

Collingbourne Ducis - Everleigh - Collingbourne Kingston

COURIER

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THE COURIER

The COURIER Office, and Editorial address for contributors:
c/o 4 Sunnyhill, Collingbourne Ducis, Marlborough SN8 3EP

Contact Details:

ADDRESS for Contributions ONLY: **cdkecouriercontribute@gmail.com**

EDITOR: (Position vacant) **cdkecouriereditor@gmail.com**

ADMINISTRATION: Sandra Fisher (850363) **cdkecouriersec@gmail.com**

ADVERTISING/FLYERS/LEAFLETS:

Linda Hardiman **cdkecourieradvertise@gmail.com**

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

COLLINGBOURNE DUCIS PARISH COUNCIL

Peter Knowlson (01264 850812), Chairman, writes:

Spring Clean / Litter Pick – I would like to start off by saying how great it was to see over thirty people turn up for this year's spring litter pick. I know some people feel it is not their job to pick up litter and they're right, it is not. However, litter is unfortunately a fact of life. We are fortunate to live in an area which suffers far less than others. Having these events helps keep the Village clean and gives people a sense of pride in where they live. So a big THANK YOU to all those who turned out and made it another successful event. The Parish Council has also managed to source some extra free litter picking equipment via Wiltshire County Council to help us in the future.



A338 Speeding Traffic – Following the metro count that was in place in the Village along the A338 Road (north on Sunton Road) during the period 11/02/2019 and 17/02/2019, the results have come back as follows:

Speeds for a total of 24,795 vehicles in free-flowing traffic in both directions were recorded.

Total traffic volume during this period was 56,451 vehicles. (This figure may be higher than above due to congestion when 'free-flowing' speeds cannot be recorded.)

The 85th percentile speed (the speed at or below which 85% of all traffic is observed to travel under free-flowing conditions past a monitored point) was 39.6 mph. The average speed was 33.8 mph.

Action can be considered in a 30 mph zone when the 85th percentile speed exceeds 35.1 mph. As the relevant recorded speed recorded was 39.6 mph, the village qualifies for the option to have a

community speed watch. Police enforcement only comes into effect if the 85th percentile speed exceeded 42 mph. The Parish Council will be looking into the possibility of a community speed watch. If you would be interested in volunteering please let myself or the parish clerk know, and we will provide further details in due course once the Parish Council has obtained the full details.

Upcoming Village Events

Fete & Tri-Village Tournament – On Saturday 11th May at 12 pm the Church Fete will take place at Collingbourne Ducis Recreation Ground. As well as the usual fete stalls and activities, this year there will be a Tri-Village Tournament between Collingbourne Ducis, Collingbourne Kingston and Everleigh. The tournament events will include Tug-of-War, Gladiator, Pint Dash 'N' Splash, Boules, Parent and Child Three-Legged Race, Egg and Spoon Race, Speed knitting and Tomahawk Throwing. I am looking for people who would like to take part, have some fun and show them whose Village is the best. The Collingbourne Ducis team colour will be blue so if you can find something blue to wear that would be great. Please drop me a line on **01264 850812** or email me **theknowlsonfamily@gmail.com** if you would like to put your name down for an event or two or all of them!

Tidworth Area Rights of Way Improvement Community Project – As mentioned in the April edition of the Courier, on the 15th May between 7 pm - 8.15 pm there will be a Starter Workshop which will be held at Collingbourne Ducis Village Hall to discuss and plan ways to improve the access and usage of the Rights of Way in the Community Area. Further details can be found on the Parish website.

Collingbourne Canter 5K and Fun Run – Taking place on Saturday 8th June. For more details of the event and how to enter for the run go to **www.evententry.co.uk/collingbourne-canter-5k-and-fun-run**

Collingbourne Beerfest – 29th June 2019 - The Beerfest is getting ever closer, tickets will be going on sale from 4th May. For more details go to **www.collingbournebeerfest.co.uk**

Vacancies - Following the departure of Cllr Ken Millard, we now only have seven councillors, myself included. The ideal number would be eleven for more projects to be rolled out and general matters addressed more effectively. We would welcome anyone who would like to get more involved in the Village to contact the Parish Clerk to find out more details of what the position of a Parish Councillor entails. You do not need any prior experience just the willingness to get involved. Please contact our Parish Clerk for more details, Phil Gill by email: **parishclerk@collingbourne-ducis.com**

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.

THE VIEW FROM EVERLEIGH

Denis Bottomley (01264 852731), Chairman, writes:

A successful Village playground work party took place on Saturday 13th April.

The bench, gates and equipments were all cleaned and given a lick of paint. The playground is now looking really good. In addition, the right of way footpath starting from the Street opposite the entrance to Richard Hannon's stables has been cleared to provide an alternative route to the Goa Balti. Well done to those who turned out for this annual Spring cleaning!



The St Andrew's Church Fete takes place this year on Saturday 11th May from 12 noon until 4.30 pm on Ducis Village Hall recreation ground. Everleigh has been invited to participate in fun games

activities with Ducis and Kingston folk - all informal, nothing serious and totally flexible numbers and ages. Events include egg and spoon, three-legged and dash & splash races, gladiator jousting, tomahawk throwing, tug of war, speed knitting and boules. If anybody wishes to 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).

Our next Village event will be walking the parish boundary on Sunday 19th May, based on the tradition of 'Beating the Bounds' (of the parish boundary) on Rogation Sunday - an old English tradition. The plan remains to meet up at 9 am at the V Tank Crossing/Weatherhill Firs situated 1km south of The Crown on the Netheravon Rd; this is the Start/Finish Point area. We will then conduct a leisurely eight mile-plus hike around most of our scenic parish boundary. For those who wish to gather for a curry lunch in the Goa Balti afterwards, please book a table separately, as this part of the day will not be organised by the Parish Council. This is a great way to promote both community spirit and fitness. We are hoping for fine weather and a high turnout!

The main annual Church's Conservation Trust event of the year in Everleigh, a Midsummer Tea Party, will take place at St Peter's Church on Sunday 23rd June between 3 pm-5 pm. This event is likely to feature traditional cakes, books and plants stalls and a raffle. Volunteers are welcome to help run the event. Please contact Robert East (**01264 850449**) if you can support this event.

There is 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: Tel **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 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

COLLINGBOURNE KINGSTON PARISH COUNCIL

Stephen Matanle, Chairman, writes:

The Maintenance Day that we held on 13th April began the process of removing the foliage that has narrowed the footway that runs from Brunton Roundabout towards Cuckoo Pen Close. The team managed to do a very good job of expanding the footway back to its original width. Unfortunately, with the limited number of people who attended and the time we had available, we did not get up as far as Cuckoo Pen. We will therefore be holding a further Maintenance Day in the near future, details of which will be posted on our Website and via the Courier.



It is our intention to do a similar job of work on the footway that runs from Chapel Lane towards Ducis. For this we will need a much bigger workforce or it will take a very long time!

We only had half a dozen attendees on Saturday and we really do need more than that. As you will see if you walk towards Aughton from the Church, even with a small workforce, we have succeeded in making a meaningful difference to the state of the footway. I hope that more of you will be able to give up two hours on a Saturday to come along and help at the next Maintenance Day.

OUR LINK COORDINATOR'S NUMBER IS CD 850807

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

As part of the finalising of the Parish Council's financial year-end, we are required to give anyone in the Parish the opportunity to review the Approved Accounts and Accounting Records for a fixed period of time. These will be available for review with effect from 7th June up to 12th July via the Responsible Financial Officer, Fran Dickenson. If you would like to take advantage of this, please contact her by email at rfo@collingbournekingston.org.uk to fix an appointment.

There was an unfortunate incident on 13th April when a party that was being held at a property close to the Church overflowed into the body of the village. There were a considerable number of young people making a lot of noise in an area outside the Barleycorn and as far down as Chapel Lane. The party in question was nothing to do with the Barleycorn but was being held in a private home. This happened late in the evening at a time when most people had signed off for the day. The situation deteriorated with some individuals sitting or lying in the middle of the road outside the pub. With the kind of vehicles that run along the A338, this was potentially a very dangerous situation. In view of this, the Police were called and did their best to manage this debacle. This kind of inconsiderate behaviour is regrettable. The best way to avoid it is to rely on those hosting the party to manage their guests and do so with a proper respect for those who live near to them. This would seem to be a reasonable request to make of anyone who is planning a festivity in our Parish.

The Annual Parish meeting will be held on 21st May at 6.30 pm in the Ruth Fisher Room. The Annual Parish Council Meeting will follow this as soon as the Annual Parish Meeting is over. Please note that this is being scheduled later in the month than would be normal. All members of the Parish are welcome to attend these meetings.

COLLINGBOURNE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Dan Crossman, Headteacher, writes:

As the Easter holidays approach, I have been reflecting on some of the great learning that we have all enjoyed at Collingbourne School.



Our children really demonstrated their love for reading by participating in 'World Book Day' and their knowledge of Shakespeare is quite impressive! We've had children reading riddles on Wiltshire Radio and hockey players scoring goals in the Area Tournament. Some of our traditional activities have proved as popular as ever with 'Pancake Races' being a particular favourite of mine!

Next term we have a change to our staffing team. Katie Chalk will be replacing Gilly Beer working in Hedgehog, Otter and Kingfisher Classes. Katie is a skilled and experienced teacher and I'm sure she will be a great addition to our team.

Of course, alongside all the fun I'm aware that our school has suffered some sad pieces of news recently too. It is perhaps in these moments that we truly see the value of our community. The kindness that I witness displayed by our children and their families only serves to remind me that we live and work in a pretty special place.

I hope that everyone in the Village has a peaceful and enjoyable Easter break. Finally, whilst you're tucking into your chocolate eggs, spare a thought for Nigel (Tevez's dad) who has volunteered to decorate two of our classrooms over the Easter... what an absolute hero!

Our Community Support Officers can be contacted on 101

1ST COLLINGBOURNE KINGSTON BROWNIES

Natalie Williams (01264 850566) 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.

If you would like to find out more check us out on Facebook (1st Collingbourne Kingston Brownies) you must become a member first.

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

ST ANDREW'S CHURCH FÊTE

Tish Leigh, Churchwarden, (01264 850867) writes:

A quick reminder! St Andrew's Annual Church Fête will be held on Saturday 11th May, 12 pm until 4.30 pm, at Collingbourne Ducis Village Hall. As you will see from the



enclosed flyer, we will be having all the usual much loved stalls such as cakes and jam; teas; the bottle stall; the book stall; the white elephant stall; a toys and games stall, and children's fairground type games etc. However, we are also planning to have a burger and hot dog stall, a Pimms and beer and cider tent, and (what could be the event of the year) a friendly, fun-filled Tri-Village Tournament! Hopefully many of you have already signed up for at least one event. The events will include parent and child egg and spoon race, parent and child three-legged race, dash and splash races, tug of war; boules, gladiator competitions, tomahawk throwing and last, but definitely not least, speed knitting! 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 is a cup for the winning team! Come along, join in the fun and support your village team as well as St Andrew's Church!

RURAL ARTS TOURING

Jane Crook (01264 850436) writes:

Come and hear Rachel Newton, folk singer and harpist and winner of the BBC folk award, musician of the year, at Collingbourne Kingston Village Hall on May 10th at 7.30 pm. Adult tickets for £10 and child tickets £5 can be reserved from Jane Crook **01264 850436**. Rural Arts touring is bringing great live music to villages; please do come.



COLLINGBOURNE VILLAGE HALL DRAW

Jane Crook (01264 850436) announces:

The April winners of the village hall draw were

£50 N. Phillips 47

£25 C. Heathcote 76

£10 J. Gingell 300

£5 V. Gordon. 249



If you would like to be part of the next draw please contact Jane Crook **01264 850436**

1ST COLLINGBOURNE AIR SCOUTS

Natalie Williams, Group Scout Leader, (01264 850566) 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 on Monday Nights:

Beavers 5.45 pm – 6.45 pm

Cubs 6.30 pm – 7.45 pm

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

Collingbourne Group is growing which is great, so if you would like to find out more check us on Facebook (1st Collingbourne Air Scouts) or contact myself Natalie Williams (Group Scout Leader) on **01264 850566** or email Natalie.Williams@wiltshirescouts.org.uk



COLLINGBOURNE KINGSTON WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Sandra Fisher (01264 850363) writes:



At the meeting on Thursday 11th April, Karen Preece, Treasurer, welcomed a smaller than usual meeting and one visitor. The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted. A Rural Arts visit on Friday 10th May was announced, also the Centenary Flower Festival over the weekend of 6th and 7th July. There will be more detailed information about the Festival at the next meeting. Other events and opportunities were discussed.

The speaker for the evening, member Laura, was introduced to talk about 'Achieving her Dream by the Age of Thirty'. Laura is an artist specialising in animal portraiture and as a child her ideas of what she wanted to be when 'grown-up' settled into being an artist or a teacher. She went into fashion design, starting a course at Newcastle University before realising it was not what she wanted to do. Laura drew a picture of the Alsatian dog at the Village garage, which led to a commission for a portrait of a cat and the realisation that she could turn her talent into a business. Her grandparents bought her a large set of oil-based pencils and she now produces portraits to order, also ad hoc bird and animal pictures which she sells on her stall at local craft fairs and a local gift shop.

Her dream of teaching is also coming to fruition as she holds two after-school art classes at Collingbourne Primary School and will soon be taking an art class during school hours.

After her talk Laura gave out paper, pencils, instructions – and erasers - for the members to attempt to draw an animal eye.

She was warmly thanked and the members were able to take a close look at the drawings, printed coasters and other items she had brought with her.

The evening concluded with delicious refreshments and a raffle.

Next meeting: 9th May Resolutions.

Speaker: Analiza Jones on Making Handwoven Bags.

Tea Hostesses: M. Chandler and S. Gregory.

Hostess: C. Merritt

Raffle Prize: C. Hoare

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

1ST COLLINGBOURNE CUB SCOUTS

Martin Stitchbury, Akela, writes:

We have been focusing on the communication badge this term.



But not only typical scout communication, we are very modern cubs. The use of mobile phones for texting and making calls is also included nowadays. The cubs are still young enough for texting to be an exciting experience. Typically, they seemed to be able to operate the phones quicker than the leaders. We also did Morse code, Braille and semaphore.

Getting the cubs to describe, minutely, how to make a cup of squash was surprisingly funny, we cleaned up the mess later. A modern twist on Kim's game with objects flying between the leaders for the cubs to describe was an engaging time, the list of describing words used by some of the cubs was gratifyingly large. An Easter egg hunt was held, with the cubs designing a code and hiding eggs for the others to find.... so if you find any eggs, you know where they came from. Planning for the new term includes treasure hunt, Bulford Kiwi walk, cooking and tents for our upcoming camp in July.

COLLINGBOURNE BEERFEST 2019

David Malley writes:

****Ticket News**** Saturday 29th June from 6 pm at Collingbourne Ducis Village Hall.



The organisers are pleased to announce that tickets for Beerfest 2019 will go on sale from 9 am Saturday 4th May. Tickets are £10 per person and will include entry to the event, a commemorative half pint glass and a complimentary drink token. Due to the location, nature of the event and licensing criteria we have a strict number of tickets available. So in an effort to allow as many of our local community as possible to attend, the organising committee has once again decided to release the tickets to individuals with local connections. The criteria we have set, of which only one need apply, are as follows:

- resident in the villages of Collingbourne Ducis, Collingbourne Kingston or Everleigh
- parent or guardian of a child at Collingbourne Primary school
- member of Collingbourne Cricket Club
- work/employed in the Collingbournes/Everleigh
- contribute or affiliated to local clubs or groups based in the three villages.

There are two ways to secure your tickets - via email or attending our temporary ticket office at Collingbourne Ducis Village Hall.

Email: From 9 am on Saturday 4th May 2019 email **tickets@collingbournebeerfest.co.uk** with your contact details and the number of tickets you require - please also tell us into which criteria you fall. You will then be informed of the details of how you can pay and collect your tickets.

Ticket Office: Open from 12 pm on Sunday 5th May where you can attend in person and pay/collect tickets. Card and cash payments accepted.

The maximum number of tickets per household is four. Strictly over 18's only. Emails received before 9 am on Saturday 4th May will not be accepted. Further details about the event including full terms and conditions can be found at **www.collingbournebeerfest.co.uk**

Last year's event helped raise nearly £3,000. We're hoping Beerfest 2019 will prove just as successful with the money raised on the day helping support local groups, organisations, good causes and community projects.

COLLINGBOULE PÉTANQUE CLUB

Janet Kenny writes:

We started our 2019 season on April 9th which was a washout but four hardy souls attended on April 16th. We play every Tuesday evening at 6 pm at the Barleycorn pub in Collingbourne Kingston throughout the spring, summer and autumn until the clocks go back, weather permitting!



There will be an opportunity to try your hand at boules on May 11th at the Collingbourne Ducis Church fete where it is hoped to stage a little inter-village competition and possibly attract some more members!

Do come along to see how much fun it can be!

MOBILE LIBRARY SERVICE

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

COLLINGBOURNES AND EVERLEIGH GARDENING CLUB

Hibiscus writes:

The 28th March saw the arrival of Ray Broughton formerly from Sparsholt College to give us one of his highly entertaining and informative talks. His main subject was Containers, Hanging Baskets, and their Maintenance. He also talked about recycling and its commercial use for pots and compost. This was an enormous range to cover.



Ray advised that although ceramic glazed pots are very attractive, they do not hold and absorb water like plain clay pots. Another hint (he was keeping us on our toes) was for unglazed pots in the winter. Apparently if we paint the rim with vinegar this will prevent the pot from cracking in frost.

Back to recycling, and plant pots are now being made from reconstituted cardboard boxes and the plants can be planted straight into the ground in the pots.

The topic of raised beds was considered and we were advised that the base of the beds should be of drainage material and then add the topsoil.

So many topics were covered that we could have stayed for hours listening to his fascinating presentation. We will definitely be asking him back again. Bring your notebooks.

Plant Sale

Don't forget - our annual Plant Sale takes place on Saturday, 18th May in the Village Hall at 10 am. This is a great opportunity to buy locally grown plants at reasonable prices. Refreshments, including homemade cakes, are available, so come along and enjoy.

The Gardening Club meets monthly during the spring/winter months and in the summer there are evening and daytime trips arranged to visit many interesting sites. If you are interested in joining, please contact our Chairman, Pam Haverson on **01264 850609** or our Secretary, Patti Marsh on **01264 850319**

CRICKETING COMMENT

David Malley writes:

The cricket season is finally here! Our busy summer schedule will see the club run two adult teams (including a Saturday XI competing in the Hampshire League and a friendly team playing predominantly Sunday fixtures), our junior section with U13, U11 and U9 teams, and a dedicated ladies team - now in its second year.



One of the club's main aims is to continue to provide cricket for all those wishing to take part, so we welcome all persons interested in cricket regardless of age or ability. If you'd like to get involved visit **www.collingbournecricketclub.co.uk** for more information or find us on Facebook.

Our work on refurbishing the nets is well underway and we're hoping to have it finished before the end of May. In the meantime the club would like to apologise for any inconvenience caused whilst the work is being carried out. Our new and improved nets will provide the club with a training facility that will not only help our current crop of players, but continue to develop the next generations for years to come.

SPTA

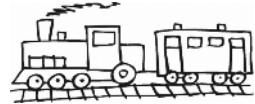
The SPTA newsletter can be found at the following web address:

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

BURBAGE & DISTRICT MODEL RAILWAY CLUB (BDMRC)

Sonny Hamid (01672 811933) writes:

The events during April have taken the Club to new heights as we were privileged to exhibit at



two Model Railway Exhibitions during the month. The first was one organised by the West Wiltshire Model Railway Club and held at the Village Hall in Holt while the second was the inter-County organised by the local Rotary Club at the Community Centre in Fordingbridge.

It really was hard work though as we had to meet on several previous occasions prior to the exhibition to adjust finer detail and to generally tidy up loose ends on both the layouts we were to submit for the exhibition. Nevertheless, the hard work paid off as we were very pleased with the extent of foot-fall and the level of interest and support we received at both exhibitions all of which made us feel our hard work was so worthwhile.

Photographs of the layouts and possibly some videos may be posted on journals such as Burbage News Quarterly as and when editorial space is available.

Following the excitement of the two exhibitions, we are now in the process of evaluating our work through a debriefing session after which we will return to our ongoing work on the layout depicting Great Bedwyn railway and Village as it appeared during the 1960's and perhaps taking on more challenges. We are also planning our future project to model a section of the Savernake High Level Station and for this we would appreciate any old photographs, diagrams and other documents which will enable us to accurately model this section of the railway.

The next Club session is scheduled for 7 pm on Monday 20th May, 2019.

The Club welcomes new members and also any donations and gifts of unwanted model railway items. So, if you would like to try your hand at this hobby or have some equipment you are not using, please feel free to call me, Sonny Hamid, on **01672 811933**

CATS PROTECTION LEAGUE

Martin Bevan writes:

We are holding a Pawsome Coffee Morning on Saturday 18th May at Cholderton Village Hall. There's free parking available opposite the hall, on the grass behind the pub car park. We will be there between 10 am and 12 pm so please join us for some cake and a raffle.



Larry came into our care as a stray; he had been living on the streets for a while. He has now been neutered, blood tested, chipped and vaccinated. He is keen to get outside again but with a home to return to every day once he's finished checking out the neighbourhood.

Last month's cat, Fluffy, has been lucky enough to find a home in the country where she is sure to be spoiled.

We recently took part in a fundraising weekend at Pets at Home and raised £80 from a toy tombola and donations. Thank you to everyone who got involved.

Did you know?

Cats only sweat through their paws.

Homing Enquiries: **0345 2601501** or **andover.cats.org.uk**

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

Items for resale: **01256 892773**

BURBAGE & DISTRICT VIDEO & CAMERA CLUB (BDVCC)

Sonny Hamid (01672 811933) writes:

The intended March activity, which was cancelled due to bad weather, became our April activity. Members were taken to a structure on the Fair Mile near Wexcombe for some landscape shots.



However, the intense misty conditions prevailing at the time provided many challenges which called for much manipulation of camera controls.

While the outdoor session did not last as long as it usually does, nevertheless all members managed to gain some worthwhile shots.

We do not have a firm project planned for our next session in May but are hoping to tackle yet another outdoor session perhaps covering an evening sporting match in the vicinity of our villages. Organisers of suitable events are invited to contact us to see how we can cover the event with our photography.

Our next session will start at 7 pm on Wednesday, 15th May at the Burbage and Easton Royal British Legion Hall Car Park, Burbage. Those who do not wish to participate in the outdoor shoot are invited to attend the Club Room at the Hall and await the return of members from their outdoor session. In the event the weather is not 'photographer friendly' we will start our session at 7.30 pm.

We welcome new members from Burbage and the surrounding villages all of whom are welcome to join us in sharing this exciting hobby or who may seek to develop their camera skills.

Please contact Sonny on **01672 811 933** or Mike on **01672 810 574** for more details.

FREDERICK HUGHES MM

Patti Marsh writes:

Following on from last month's instalment of my uncle's war-time memories, here is the next piece he wrote. He didn't write about the time between him joining up in September 1939 and January 1943 as he said it was mostly boring and uneventful.

Algiers

On 17th January 1943 our regiment embarked from Greenock on the ship *Reina del Pacifico* and after eleven days at sea we arrived in Algiers where the entrance to the harbour was littered with small sunken craft, but eventually we got into the port.



Carrying our ammunition and weapons we marched through the town of Algiers where we were watched by the local inhabitants, who looked seriously suspicious - as I am sure we did to them! We marched for approximately four miles to Fort di Lew, which was a campsite on sand under some large fir trees. Once we had been allocated our tents we stripped off and made for a dip in the Blue Med. On board ship we could only remove our boots so the swim was most welcome and, as the army didn't issue swimming trunks, we all went in wearing nothing but our birthday suits! It was about 200 yards back to the tents but it was so warm we didn't need a towel.

While we were at Fort di Lew we had some training from the Navy who came with assault boats which could accommodate a platoon of approximately thirty six men. After taking us down the coast we made a practice landing and then had to march back to camp, we

then had to repeat this exercise for three days running. This training was to come in very handy later on when we invaded Italy.

Tunisia - April 1943

The war continued with training, occasional skirmishes, and a certain amount of boredom and in April 1943 I was now a corporal and we were transported to Tunisia.

I remember one particular heavy attack in which we had lost several of our officers and men. My section was leading over open ground and we came under fire from a hilltop to our right. The enemy was firing tracer so we could see from where he was firing. My L.M.G. (light machine gunner) engaged him but this did not seem to have any effect.

While the enemy machine gunner was firing, I noticed a stationary tank whose track had been damaged by a mine and was unable to move. I moved over to the tank, picked up a lump of rock and banged on the side of it until the tank commander eventually poked his head out of the turret and pointed to the rear of the tank. When I walked around the back, I noticed an armoured box with a handle on the bottom. I pulled this and out dropped a telephone! I was then able to explain that all our officers had been killed and this machine gunner was doing a lot of damage to the rest of the company.

Though they could not move the tank itself, they could turn its turret, and the second shot from its big gun was a direct hit, which sent huge lumps of concrete slabs flying. We then realised just how well he had been protected and why my L.M.G. had been unable to touch him.

One of my lads had been hit and as I crawled forward to help him, I received a burst of fire. One bullet removed my helmet, one went through the small pack on my back, and another threw up a splinter

of rock, which stuck in my upper lip giving me a mouth full of blood. Yet another bullet hit me under my arm and departed through the fleshy part of my back.

After receiving treatment from a stretcher-bearer, I was ordered back to the A.D.S. (Advance Dressing Station) and spent the next three weeks in an army hospital tent being looked after by the Queen Alexandra Nurses. The hospital was out in the desert and during the day the nurses would roll up the flaps of the tent to give us patients in bed a bit more air. Unfortunately, there were times when the breeze got up and it felt like more like someone had opened up an oven door!

SAVERNAKE TEAM LETTER

Michael McHugh, Team Rector, writes:

I apologise in advance of writing this letter. In six years it is the first time I have written thus.



Parochial Church Councils across the team have asked me to share our financial crisis with the wider public. Most of the churches are functioning at a substantial annual loss.

This letter comes out only a week after Easter in the period when we celebrate the birth of 'the Church.' Theologically, 'the Church' is the community of believers.

It has also come to mean the place where those believers meet to worship. It is this second meaning that is the most challenging for the Savernake Team. Our communities of believers are relatively small and currently subsidise the use of the buildings both in time and money.

The community of believers will continue, of that I have absolutely no doubt. We can worship anywhere. I have celebrated across the

world in schools, houses, under trees and on top of hills. A roof is nice as it keeps the sun and the rain off.

We love our historic buildings and have a responsibility to them. They represent continued worship over hundreds and thousands of years. Our duty of care simply requires making sure they are watertight and thus that the fabric is sound.

One of the costs is our contribution to the national church, called 'the share.' It is a nationwide calculation aimed at providing the coverage required of a national church. It is for you to have access to baptisms, marriages and funerals, or a vicar if you need one. This team, twelve church buildings and 100 square miles, is subsidised by the Diocese and the hours parishioners and clergy give for no cost. Some of us are given a modest living to allow us to do this work. The "this pays vicars' wages!" viewpoint is incorrect and hurtful to those who give of their own time.

Recently, one building in the team needed £55,000 for repairs only to lose the roof to thieves. The total bill of twice that was met in that very small community where Sunday attendance is only a handful. In Great Bedwyn, repair of our miraculous bell, that fell not killing anyone, may have to wait until we have repaired our leaking roof.

It is easy to help!

If you believe you are a believer, come to church. If the services don't suit you, talk to us. Your presence alone will help to justify our labours and our expense.

Addresses for the village websites:

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

If you value the role of the building in your community!

Help us to cover our expenses. When you buy a car, you continue to pay for its running costs. If you want to buy into having a church building and having the services that come with it, become a regular giver. We cannot rely on one-off donations, although we are very grateful to receive them.

I am utterly confident the 'community of believers,' will continue. Two thousand years are themselves a testimony to this. It is up to you whether that is inside our existing church buildings.

Yours expectantly,

Michael

ST ANDREW'S CHURCH, COLLINGBOURNE DUCIS

Churchwarden Tish Leigh (01264 850867) writes:

As I am writing this report, I am still looking forward to all the Easter services, so will have to report next month about how they all went!



The Lent Lunches, which were held on four Wednesdays during March and April, raised a total of £165.90 in donations. It was decided to donate all of this to the DEC Cyclone Idai Appeal. Thank you to all who made the delicious soup and thank you to all who came to the lunches and donated so generously.

The Annual Church Meetings will have been held on Tuesday 30th April and members of the PCC, the churchwarden(s), the secretary and the treasurer elected, (a full list is on the noticeboard in the church).

The Annual Church Fête will be held on Saturday 11th May at Collingbourne Ducis Village Hall, from 12 pm – 4.30 pm.

More details on the flyer enclosed with your Courier and in the separate article about the fête. Please come along, have fun, and help raise much needed funds for repair and maintenance of our beautiful Village Church. There is quite a bit of urgent repair work needed – many of you will have noticed that the weatherboard over the clock is sloping at an alarming angle - it needs to be totally replaced. A number of tiles on the church roof need replacing and there are much needed repairs to the stonework of the church tower internally as well as externally, so all profits from the Church Fête will go towards all this work.

The services in May include the traditional open-air service on Ascension Day, which is on Thursday 30th May. This date is forty days after the resurrection. The service is being held at Wilton Windmill at 7.30 pm. If you would like to come to this wonderful service but need a lift, please contact me.

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 Andrew's Church, Collingbourne
www.standrews.savernaketeam.org

ST ANDREW'S CHURCH, COLLINGBOURNE DUCIS

Services in May

Sunday 5th	Evensong at 6 pm
Sunday 12th	Holy Communion at 11 am at St Mary's, Collingbourne Kingston
Sunday 19th	amily Service at 11 am
Sunday 26th	Holy Communion at 9 am
Thursday 30th	Ascension Day service 7.30 pm at Wilton Windmill

ST MARY'S CHURCH, COLLINGBOURNE KINGSTON

Services in May

Sunday 5th	Morning Worship at 9.30 am
Sunday 12th	Holy Communion at 11 am
Sunday 19th	Family Worship at Ducis at 11 am
Sunday 26th	Evensong at 6 pm
Thursday 30th	Team Ascension Day Service at Wilton Windmill at 7.30 pm

*Cover Photo: Silene laciniata, Mexican catchfly, growing somewhere in
England*