of respect for the living, the law requires us to wait before re-using graves.

Out of respect for the dead, we care for the graveyards according to law displayed inside most churches. A graveyard is for all and the laws governing their use is to protect all. We need to remember with love those who have gone before us in a healthy and life-giving way.



The Christian belief is that when the person dies, they are no longer present. When Jesus said those harsh words, 'Leave the dead to bury the dead,' we need to understand that in the context of his tears at the death of Lazarus his friend. A healthy balance!

Thus, when as Rector I am asked if we can overflow into a churchyard for a funeral, my first consideration is allowing the family and friends of the dead person their opportunity to grieve as Jesus did. It is a decision made out of respect, not disrespect as has been suggested in recent papers. And yes, on occasion, we will provide refreshment to people who have often travelled great distances, out of courtesy to both the living and the memory of the dead person.

As we come closer to Easter try to join in the prayers and meditations of the season as they will allow you to understand, even if you do not share, the great Christian Hope of the Resurrection of the Dead.

May you come to your own glorious resurrection.

ST ANDREW'S CHURCH, COLLINGBOURNE DUCIS

Tish Leigh, Churchwarden, (01264 850867) writes:

Dare we hope that spring really is here? A quick look back to March; It was really lovely to see the church so full of family and friends, to help celebrate the baptism of little Indie Lee, at our family service on Sunday 17th March.



Lent began on 6th March Ash Wednesday and concludes on Holy Saturday, which is 20th April this year.

The weekly Lent lunches began on Wednesday 20th March and will take place on Wednesday 3rd and 10th April at 12 noon in St Andrew's Church. Delicious home-made soup and a roll will be on the menu. Please do come and join us; it's sociable and there is no charge, although any donations will go to a charity.

During Lent, a range of very varied events have been planned as part of the 'Come and See' initiative organised by Pewsey Deanery. If you would like to know more and to sign up for events go to

www.comeandyouwillsee.com

There will be a number and variety of events and services taking place during Holy Week, which begins on Monday 15th April. The Walk of Witness, which takes place on 19th April, Good Friday, will start at St Mary's Church, Collingbourne Kingston at 10.00 am. Taking it in turns to carry the large wooden cross, we will walk to St Andrew's Church in Collingbourne Ducis, stopping at various 'stations' on the way, to hear Bible readings reminding us of events from Jesus' passion and death. Following a short service at St Andrew's Church, there will be refreshments including hot cross buns! *Please note, this will be the opposite way around of walking the Walk of Witness, compared to the last few years!*

The family communion and celebration service on Easter Sunday, 21st April at 11 am, will be followed by the ever-popular Easter egg hunt!

St Andrew's Church Annual Church Fete will now take place on Saturday 11th May at Ducis Village Hall from 12 pm – 4.30 pm.

In last month's Courier, I reported that we now have enough money raised to go ahead with repairs to the church tower. However, acting on advice from our 'new' architect, Bruce Clark (who comes highly recommended by the church wardens of Tidcombe Church), we are now going to prioritise the repairs to the church roof, as he feels ingress of rainwater could soon become a real problem. This would obviously lead to even further expense, so we will be taking his advice and going

Addresses for the village websites:

CD: www.collingbourne-ducis.com
CK: www.collingbournekingston.org.uk
Everleigh: www.everleigh.org

ahead with these repairs asap. Our next project therefore, will now be the repairs to the church tower.

The Annual Parochial Parish Council Meeting for St Andrew's church will be taking place on Tuesday 30th April at 7.30 pm in St. Andrew's Church. Refreshments will be served from 7.00 pm. Everyone on the PCC Electoral Roll is invited to attend. If you would like to have a say in what goes on in your local church, are baptised and over 16 years of age and are not on the Church Electoral Roll, but would like to be, please collect a form from the church and return to Peter Siggers, Linden Cottage, Collingbourne Ducis before Monday 9th April. If you are on the PCC Electoral Role and would like to join the PCC – or be a Church Warden, nomination forms are available in the church. Finally, remember St Andrew's Church has its own Facebook page where you can keep up to date with events – and comment on them. The link is on our webpage or alternatively in Facebook just search for St Andrews Church, Collingbourne Ducis.

ST MARY'S CHURCH, COLLINGBOURNE KINGSTON

Charles Howard (01264 850243) and Nigel Worner-Phillips (01264 850070), Churchwardens, write:

The Bishop of Ramsbury

We were very pleased to welcome the Bishop of Ramsbury on his first visit to the parish when he led our service of Holy Communion on 10th March.



As can be seen from the list of our church services during April at the back of this Courier, Easter Sunday is on 21st April with a service of Holy Communion at Collingbourne Ducis, and the Collingbourne Choir taking part in the service. Please also note that the Walk of Witness on Good Friday will start at St Mary's, Kingston at 10.30 am and end at St Andrew's, Ducis and not the other way around as in many previous years.

The PCC is due to prepare a new Parish Electoral Roll this year, and this requires all those on the existing Roll to complete a new application form if they wish to continue. Anyone wishing to join the Roll for the first time must also complete an application form. Application must be made no later than 13th April, and the new Roll comes into force on 28th April. Application for Enrolment forms are available on the table in the church, for completion by the deadline. Any questions to Charles Howard on **01264 850243**.

ST ANDREW'S CHURCH, COLLINGBOURNE DUCIS

Services in April

Sunday 7th	Evensong at 6 pm
Sunday 14th	Holy Communion at St Mary's Church 11 am
Thursday 18th	Holy Communion Last Supper at 7.30 pm
Friday 19th	Walk of Witness Kingston to Ducis 10.30 am
Saturday 20th	Savernake Team Service of Light at St Michael's Church, Shalbourne at 7 pm
Sunday 21st	Easter Day Family Communion Celebration Service at 11 am
Sunday 28th	Holy Communion at 9 am

ST MARY'S CHURCH, COLLINGBOURNE KINGSTON

Services in April

Sunday 7th	Morning Worship 9.30 am
Sunday 14th	Holy Communion 11 am
Thursday 18th	Last Supper HC at Ducis 7 pm
Friday 19th	Walk of Witness Kingston to Ducis 10.30 am
Saturday 20th	Team Service of Light at Shalbourne 6 pm
Sunday 21st	Cluster Holy Communion at Ducis 11 am
Sunday 28th	Evensong , then Annual Parish Meetings 6 pm

Congratulations to 'Overburden' - Collingbourne Cricket Club Quiz
Winners!



*Cover Photo: Oil Beetle (Meloe proscarabaeus) in Collingbourne Ducis
courtesy of Alexandra Gunn*