

Collingbourne Ducis - Everleigh - Collingbourne Kingston

COURIER

Volume 25 No 10

Dec - Jan 2019
30p if sold



December 2018 and January 2019

THE COURIER

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THE VIEW FROM EVERLEIGH

Denis Bottomley (01264 852731), Chairman, writes:

Forthcoming Events in Everleigh:

Saturday 8th December at 5 pm –
Candlelit Village Carol Service at St
Peter's Church, Everleigh



The Everleigh Bonfire and Fireworks night took place on Saturday 3rd November at the playground and Jubilee Field with a good turnout of well over 150 including some friends from neighbouring villages. Many villagers pulled together to produce an excellent community event. Thanks go to Cllrs Jenny Jones and Eliza Hudson for synchronizing this effort.

On Sunday 11th November we linked up with our neighbours from Collingbourne Ducis and Kingston to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the end of the First World War. Turnout was high, to give thanks and to remember those who served their country during the Great War.

Our final event of the year, a Christmas Carol Service, will take place at St Peter's Church on Saturday 8th December at 5 pm. This is a good opportunity for the Village to get together at this festive time of the year, to hear the Christmas story and to sing traditional carols. We will also be laying on mulled wine and mince pies after the Service. We look forward to seeing you there.

Wiltshire Council have a clear procedure for reporting infrastructure faults or issues, such as an inoperative streetlight, fallen trees, pot holes or blocked drains/gullies. There are several reporting options: by phone **0300 456 0105**; on line at **www.wiltshire.gov.uk/mywilts**; or use the MyWiltshire app on a smart phone. Any resident may report

any fault direct; please do not think that this is the sole preserve of the Parish Council.

The date for the next Parish Council meeting is Tuesday 8th January 2018 at 7 pm at Collingbourne Primary School. Everyone is welcome to attend. The minutes of our last meeting are available on Village noticeboards and the Everleigh web site at www.everleigh.org

Finally, we would like to wish all readers a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

COLLINGBOURNE DUCIS PARISH COUNCIL

Peter Knowlson (01264 850812), Chairman, writes:

Season's Greetings to one and all. I'm sure many of you will be thinking like myself 'where did that year go?' Well it has almost gone but not before we get the chance to finish off the year with some festive celebrations:

Christmas Brunch – We will be holding the annual Christmas Brunch at Collingbourne Ducis Village Hall on Sunday the 9th December. As usual this will be a free event for Village residents where you can sit down and relax with friends and family over a cup of tea or coffee and your choice of bacon, sausage & egg rolls. As well as providing some entertainment, we will be holding a Christmas raffle so be sure to bring some pennies and fingers crossed to win a prize. If anybody in the meantime wishes to donate any prizes for the raffle, please contact me and I will arrange collection.

WW1 Commemoration – Although I was not able to attend in person, I understand the WW1 Centenary Anniversary Commemoration was a big success and I have been up to have a look at the new memorial walnut tree, and plaque, which was planted in honour of those who



lost their lives. Thank you to all those involved in making the day a success and bringing the Village together.

CDPC Project Consultation – Following the project consultation survey that the Parish Council ran throughout October we now have in the results of what projects / areas that the Village would most like the Parish Council to look at and have ranked them accordingly. These are available for you to see on the Village noticeboard and on the website. The top three, I can tell you, were looking at traffic calming options in Cadley Road, purchasing Outdoor Fitness Equipment for the recreation ground and the tidying up of footpaths and the cutting back of foliage. At our next Parish Council meeting we will be reviewing the projects / costs and putting a plan together for the next year and beyond. Thank you to all those people (seventy-five) who took time to respond to the survey.

Cadley Road – Following issues raised by the residents of Cadley Road about speeding traffic, we undertook a walk around with the Highways Engineers from Wiltshire County Council to have a look at Cadley Road and discuss potential options. Although a Metro count undertaken last year did not indicate significant speeding, residents of Cadley Road have continued to raise their concerns. We discussed with the Highways Engineers the possibilities of adding a footpath, and further traffic calming with restrictions, however Wiltshire Council like many have very little funds these days and these options would cost in the tens to hundreds of thousands and are simply not an option at this time. I also asked about additional 30 mph repeater signs but have been informed there is a system of street lighting throughout the length of the 30 mph restriction. This precludes the use of 30 mph speed limit repeater signs or road markings.

Wiltshire County Council's Principal Engineer has suggested that there may be the potential for a 'virtual footway'. These are areas of

the carriageway marked for use by pedestrians with road markings, but still accessible for vehicles. These are typically used in environments where a physical footway cannot be located due to surrounding land constraint and certain other criteria are satisfied. As with all things, it has to be noted that it doesn't offer any increase in personal protection, but this does offer the opportunity to give drivers greater awareness of pedestrians.

I will be raising this option with my fellow Parish Councillors and will then request Wiltshire CC to carry out a technical assessment. In the meantime, the Parish Council is currently looking into the purchase of a Speed Indicator Device (SID) which could be mounted on street lighting poles with the option of additional brackets so that it can be moved around the village. The introduction of Village Gates which I do apologise for the length of time this is taking will also help as a visual for drivers that they are entering a built up area.

Village Gates - As per my comment above, I do apologise for the time it is taking to get our Village Gates installed. I don't think any of us on the Parish Council appreciated the time it would take or the amount of red tape it would be necessary to cut through just to get these installed. Although we had successfully obtained a quote from a manufacturer of village gates and provided the location details to Wiltshire County Council there were still various factors that they were not happy with and were unable to give the green light. Myself and Councillor Dave Dennis have since been to a CATG meeting, which is where highway issues are discussed, and have now requested Wiltshire County Council review the project and provide us with a proposal and estimate. We hope to receive the proposal and estimate before Christmas which can then be agreed and confirmed at the next CATG meeting on the 14th January.

Police Matters - There have been two dwelling burglaries reported in Collingbourne Ducis between 31st October and 2nd November. Whilst we thankfully live in an area of low crime, please do take extra care keeping your properties secure especially around this time of year.

On the 3rd of November we also had a very unpleasant incident where the Village Hall was vandalised and left in a state during an 18th birthday party. These people came from outside of the Village and created a night to forget for all those in the Village that are linked with the Village Hall. Following the incident, the Hall has been fully cleaned up and repaired. I attended a Village Hall Committee Meeting after the event and I can assure you that the Village Hall committee will be tightening up their hiring arrangements with the hope that this will not happen again.

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 3rd January. All members of the Parish are welcome to attend.

On behalf of the Parish Council we wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

COLLINGBOURNE KINGSTON PARISH COUNCIL

Steven Matanle, Chairman, writes:

The attendance at St. Mary's for the Remembrance Day Service and the Laying of Wreaths was very impressive. It was a very moving service which properly reflected the significance of the 100th Anniversary of the end of the Great War.

The Commemorative event that took place at the Village Hall in Collingbourne Ducis was also a real success. The attendance was high



OUR LINK COORDINATOR'S NUMBER IS CD 850807

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

and there were many highlights, not least the singing of the Primary School choir. Many congratulations to the Village Hall Committee in Ducis and, in particular, their Chairman, David Paterson, for making such a success of this event.

We receive periodic requests for the grit bins that are strategically located in Aughton, Brunton, and Collingbourne Kingston to be re-filled. We have ordered the salt and have been promised that this will be done before Christmas. As a temporary measure, we have placed some salt sprinklers in the bins in Collingbourne Kingston, noting that the bins in Aughton and Brunton are full.

We also now have some flood warning signs which are available for use at any time. At present they are in my garage so if you have need of them, message me on **stephenmatanle@yahoo.com**.

After a great deal of effort and frustration, we have now got a router installed in the Village Hall which will enable WiFi access to users of the Hall. Details of the way to get online will be posted in the Village Hall.

Finally, can I take this opportunity to wish all the communities in Collingbourne Kingston a very Merry Christmas and all the very best for the New Year!

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on the 8th January 2019 at 7.30 pm in the Ruth Fisher Room. All members of the Parish are welcome to attend.

COLLINGBOURNE DUCIS VILLAGE HALL DRAW

Jane Crook (01264 850436) informs us:

The winners of the November Village Hall draw were

£50	66	S. Haggis	£10	65	J. Horsfall
£25	76	C. Heathcote	£5	17	S. Cooper

COLLINGBOURNE SCHOOL UPDATE

Dan Crossman, Headteacher, (01264 850346) writes:

November has been a time for reflection at Collingbourne Primary School. Our Christian value this term is 'Peace' and this has been most appropriate as we have commemorated the end of World War 1. Our children participated in a range of activities including a beautiful service at St Andrew's Church. The children wrote and presented their own prayers of peace and, with the help of Jane Crook, twelve knitted poppies were tied to trees near the School. Mrs Jeffery and the School choir also performed traditional wartime songs at the Village Hall Armistice Commemoration, complete with Mrs Scott on the piano!



In other news the boys' football team performed brilliantly at the Avon Valley tournament. We came second overall, narrowly missing out on winning the tournament due to a last-minute breakaway goal! The boys played exceptionally well and showed great sportsmanship to boot. The girls have their tournament next week and we also have the netball tournament to look forward to this term.

Over the half-term break, Fox Class has had a fantastic makeover. Thanks to Catherine and Paul Hartley who rolled up their sleeves and helped with the redecoration. A *huge* thank you though to Bev and Nigel Smith. Nigel gave up four days of his own time to completely redecorate the classroom and the results are quite brilliant. We are hugely grateful for Nigel's generosity; we could not have done it without him.

Our Community Support Officers can be contacted on 101

**THE COLLINGBOURNES AND EVERLEIGH MAGAZINE ASSOCIATION
NOTICE OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

David Puttock, Courier Chairman, writes:



Notice is given that the Annual General Meeting of the Collingbournes and Everleigh Magazine Association, which produces the Courier, will take place on Wednesday 30th January 2019 at 8pm in Collingbourne Kingston Village Hall. All residents of the villages of Collingbourne Ducis, Collingbourne Kingston and Everleigh over the age of sixteen may attend and vote. The meeting will receive reports on the Courier's activities during 2018, consider any motions put forward and elect the Committee and Officers for 2019.

All motions should be sent to the Hon. Secretary, Sandra Fisher, Staddlestones, Aughton, Collingbourne Kingston, by 9th January 2018. Nominations for Officers and the Committee may be submitted in advance, but will also be accepted from the floor.

If you can possibly come along please do. It is your chance to voice an opinion on your magazine.

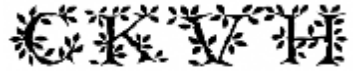
COLIN WARD 1946-2018

Colin, who was born and brought up in the Collingbournes by his grandparents, has died. When he was eleven years-old he started to play the Church Organ in Kingston. This led him to take up ringing the Church bells and he was captain of the bells for twenty-five years; he was also organist for the three churches.

In the late 1960s Colin started up a Handbell Club and we played music for charity and raised between £200 and £300 each year for different causes. He also did a twenty-four-hour marathon and raised £500. He left the Village in 1982 but his ashes will be coming home to Collingbourne.

COLLINGBOURNE KINGSTON VILLAGE HALL

Sandra Fisher (01264 850363) writes:



At the meeting held on Thursday 1st November the Committee were told that the financial situation does not give rise to any concerns and that the hall is still well used. There is a continuing move to improve the hall for users, but major improvements have now been completed.

The new noticeboards had been delivered and were awaiting installation, and appreciation for the role played by Steve Clements in obtaining and fixing them for a minimal cost was minuted.

It was agreed that the Christmas decorations would be hung on Friday 30th November at 6.30pm. All help is welcomed. This to be followed by wine and mince pies and drawing the numbers to determine the winners of the 50:50 Club. Tickets may be bought on the evening.

The date of the AGM was set for Thursday 3rd January at 6.30 pm all are invited to attend.

LINK SCHEME

Elizabeth East and Jane Crook, Coordinators (01264 850807), write:

The LINK Committee wishes all our clients and volunteers a very Happy Christmas and New Year.



By the end of 2018 we will have undertaken about 180 drives mainly to hospitals, surgeries, dentists and shopping trips for people from the Collingbournes, Everleigh and Chute. Our clients are very grateful for the scheme which provides lifts in an area not well served by public transport. If you can spare time to be one of our volunteer drivers please phone **01264 850807** for more information.

COLLINGBOURNE KINGSTON WOMEN'S INSTITUTE REPORT

Pamela Cogdell (01264 850601) writes:

The meeting on Thursday 15th November was a very sociable evening. During the business meeting Wendy welcomed members, including a visitor who will become a member in January. There was a report on the Autumn Council meeting which was held in Salisbury in October and discussion about the forthcoming Christmas party and the centenary meal, to be held at the end of January.



Members then gathered round tables covered with craft papers, snaps, paper hats and sweets while Sara Bottomley and Marilyn Clifton showed everyone how to make bespoke Christmas crackers. It was great fun and some people were clever enough to make several. Sara and Marilyn were thanked for providing such an entertaining evening.

Delicious teas and a Raffle concluded the evening.

Next meeting 13th December Christmas Party

January meeting: 10th January 2019 Subs Due

Speaker: Rev Dr Nicholas Henderson on the Wives of Henry VIII

Part 2. Jane Seymour and Anne of Cleves.

Tea Hostesses: V. Lynch and M. Chandler

Hostess: M. Cross

Raffle Prize: N. Binge

January 29th 100 years Celebration Party

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

1ST COLLINGBOURNE KINGSTON BROWNIES

Natalie Williams, Brown Owl, writes:



The Brownie Promise

The Brownie Promise is very important and when you make your promise it should be really special.

The Brownie Promise is ... I promise that I will do my best, to be true to myself and develop my beliefs, to serve the Queen and my community, to help other people and to keep the Brownie Guide Law.

The Brownie Guide Law is ... A Brownie Guide thinks of others before herself and does a good turn every day.

It is very important that every Brownie understands what she is saying when she makes her promise.

There are some activities in the Becoming a Brownie book that you will be given on your first evening. This will help you understand your promise and your Leaders will be able to help you too.

When you make your Brownie promise your family will be invited. You will be given a badge and certificate to remind you of this special occasion.

Brownie Guides are for girls aged seven to ten years, we run on Tuesday evenings from 5.45 pm - 7.15 pm (term time) at Collingbourne Kingston Village Hall. We are always looking for new members to join our pack.

Please contact Natalie Williams (Brownie Owl) on **01264 850566** or **Collingbourne7@yahoo.com**

BURBAGE & DISTRICT VIDEO & CAMERA CLUB (BDVCC)

There will be no December meeting. The next session will take place on Wednesday 16th January, 7.30 pm, at the British Legion Hall, Burbage.

COLLINGBOURNES AND EVERLEIGH GARDENING CLUB

Pam Haverson (01264 850609) writes:

At our October meeting Ray Broughton gave us lots of helpful and inexpensive tips with things usually obtainable from our kitchen cupboards. He told us that secateurs should be cleaned once a month with tomato ketchup; the blades should be liberally covered and left for twenty-four hours, then scrape off the hardened deposit and wash, dry and oil immediately. You can clean your hedge cutter in the same manner. If you are sowing black seeds coat them with corn-flour first so that they can be seen on the soil. Do not store your hosepipe under the greenhouse staging as in the spring the lining gives off a gas which kills cuttings.



In November Nick Gilbert of Gilberts Dahlia Nursery will be telling us how they manage their dahlias throughout the year. The year finishes with our Christmas Party on Friday, 7th December in Kingston Hall. The New Year commences with the AGM on Thursday, 24th January 2019. This will be followed by an illustrated talk by Graham Chandler entitled Travels from Down Under. New members are always welcome – why not join us in the New Year when our programme for 2019 is available. You can call me on the above number.

CRICKETING COMMENT

David Malley, 1st XI Captain, writes:

The cricket club has been busy since the end of the season with a well-attended youth presentation evening and hosting Collingbourne Curry Night which incorporated the presentation of the adult team awards. A big thank you to everyone who joined us... both events celebrated the end of an enjoyable season.



The AGM held at the beginning of November saw few changes to the club's officers with many retaining their roles for 2019. However, the club is pleased to announce Humphrey Sheppard as club president, replacing the long-standing Tom Edmonds; Jane Nuttall (captain) and Sophie Gleeson (secretary) becoming the club's inaugural officers for the ladies' team.

The club is currently involved in an adult winter indoor league, and is also running regular training sessions during the close season for adults and youth team players. So, if you're looking to get involved or wish to keep up to date with the latest developments at the club, please visit www.collingbournecricketclub.co.uk or find us on Facebook and get in touch.

1ST COLLINGBOURNE AIR SCOUTS

Natalie Williams, Group Scout Leader, writes:

If you are aged between six and ten and-a-half, and interested in getting involved in Scouting and everything that we get up to come and check us out at Collingbourne Kingston Village Hall Monday nights.



Beavers: 5.45 pm - 6.45 pm, Cubs: 6.30 pm - 7.45pm

We have also welcomed new Beavers into the Colony, which is always lovely to do. Children join Beaver and Cub Scouts for many reasons. It might be they have heard great things from their friends about all the things your local group get up to every week. We welcome parents/carers to come along with some activities we get up to. If you would like to be part of 1st Collingbourne Air Scouts then please contact me via the details below.

Natalie Williams (Group Scout Leader) on **01264 850566** email: **Natalie.Williams@wiltshirescouts.org.uk**

BROWNIES AND AIR SCOUTS

Natalie Williams, Group Scout Leader and Brown Owl, writes:

The two youth groups, which include Brownies, Beavers and Cubs, came together on Saturday 10th November to clean up St Mary's Church main entrance and all around the War Memorial Monument.

A lot of hard work went into it making it clean and tidy for the Remembrance Service. This was one of many taking place across the country to mark the 100th anniversary of the Armistice in 1918 that signalled the end of World War One.

CATS PROTECTION

Martin Bevan writes:

Christmas is almost with us again so spare a thought for the cats in our care. Can you make a small donation? Alternatively, we have a collection box just inside the door at Pets at Home where you can leave food. Fundraising is difficult these days and we rely on your support.



We do not home to families in the two weeks immediately preceding Christmas as a cat needs time to settle in before the excitement of Christmas Day.

Tigs, last month's cat, is responding to care from his fosterer but he is still seeking a home. He has been with us since the beginning of June.

This month's cat is 14 month old Martha, a fluffy female. She is friendly once she gets to know you and would suit family life.

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

Fund-raising / volunteers **07733 242196** or **coord@andovercats.org.uk**

Items for resale **01256 892773**

'BOUND BY VETERANS'

CHARITY SEEKS PUBLIC VOTES TO HAVE A SHARE IN TESCO'S BAG FUND

Robert East (01264 850449) writes:

The Woodborough-based charity Bound by Veterans, which teaches the skills of bookbinding to Wounded, Injured and Sick (WIS) ex-service men and women, is seeking public support in the Tesco 'Bags of Help' initiative. The charity (which began in 2012) has found that learning bookbinding skills has a therapeutic and restorative effect on ex-service men and women who have been medically discharged for a variety of reasons. It helps them come to terms with their medical conditions and begin to return to normal life. They can also gain City and Guilds qualifications.



The Bound by Veterans charity has been selected to be one of three groups shortlisted to take part in the Tesco initiative and the public can vote when they shop at Tesco shops in Amesbury (Superstore), Durrington (Express), Tidworth (Superstore) and Ludgershall (Express) during the months of November and December 2018. The three groups taking part will be rewarded either £4000, £2000 or £1000 depending on the number of votes cast for each.

The challenge for Bound by Veterans is to train in the fifty two weeks of 2019, fifty-two Wounded, Injured or Sick (WIS) veterans. The support from the Tesco Bag Fund will help the charity enormously to achieve its goal.

The Bound by Veterans charity was begun in 2012 by Jonathan Powell, a former army officer (and now a bookbinder) and Rob Shepherd from Shepherd's Bookbinders. It runs courses throughout the year from monthly short introduction courses at Tedworth House, the rehabilitation centre in Tidworth, to more advanced courses which can lead up to City and Guilds qualifications Levels 1-3.

Bound by Veterans courses are free to all those who have been discharged early from the services because of their wounds, injuries or sickness. It is also open to spouses and partners of WIS veterans and those who are in transition awaiting a medical board.

Public support in voting for Bound by Veterans in the above Tesco stores during November and December this year will be greatly appreciated. Just collect a blue voting disk at the checkout and put it in a collection voting bin before you leave.

HOME START KENNET – WE'RE RECRUITING VOLUNTEERS!

Dawn Wilson, Scheme Administrator, writes:

Understand the pressures of family life?

Have time to spare?

Join us and help local families.

Home-Start Kennet helps struggling families. Our

Volunteers give 1-1 support in the home – increasing confidence, resilience and wellbeing.

Last year we helped 107 families and 216 children. Please help us help more!

We're looking for volunteers who are caring, positive, great listeners - with parenting skills or relevant life experience. Full training given.

Interested? Contact **01672 569457 / hskadmin@homestartkennet.co.uk**

Website: **www.homestartkennet.co.uk**

HSK is committed to equality, diversity and safe recruitment practice.

All volunteers are subject to an enhanced DSB check. Registered Charity no. 1106736

BURBAGE & DISTRICT MODEL RAILWAY CLUB (BDMRC)

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday 17th December, commencing at 7 pm.



THEFILMPLACE - YOUR COMMUNITY CINEMA

Jim Plenderleith (01264 850734) writes:

Showing at THEFILMPLACE on Friday
11th January 2019 is MAMMA MIA!



HERE WE GO AGAIN. Within a week of being released, the film smashed box office records, with both critics and fans praising its feel-good vibe. It is packed full of hits, emotion and joyously contrived plot twists.

Mamma Mia! Here We Go Again is both a prequel and a sequel to its predecessor. It has been an unbelievable ten years since the first Mamma Mia! movie hit cinema screens. Join us at THEFILMPLACE to see what has happened to the most popular cast members, and see just how much they have changed over the last ten years.

Doors open at THEFILMPLACE, Collingbourne Ducis Village Hall at 7 pm for pre-film drinks and refreshments, the film show starts at 7.30 pm. 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.

Only through the community's continuing support can we keep THEFILMPLACE going. It is your monthly film show. Please continue to give us your feedback personally or by email to the following - **thefilmplaced@gmail.com**

Dates for your diary:

- Friday 22nd February A Star is Born
- Friday 29th March King of Thieves
- Friday 3rd May Film to be advised

COLLINGBOURNE BEERFEST 2019

David Malley updates us:

Plans for Beerfest 2019 have begun!

Following the success of this year's

event, the organising team has decided to form a separate committee (distinct from the cricket club) in order to formalise a working group that can truly support the running of the largest event held in our villages. So, the Beerfest Committee is pleased to announce Dan Mercer as chair, Kerry Heath as vice-chair, Barry Reed as secretary and David Malley as treasurer. A number of other posts and responsibilities have already been issued, with more to follow as the event takes shape over the coming months.

Beerfest 2018 exceeded all of our expectations. Our initial goals were to build an event that brought the community together, to have fun, drink and socialise whilst raising a few pennies for a number of local groups. It really was the talk of the villages and the feedback we have received has been incredible. It raised just under £3,000 and donations have been made to Collingbourne Cricket Club, Collingbourne Primary School and Collingbourne Ducis Village Hall. Additionally, the Committee decided to purchase a marquee. Not only did this assist with the event, it is now a community asset available for local groups to make use of.

We're hoping next year's event will prove just as popular and the committee will be working hard to ensure that Collingbourne Beerfest maintains and even exceeds the level of success set by the inaugural event.

Beerfest 2019 will take place on Saturday 29th June, so please save the date. If you'd like to get involved please get in touch. Find us on Facebook or email [**collingbournebeerfest@gmail.com**](mailto:collingbournebeerfest@gmail.com)





BINGO



11th Dec 18



Prizes

7.30pm

Refreshments

Collingbourne Kingston



Village Hall



Chocolate

Raffle

firm, and golden. Eat while it's hot. Either by itself, or (for example) with a tomato salad.

PETER OLLIVER'S BIT

Vic Olliver writes on behalf of Peter:

Kia Ora from New Zealand!

This is the bit that Peter Olliver would be writing, if he weren't



still in hospital in Swindon. So you get the junior Olliver, Vik, writing from New Zealand having just flown back. Peter has had some fairly major surgery and it's not all over yet, but he is sitting up and eating all the ice cream he can get!

Ironically, it's now my turn for surgery. I've got prostate cancer, though by the time you read this I'll hopefully have it all in a little jar. It's a trying thing for blokes, who naturally want to hide from the concept of any surgery in that area especially if it is going to involve loss of function of the waterworks and one's love life for an unknown period.

It's not helped by the inability of doctors to predict how things are going to turn out. They simply can't. There is no scan that will tell you the future and even when the surgeon goes in for a look, they still can't predict your recovery beyond whether they got the cancer or not.

This means a lack of information, which is in itself a worry.

I wasn't diagnosed by regular testing because I didn't think it was necessary. I had absolutely no symptoms. No pain, things were absolutely fine. I could have gone on until it broke out, at which point I would be stuffed.

So there are two ways you can save a life here: If you're a bloke, and you're near the big 50, get tested. If you know a bloke like that who edges away from the idea, encourage them to get tested. Talk to the GP and have a look at <https://www.prostatecanceruk.org> if you're on the internet.

SAMARITAN'S PURSE SHOE BOX APPEAL

Marion Bailey (01264 850525) and Alan Wilkins (01264 850605) write:



A big thank you to everyone who supported this appeal. We have collected fifty-eight shoe boxes this year filled with lovely presents for children aged between two and fourteen years old. We believe these boxes go to children all around the world who have very little to look forward to. We know at this time of year we receive many requests from different charities asking for donations and it is very difficult as we cannot support them all. So, we are very grateful once again to those that take the trouble and the expense to fill a shoe box.

ALMOST A GHOST STORY

Basil Frost (01264 850593) recalls:



It was one of those rare days in January, with bright sunshine and clear blue skies and with the promise of Spring in the air. It was not to last, however, and as the day progressed, it became misty and then foggy. The lunchtime weather forecast predicted thickening fog and poor visibility in Central Southern England.

The regular weekly journey to town involved a trip through an adjoining village and then open countryside which included a high wooded area. The road carries a fair volume of traffic but on this occasion was strangely quiet. The day was drawing in and with the thickening fog it would not be difficult to become disorientated.

However, utmost vigilance was the order of the day not only for the possibility of a kamikaze driver who assumes they have the vision and right to overtake on a blind bend in the fog but for the cyclist who makes his way home at this time of day. Suddenly, through the

swirling fog I spotted him, checked my mirror, signalled to overtake him with a quick toot on the horn and pulled out to overtake him. He then disappeared! I assumed that this was a trick of the lighting in the gathering gloom and continued on my lonely journey, having seen no other vehicles since I left home some five miles back. Suddenly there he was again!

The same manoeuvre to pull out to pass him and, once again, nothing there. By this time, I was becoming a bit spooked and almost convinced myself that I had entered into one of those mysterious black holes where nothing is at it should be. Pulling myself together continued on my journey, down and over the canal and on up the hill into the forest and then saw, through the thinning fog - a motor cyclist with a faulty rear light.

Moral: Don't count your BSA Bantams before they are 'caught'.

Merry Christmas to you all.

SAVERNAKE TEAM LETTER

Michael McHugh, Team Rector, writes:

Dear Reader,

This is normally the time of year when the Vicar gives everyone gushy words about the season of goodwill and encourages everyone to attend the Christmas Services. Please take that as read.



Church communities are greatly reassured by the peak attendances at Remembrance, Christmas and Easter. Thank you to the thousands who turned up at our Remembrance Services this year. We have a constant fear that the churches, which are already financially untenable, are becoming spiritually unfeasible. Do feel free to sign

the Church Electoral Roll and commit to attend. Three services a year is not enough to keep a church community feasible.

We are approaching the season of goodwill, and for some strange reason my mind keeps returning to the ancient Greeks. There are accounts of clear bad-will, poets who wrote such evil poems that whole families committed suicide. We have the same today on social media, an unfortunate truth about the power of words. In the bible it sadly says, 'there is nothing new under the sun'.

Everyone has a basic right to be respected as a fellow human being. Our first instinct should be to say how good a person is. It is intellectually cheap and nasty to find fault; small-minded was the traditional term. Invariably the fault we find is the fault we share. We can choose not to judge as Jesus did when he said, 'Let him who is without sin cast the first stone'.

As we approach the solstice, we have always watched the days grow longer. In Christianity it is a time of saying sorry, preparing for the great day when the light comes into the world. In other religions, it is the feast of the light returning to the world, the reign of the winter holly making way for the summer oak, Persephone returning from hell.

It strikes me that if we fail to face the dark, then we also diminish the light. That conditional clause in the 'Our Father' – 'as we forgive those who trespass against us,' condemns us to receiving only what we can find in our hearts to give.

I wish you all a good Christmas and pray that it will be better for you in the New Year because you wish well for others.

Michael

Savernake Team Rector

ST MARY'S CHURCH, COLLINGBOURNE KINGSTON

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

The **Remembrance Day** service was held at Kingston this year, of special significance because 11 o'clock on 11th November marked the exact moment when the First World War ended a hundred years ago. Over 150 people attended.



Services - Parish Carol Service is at 6 pm on Friday 21st December, with mince pies and mulled wine after. Midnight Holy Communion will be at 11.30 pm on Christmas Eve, with Holy Communion at Ducis on Christmas Day at 11 am.

The Christmas Tree Festival - just a reminder that this will be held on Saturday 8th December, a week later than in previous years. The Church will be open for viewing the trees from 2 pm to 4 pm with tea and cakes available, to be followed by an evening of entertainment starting at 7.30 pm. The trees will remain in the Church for viewing for most of the following week. All trees to be placed in the Church by 4 pm on the Friday if possible, please, and further information from Val Patrick (**01264 850345**) about trees and from Jackie Macbeth (**01264 850859**) about the evening entertainment.

Thank you - as usual, a big thank you to everyone who has contributed to keeping the Church running in 2018, including Mike Holt and his bell ringers, our organists, the flower arrangers, Nigel Brind our Clerk to the PCC, Wendy Brown and her team who close the Church every weekday, all the members of the choir who have committed time every week to practice in the months approaching Christmas, along with special thanks to our accompanist Jackie MacBeth and the many others who have helped in so many ways.

The PCC wish you a very happy and peaceful Christmas & New Year.

ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH, COLLINGBOURNE DUCIS

Churchwarden Tish Leigh (01264 850867) writes:

Website: www.standrews.savernaketeam.org



The countdown to Christmas is really underway now. In the Christian church Advent is a time of longing, hoping, waiting and preparation for the celebration of the birth of Jesus on Christmas Day.

On Thursday 13th December, the Phoenix Brass band will provide music for 'Brass and Carols' at the Tipple Inn, starting at 7.30 pm. Come along and begin your Christmas by singing some favourite carols and enjoy some mulled wine and mince pies. We will be outside, so wrap up warm!

If you would like to join in the preparations for Christmas in the Church please join us on Saturday 15th December from 10 am to 12 noon, when we will be decorating the Church, with greenery and candles and also decorating our Christmas tree.

We will be holding our Carol Service by Candlelight on Sunday 16th December starting at 6 pm. Join us for this special service and stay afterwards for a chat, mulled wine and mince pies. On Saturday 22nd December 10 am – 12 noon, we will be making a hundred or so Christingles; extra pairs of hands joining the production line would be very welcome! Refreshments will be provided!

Our annual 'Come to Bethlehem' and Christingle service will take place starting at 3 pm on Christmas Eve. This service has become a traditional part of the Christmas celebrations in the Collingbournes

Addresses for the village websites:

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

and Everleigh. Whether you are one or one hundred years old or any age in between, come along and join in the fun! Come dressed as a shepherd, an angel, a wise person, a traveller or inhabitant of Bethlehem, a sheep or even a donkey! Join in to help tell the story of the first Christmas, no previous acting experience or rehearsals necessary, just a sense of fun! This service is also followed by festive refreshments.

On Christmas day, there will be a family Holy Communion Service at 11 am. Children and adults please bring your favourite present to share with us at this service.

A date for the New Year! At Collingbourne Ducis Village Hall, on Friday 8th February from 7 pm to 9 pm Gerald Balding will be giving what I'm sure will be a lively and interesting talk about his life as a founder and ringmaster of Gifford's circus! Come and hear what it's like to be an elephant trainer. There will be plenty of time for a Q & A session afterwards. A bar and refreshments will be available. There will also be a raffle. Any profits from the evening will go towards the fund to mend the damaged stonework on the Church tower.

As this is the final report of 2018, the PCC and I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has supported St Andrew's Church during the past year and wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

ST ANDREW'S CHURCH, COLLINGBOURNE DUCIS

Services in December:

Sunday 2nd	Evensong at 6 pm
Sunday 16th	Candlelit Carol Service at 6 pm
Sunday 23rd	Holy Communion at 11 am
Christmas Eve (Mon)	Come to Bethlehem at 3 pm

Christmas Day (Tues) Family Communion at 11 am

Services in January:

Sunday 6th Evensong at 6 pm

Sunday 20th Family Service at 11 am

Sunday 27th Holy Communion at 9 am

ST PETER'S CHURCH, EVERLEIGH

Saturday 8th December Candlelit Carol Service at 5 pm

ST MARY'S CHURCH, COLLINGBOURNE KINGSTON

Services in December:

Sunday 2nd Morning Worship at 9.30 am

Sunday 9th Holy Communion at 11 am

Sunday 16th Candlelit Carol Service at Ducis at 6 pm

Friday 21st School Carol Service at 2.15 pm

Parish Carol Service at 6 pm

Sunday 23rd Holy Communion at Ducis at 11 am

Christmas Eve Midnight Holy Communion at 11.30 pm

Christmas Day Family Communion at 11 am at Ducis

Sunday 30th Cluster Holy Communion at 11 am

Services in January:

Sunday 6th Family Worship at 9.30 am

Sunday 13th Holy Communion 11 am

Sunday 20th Family Worship at Ducis at 11 am

Sunday 27th Evensong at 6 pm

Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening

By Robert Frost

Whose woods these are I think I know.
His house is in the village though;
He will not see me stopping here
To watch his woods fill up with snow.

My little horse must think it queer
To stop without a farmhouse near
Between the woods and frozen lake
The darkest evening of the year.

He gives his harness bells a shake
To ask if there is some mistake.
The only other sound's the sweep
Of easy wind and downy flake.

The woods are lovely, dark and deep,
But I have promises to keep,
And miles to go before I sleep,
And miles to go before I sleep.

The Courier Team
wishes all our readers
a Merry Christmas and
a Happy New Year