

Collingbourne Ducis - Everleigh - Collingbourne Kingston

# COURIER

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## **THE COURIER**

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**The deadline for October copy is 6.30 pm on 18th September 2019.**

## **COLLINGBOURNE DUCIS PARISH COUNCIL**

*Peter Knowlson, Chairman (01264 850812) writes:*

**Outdoor Fitness Equipment** - The outdoor fitness equipment at the recreation ground is now fully open and I hope you have had the opportunity to have a look and if able use the equipment. As a Parish Council we are very pleased with how this project has gone which all started from the survey that was sent out to residents of what projects you would like the Parish Council to carry out.



**Community Speed Watch** - As mentioned in the last edition of the Courier, we currently have the option to set up a Community Speed Watch. I know from recent Facebook posts that people feel strongly about speeding but as yet nobody has registered their interest to the Parish Council to volunteer some time to help set up a CSW group. Please contact our Parish Clerk or any of the Councillors if you would like to help set up a CSW group.

**Virtual Footpath** - Following a request from the Parish Council earlier in the year, Wiltshire CC Highways team have carried out a survey in Cadley Road and have confirmed that a Virtual Pathway can be painted on the left hand-side of the road as you head up towards The Shears. The Virtual Pathway will run from Saxon Rise up to the last property on the left before Garlands Estate. Virtual Pathways are designed to highlight to drivers that there will be pedestrians walking along the road as there is no actual pavement and to take extra care. We are hoping that the Council Contractors will be able to carry out the work by the end of the Autumn.

**Vacancies** - We currently have only five out of eleven Cllr positions filled on the Parish Council and really do need some more help from people. I know from reading the odd Facebook post that people are very passionate about our village which is brilliant, but what I would



say is come and get involved and together we will be able to achieve greater things. If you are interested in getting involved in our local projects, and having a say on how best we spend the Parish Council precept, I would invite you to either contact myself or the Parish Clerk to find out more details on becoming a Parish Councillor. 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](mailto: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 5th September. All members of the parish are welcome to attend.

#### **COLLINGBOURNE KINGSTON PARISH COUNCIL**

*Stephen Matanle, Chairman, writes:*

The Village Fete that was held on 20th July was a great success. The dog show again commanded centre stage and was enjoyed by all, both those participating and those spectating. The format was much the same as last year. Fran Dickenson ran her charming gymnastics class for all-comers. We have yet to see anyone over the age of fifteen take part but who knows? Maybe next year! The Poux Bros again excelled with their BBQ stall. Their simple but entertaining style of cooking proved yet again to be very popular. Guy Anderson found a new lease of life as the man with the mike. He gave the event a lot of shape and fortunately for all he resisted the temptation to lapse into song!

Particular thanks must go to Vicky May and Fran Dickenson who worked tirelessly to make the event a success. Steve Clements also deserves a special thanks for all his generosity and the time and effort he committed to the event.



The Parish Council would also like to thank all those who supplied and manned the stalls and the refreshment areas. Without their support and commitment the event could not take place.

The total profit was £1500 which will be distributed equally amongst the Village Hall, The WI, LINK, St. Mary's Church and the Parish Council.

Work on Brunton Roundabout was beginning as I sat down to write this article. It will be very pleasing to see this completed and help with our overall plans to improve the flow of traffic through the Parish.

It might be opportune to remind the Community of the approach the Parish Council has taken with regard to the A338. The panacea would be to have the government build a new road - either a dual carriageway or expressway - running north-south that would take the traffic away from the A338. In the short to medium-term this is not going to happen. Therefore, our approach has been to find as many ways as we can to calm the traffic. The Village Gates were the first part of our plan to be actioned. The next is the re-mapping of Brunton Roundabout. Other measures we are pursuing are: the installation of 30 mph reminder signs at strategic points along the A338; the purchase of one, or hopefully two, Speed Indicator Devices. These are not cheap so we will have to work to generate the funds to purchase them.

The CSW (Community Speed Watch) team that we set up in February 2018 is doing an excellent job and the team is growing. It is now thirteen strong and we are looking to get to twenty members. If we can do this we will be able to handle the speed camera for two weeks out of every four and do more sessions in the weeks that we have the camera. We have received very active support from the Police. Both

the Deputy Commissioner for Wiltshire, Jerry Herbert and Inspector Liz Coles, head of the Crime Prevention Team in Amesbury, have spent time in CK with Tim Keighley, the CSW leader, and others in the team. They have listened to our issues and observed the CSW team in action. They have paid attention to the representations made to them and have discussed these with their colleagues to find ways of improving the support they can give us. As a result, we would hope to see a greater periodic Police presence in the Parish in the future.

It is important that we maintain the momentum that the team has achieved and continue to grow in numbers. Can I ask that anyone who can give up a few hours a week, or at the weekend, to contact Tim directly on [timkeighley@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:timkeighley@tiscali.co.uk) so that he can provide the detail of what is involved.

On their own, none of these individual measures will be sufficient to achieve our ambitions for slowing the traffic. However, we think that as part of an overall plan that is directed towards getting the traffic to abide by the speed limits, these measures have a strong likelihood of working.

The Paths for All project that has been mentioned previously in the Courier is moving forward throughout Wiltshire. It would be very helpful to get some expressions of interest and support from the community so that we can register these with Wiltshire Council. If there is sufficient support, we will organise a meeting to discuss all aspects of this initiative. Our aim will be to mirror what is already happening in neighbouring parishes and establish a Walking Group. It may be most appropriate to do this in conjunction with Collingbourne Ducis and Everleigh but we can consider this once we understand the level of support within Collingbourne Kingston.





Please contact Nigel Braybrook on [nigelbraybrook@aol.com](mailto:nigelbraybrook@aol.com) if this is of interest to you.

One of the societal changes that impacts almost everyone is our increasing tendency to purchase goods online. These goods are then delivered by delivery companies or other similar outfits. They will benefit from clear signage on properties so that they know where to deliver. I for one have recently been moved to consider the signage on my own property from the perspective of someone whose only guide is the postcode and the name and number of my property. If the signage is either not there, or difficult to find or read, their job becomes very difficult. I would suggest that we all take a look at our house signage and be sure that we could find the property if we were the ones looking!

The next Parish Council Meeting will be on 10th September 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), Chairman, writes:*

The main annual Churches Conservation Trust event of the year in Everleigh, a Midsummer Tea Party, took place at St

Peter's Church on Sunday 23rd June. The turnout was high and the weather was glorious. This event consisted of the traditional cakes, books and plants stalls and a raffle. Congratulations to Robert and Elizabeth East for organising the event superbly and well done to the many helpers who contributed to a very convivial community event. Thanks also to those who turned out for the Work Party on Saturday



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**OUR LINK COORDINATOR'S NUMBER IS CD 850807**

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

15th June to tidy up and trim the Churchyard beforehand; this was a great effort!

Our Summer Party took place at the playground on Saturday 13th July. Activities included egg and spoon races, baton relay races, golf pitch and putt and a coconut shy. However, the turnout was very disappointing with only fifteen adults and six children attending the event which takes a good deal of endeavour and expense to conduct. The Parish Council spent £128 on the hire of a portaloo, prizes and coconuts, which is not good use of limited resources for so few parishioners. We may therefore need to consider the future of the event in due course.

There are two village events planned for the remainder of this year, both at St Peter's Church. A Harvest Festival service is scheduled to take place on Saturday 5th October at 3 pm and a Christmas Carol Service will take place on Saturday 7th December at 5 pm, followed by mulled wine and mince pies.

The future of our village bonfire/fireworks night has been reviewed by the Parish Council. The event takes considerable time, effort and funding to organise, and it is apparent that Everleigh residents have not been fully supporting the evening in recent years. Consequently, parishioners were consulted in May/June to seek their views. Only thirteen out of ninety-four households responded that they would like the event to continue. We will therefore not be conducting a bonfire/fireworks night this year and will review the situation again in 2020.

Martine Burton has resigned from the Parish Council, having left the village. Martine has served as a parish councillor for the past three years with enthusiasm and a strong sense of community spirit. We are grateful for her contribution.

There are now two vacancies 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 3rd September 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**

### **COMMUNITY SOCIAL CALENDAR**

*Barry Reed writes:*

Do you plan or run events in Collingbourne Ducis, Kingston or Everleigh - either Parish, Church, Village Hall or individual charity events?

Due to a number of clashes of events in recent years our Beerfest committee, along with Ducis PC Chairman, is attempting to have a 2020 Social Events Calendar which we propose will be posted in the Courier and on social media sites. This way we can prevent clashes of events and have dates clearly displayed.

Next year also marks an important date with VE/VJ Celebrations so it would be great for everyone to understand what, where and when!

We have Collingbourne Ducis Village Hall booked at 19:00 hours on Tuesday 24th September to put plans in place, so it would be great to get as many organisers as possible present! Let's see if this can help our community.

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**Our Community Support Officers can be contacted on 101**



## COLLINGBOURNE PRIMARY SCHOOL

*Dan Crossman, Headteacher, writes:*

The summer term has drawn to an end here at Collingbourne School. As always, of course, this was an exciting time of year as the holidays approached but it was also tinged with a little sadness as some of our families moved onto pastures new. Our Year 6 children have said goodbye and will be starting new adventures at secondary school. Speaking of Year 6, they have performed exceptionally well in their end of year tests. Our 'SATS' results are detailed below and, as you will see, they are excellent. These results will place us as one of the very best performing schools for attainment.



|                   |          |               |
|-------------------|----------|---------------|
| Reading           | National | Collingbourne |
| Achieved standard | 73%      | 83%           |
| Greater Depth     | 27%      | 33%           |
| Writing           | National | Collingbourne |
| Achieved standard | 78%      | 100%          |
| Greater Depth     | 20%      | 25%           |
| Grammar           | National | Collingbourne |
| Achieved standard | 78%      | 100%          |
| Greater Depth     | 36%      | 58%           |
| Maths             | National | Collingbourne |
| Achieved standard | 79%      | 100%          |
| Greater Depth     | 27%      | 25%           |

Congratulations to Year 6 for these fantastic results and good luck next year you clever bunch!

I can also now share a few more details about the Ofsted inspection back in June. I'm delighted to say that our school was judged to be 'Good' in all the inspection areas. A few of the highlights are captured below:

Collingbourne has changed drastically over the last eighteen months. It is a very special school where every child is valued and encouraged to grow.

Leaders tackle areas for improvement with determination. Their reflective approach to school improvement is paying off. The quality of teaching is good and continues to improve.

Leaders are relentless in keeping safeguarding high on the school's agenda.

Most pupils make increasingly strong progress in phonics, reading, writing and mathematics because of good teaching.

A strong sense of respect and values permeates the school.

Parents speak highly of how happy and safe their children are.

We're very proud of both our academic results and the points made in the inspection report. The 'Gazette and Herald' even featured a report about the school celebrating these successes and that was a very satisfying way to end the year!

Finally, I hope you all had a very happy summer. Hopefully the sun will keep shining and England beat Australia in the cricket!

#### **MOBILE LIBRARY SERVICE**

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

## COLLINGBOURNE BEERFEST

*Barry Reed writes:*



The Collingbourne Beerfest Committee is pleased to announce that this year's event has successfully raised well over £4,000 for our local community. A massive thank you to everyone who joined us on the night to not only make the second annual Beerfest one to remember, but to help raise this fantastic sum of money. We will be making donations to both Collingbourne Primary School and to Collingbourne Cricket Club – from which the senior, ladies and youth teams will all benefit.

In addition, the committee would also like to invite other local clubs and organisations to apply for a portion of the proceeds.

Collingbourne Beerfest is a project run by the local community, for the local community, so we'd like to make sure that the money we've all helped raise supports local projects and assists clubs that may not be able to host a fundraising event of this size on their own.

So, if you're part of a club or group based in the Collingbournes or Everleigh and are looking for a small cash injection to help with an upcoming project then please do get in touch.

**[collingbournebeerfest@gmail.com](mailto:collingbournebeerfest@gmail.com)**

## CANCER RESEARCH UK - STONEHENGE AND PEWSEY VALE

*Pat Lincoln writes:*

On Sunday 13th October 2019, we invite you to join us once again, for the ever popular Curry Lunch at the Goa Balti in Everleigh.



Doors will be open at 12 pm for 12.30 pm.

The tickets are priced at £20 for adults, with children aged twelve and under at £12. Tickets are available from Val Patrick on **01264 850345** and Nesta Waine on **01672 563403**

## COLLINGBOURNE KINGSTON WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

*Sandra Fisher (01264 850363) writes:*



At the meeting on Thursday 12th July, the President, Wendy Brown, extended a welcome to members and visitors. Apologies for absence were read out and the minutes of the previous meeting were signed off. Among details of events note was made of the Annual Council Meeting on 29th October and the excellent and emotional County Centenary Service held in the Cathedral earlier in July. Wendy then thanked all those who had worked to make the Flower Festival such a success over the weekend of the 6th and 7th of July.

Mandy Whitfold, the speaker for the evening was introduced. She had brought many examples of work made on the variety of sizes of her Butterfly Looms and during her talk passed them round to demonstrate the various techniques used to make furnishings and accessories. The looms enable squares, similar to crocheted ones, to be made quickly and easily. She had bought the looms from an Australian a few years back and now sells on the internet, visits groups to demonstrate them and runs workshops.

She was warmly thanked and the evening concluded with delicious refreshments and a raffle.

On Wednesday 7th August members were treated to a boat trip on the *Rose of Hungerford* as a part of the year's Centenary celebrations. It was a very pleasant social morning, despite being slightly dampened by a very heavy shower while waiting to board. The captain talked about the canal and the Crofton Steam Engines, which pump water up to the canal from Wilton Water. After disembarking back in Hungerford members repaired to the Tutti Pole café to treat themselves to lunch to round off the trip.



Next meeting: 12th September

Speaker: Brenna Cook on Fraud Awareness/Take 5

Tea Hostesses: G. Foster and E. Burns

Hostess: D. Johnson

Raffle Prize: N. Binge

25th September The Centenary Group Meeting will be held in Collingbourne Kingston Village Hall.

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 SHORT MAT BOWLS CLUB**

*Humphrey Sheppard (01264 850721) writes:*

Our new season starts on Wednesday 18th September 2019 and runs to Wednesday 29th April 2020 at 6.45 pm.

We run an in-house friendly league with teams consisting of a mixture of new and established players on two mats.

We also have a third mat for those not playing league or who can only attend occasionally. We also play a few friendly matches against other local clubs and organisations.



New members will be made most welcome and the club have several sets of bowls available for use, so all you will need are flat-soled shoes. There is no annual subscription, just turn up and pay for the evening, £2 per session (6.45 pm - 9.15 pm)

For further information ring Mike **01264 850525**, Alan **01264 850605** or Jeanette **01264 850721**

### **TORTOISE FOUND**

A Tortoise was handed in to Collingbourne Ducis post office. So if anyone has lost one, it's in the shop. Let's hope it finds its home!

## THEFILMPLACE – YOUR COMMUNITY CINEMA

*Jim Plenderleith writes:*

We are back from the summer break!

Showing at THEFILMPLACE on Friday

27th September is the film **FISHERMAN'S FRIENDS**. This 2019 comedy drama was inspired by the true story of how a group of Cornish folk singers went from belting out harbour side sea shanties to signing a £1 million record deal. Starring Daniel Mays, James Purefoy and Tuppence Middleton, FISHERMAN'S FRIENDS is a delightful feel-good film with some breath-taking scenes; it is coastal escapism at its finest.

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.

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**

Film dates for your diary:-

Friday 25th October                      Red Joan

Friday 22nd November                  Yesterday

## WORKING TYPEWRITER NEEDED

*Angela Ward writes:*

Arthritis means I can no longer write properly. If you have a working typewriter for sale would you please contact Angela on **01264 850503**. Thank you.

**THEFILMPLACE**  
YOUR COMMUNITY CINEMA

## LINK

*Elizabeth East, LINK Coordinator (01264 850807) writes:*

Can you spare a few hours of your time, up to a couple of times a month, to drive our neighbours to the shops, to the surgery, to hospital or just to visit some friends?

Could this be you?

If you would be willing to drive for LINK please phone **01264 850807** and leave a message and I will get back to you with further information.

It is a very worthwhile community scheme supporting people in the Collingbournes, Everleigh and Chute villages and it would be a pity to lose it through a lack of drivers.

Volunteer drivers are recompensed for their fuel and our passengers are extremely grateful for all the help they are given by LINK.

## COLLINGBOURNE DUCIS VILLAGE HALL DRAW

*Jane Crook (01264 850436) announces:*

The winners of the last two Village Hall draws were

| July |               | August           |
|------|---------------|------------------|
| £50  | P. Cogdell 94 | M. Doherty 74    |
| £25  | S. Cooper 17  | D. Booth 145     |
| £10  | A. Wilkins 51 | E. Haggis 131    |
| £5   | P. Stone 268  | J. Cockerton 208 |



Congratulations to the winners. If you would like to be entered into the draw please call Jane Crook **01264 850436**





## **COLLINGBOURNES AND EVERLEIGH GARDENING CLUB**

*Pam Haverson (01264 850609) writes:*

Our trip to the Armed Forces Chaplaincy Centre in Amport House was well attended and we enjoyed a talk by David Blake, the museum curator, on the history of the house and college. Chaplains and faith leaders of all denominations, armed only with their religious books, accompanied army units through every war in history, and the museum is a beautiful memorial to the hundreds who died in service over the years.



The gardens are beautifully maintained and we were able to stroll through and admire them. The college is moving to Shrivenham in October so we were fortunate to be able to visit when we did.

We held our Gardeners' Lunch at Millennium House in early August. Many thanks to Christina and Terry for being such good hosts. The weather was very kind to us too and it was a good chance to catch up with everyone and enjoy the food and drinks provided.

Our evening programme resumes on 26th September with a talk on Re-introducing the Great Bustard. This will be held in Ducis Village Hall and starts at 7.30 pm.

Visitors are always welcome and if you would like more information about the club, please contact either me on **01264 850609** or Patti Marsh on **01264 850319**.

## **BURBAGE & DISTRICT VIDEO & CAMERA CLUB (BDVCC)**

The next session will take place on Wednesday 18th September, 19:00 hours, at the British Legion Hall, Burbage.

## **ST PETER'S CHURCH - MIDSUMMER TEA PARTY**

*Robert and Elizabeth East (01264 850449) write:*

Our Summer Tea Party at St Peter's Church Everleigh, was held on Sunday 23rd June 2019. Although not a blistering hot day we were lucky to have it dry and warm, and many people from the village got together for a chat over a cup of tea and a piece of delicious homemade cake.



We browsed the book stall, bought a few plants and several of us won prizes in the raffle. One of our young helpers, Laurence Goldsmith, won the 'Guess the Number of Sweets' in a jar. So sometimes 'helping' pays off!

Altogether we raised £475 from the two hour tea party and all will go to the Churches Conservation Trust. We feel lucky that our church is one of the many they look after.

## **BFA - BRIDGE FOR ALL - MARLBOROUGH**

*Mo Hill writes:*

Learn to play or improve your Bridge. Lessons in Marlborough (EBU Professional Tutor) for absolute beginners, improvers and intermediates (Club players)

New courses start September 2019. No partner needed. Practice sessions, supervised play and duplicate session are run regularly. Friendly relaxed atmosphere.

Please contact Andy or Mo Hill for further details and availability. Telephone **07831 841185** [andyjbridge@btinternet.com](mailto:andyjbridge@btinternet.com) or [www.bridgewebs.com/bfamarlborough](http://www.bridgewebs.com/bfamarlborough)

## **BURBAGE & DISTRICT MODEL RAILWAY CLUB (BDMRC)**

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday 16th September, at 7 pm.

## CATS PROTECTION LEAGUE

*Martin Bevan writes:*

We raised £135.90 at St Mary Bourne fete. Thank you to everyone who visited our stall.



We will be at the Foxcotte Vets Open Day on Saturday 14th September from 1 pm - 4 pm. We hope to see you there.

Lovely Lulu from last month was lucky to find a new home in Salisbury. Mitzy has been in our care for a long time and is waiting patiently for her forever home. She was not happy with the dog in the house so will need a home with no dogs. She would be ok with older children and is used to going out and about so a safe garden away from busy roads would be ideal. She is around five years old.

Homing Enquiries **0345 260 1501** or **[andover.cats.org.uk](http://andover.cats.org.uk)**

Fund-raising and volunteers **07733 242196** or email **[coord@andovercats.org.uk](mailto:coord@andovercats.org.uk)**

Items for resale **01256 892773**

## JULIA'S HOUSE

*Susie Carver, Marketing and Communications Officer, (01202 644220) writes:*



### **SKYDIVERS JUMP FOR JULIA'S HOUSE**

Daring supporters of Julia's House children's hospice in Devizes showed their bravery last weekend by taking part in the charity's fundraising skydive, The Big Jump.

Twenty-two intrepid individuals experienced the adrenaline rush of jumping from a plane at 13,000 feet high above the Airfield Camp at Netheravon near Salisbury, under the expert guidance of the Army Parachute Association. It is hoped that, thanks to their efforts, The





Big Jump will raise approximately £10,000 to support the families of children living with life-limiting or life-threatening conditions in Wiltshire.

Hannah Miller, Challenge Events Manager for Julia's House said:

*'The families we care for have to be incredibly brave every single day. Their lives are full of hospital appointments, medication and uncertainty. We're so proud and incredibly grateful to our amazing fundraisers who have faced their own fears in support of these families.'*

Julia's House does not receive any government funding for its services in Wiltshire and is entirely reliant on public fundraising, donations and legacies. It cares not just for the child, but the whole family, providing emotional support and social opportunities to help break the cycle of anxiety and isolation that can impact their lives.

The charity currently supports sixty-four families living in Wiltshire, and the money raised by The Big Jump will go directly towards their care.

### **About Julia's House:**

Julia's House is a local charity dedicated to supporting the families of children with life-limiting or life-threatening conditions in Dorset and Wiltshire. Many of these children require round the clock care, which has a huge impact on family life.

Julia's House provides bespoke care for every family it supports. Parents can choose when, where and how they receive their care – at home, in the community or at one of the charity's two hospices in Corfe Mullen and Devizes – making it a truly flexible service.

This regular respite and support, plus emergency and end-of-life care, is provided completely free to families thanks to the generosity of the local community. Julia's House relies on public donations,

fundraising and legacies for 95% of the money needed to run its vital service. The charity currently supports 166 families across Dorset and Wiltshire and the number is rising as medical and scientific advances mean more children are being born and living longer with life-limiting conditions. By 2022 the number of children needing the support of Julia's House is expected to have increased by 40%.

The service that Julia's House provides has been rated 'outstanding' by the Care Quality Commission and the charity is a Sunday Times top 100 not-for-profit workplace.

For more information visit [www.juliashouse.org](http://www.juliashouse.org)

## **FREDERICK HUGHES MM**

*Patti Marsh writes - here is the next part of my late Uncle Fred's war-time memoirs:*

### **The German 88mm Tank Gun**

We next received the order to move on up the coastal road into the port of Salerno.

The port had been badly hit, perhaps by the Royal Navy out in the Mediterranean. We had to pick our way carefully along the dockside because all the overhead cables were down and strewn all over the place and we were not sure if they were live or not, so we gingerly moved on through the town.

Later on, with my platoon leading around the side of a mountain where the road had been blown away in two or three places, we came upon a nice piece of straight road, approximately three hundred yards long. I stood in the bushes and with my binoculars scanned the end of the road just to see if there was anything suspicious.

We proceeded to march by sections, on alternate sides of the road. When we were approximately half-way up the road a German tank opened up and with his 88mm gun fired onto a Churchill tank that

was following us. He was very well camouflaged and I had failed to spot him.

The 88mm fired one shot which passed down the middle of the road through my section. Everybody dived for cover in the bushes and after a few moments, when we shook our heads to get our hearing back as the noise was absolutely deafening, we proceeded up the road to see if we could catch him.



When I looked back I could see that he had knocked the turret of the Churchill right off. The 88mm gun was a magnificent but deadly thing. We had nothing of that calibre in our tanks.

There was a spotter plane up at this time and as we didn't encounter the 88 again, I was hoping the RA (Royal Artillery) had dealt with him.

Sometime later we found a ruined house with no windows or doors on the forward slope of our mountain and the lads were told to lie down and try to get some rest. They were also given strict instructions not to go near or look out of the windows.

At that time we had an officer of the guns with us and we went up into the roof space. Here we raised a tile and with a matchbox to hold the tile up found we had a wide view of the valley below us. It was like looking through a letterbox! On my stint with the binoculars I noticed that there was a plume of smoke coming from the back of what looked like farm buildings, way up the valley to our right. I brought this to the attention of the OP (observation post) of the guns, and 'Yes, we'll have a go at that'. First, he had to work out the range on his map from the guns to the target, then he asked for one smoke

shell to be fired. This gave him confirmation of the range, after which he could correct the range if it was required. By asking for a smoke shell to be fired first, he was sure of seeing where it landed.

There are three guns to a troop so he ordered three rounds of HE (high explosive) and we watched in anticipation. As soon as the nine shells had landed on target, from the rear of the building came a tracked vehicle with several personnel in it, and it quickly motored away up the valley.

Another target that the OP of the guns was interested in was a bridge across the river down in the valley. This looked like a very substantial structure with a parapet each side. However, the OP thought that the target was perhaps too strong for his 25 pounders so got permission to borrow the 5.5-inch guns. These were the big guns of the RA. He went through the procedure of getting the range and then our platoon got orders to move on, so unfortunately, I never found out if he was successful in blowing up the bridge!

### **Out on Patrol**

There were two types of patrols that we might have been called upon to carry out in no-man's land. The first type is the fighting patrol, the purpose of which is to probe enemy lines or to capture a prisoner for intelligence purposes. Fortunately, we were not called upon to carry out any of these dangerous assignments.

The other patrol is to get information and in Tunisia I was unfortunate to be given the task to carry out one of these patrols. I was taken up on a high point in our lines and with a pair of binoculars a bridge was pointed out to me a long way up the valley. My orders were to take nine men, get as close to the bridge as possible and observe who was using the bridge.

There were no landmarks to assist me up the valley so I decided to keep the river on my right. The ground was strewn with small rocks and we were wearing boots so it was difficult to approach the bridge quietly. When we rested, (lay up), we all lay down in a circle with one boot near the boot of the next lad's; this gave us all-round protection and observation. If anyone saw anything suspicious he would tap the boot of the next lad and the signal would come around the circle to me. This rest time gave me opportunity to get my bearings as all we had to our right was the black wall of the mountain, which was enemy territory, and the river.

During one 'lay up' one of the lads decided to pass wind. He was a big lad, and I would think a bit thick. This happened again when we were in sight of the bridge and had there been any enemy about guarding the bridge they would have been alerted. I crawled around to him and pointed my Tommy Gun up his nose, hoping he would get the message that he could well have given our position away and caused the whole patrol to be shot up. When we got back to our lines I really had a go at him. I can't repeat what I said but he was left in no doubt of the seriousness of the situation and there was no way would I take that ignorant lad out on another patrol. However, after a very cold and damp two hours watching the bridge that night, we did discover that the bridge was not being used.

On another patrol that I was detailed to go out on, this time in Italy, it was proposed that we should move forward, but the River Garigliano was in our path. I was ordered to go down, cross a water meadow to the river, and find out five things:

- the depth of the bank - 4ft-5ft deep
- approximate current - very fast
- a possible fording place
- the width of the river - approximately 30ft

- the depth of the river - chest high

As regards the possible fording place, I looked up and could see the North Star clearly, so I decided to move northward up the edge of the river. We soon came to a place where I presumed over the years the cattle or sheep had trodden the bank down to get to the water for a drink. Here I got Perry, one of the two lads I regularly took with me, to wade into the river. When he was up to his chest in the water I decided enough was enough, and it was too muddy. Perry was my platoon runner, a gamekeeper in civilian life, and of course, very reliable and able to move very quietly at night. The other lad I called Doug, which wasn't his real name and I can't quite remember why he got his nickname, but he was also very reliable and whenever I had to move, especially at night, I knew that one or the other lad was always following me.

In a defensive position the lads were always out in pairs; every night there was always a different pass codename, and quite often I would visit the pairs just to make sure they were not asleep.

I always thought the night-time was the worst; at night you had to rely on your ears whereas in the daytime you had a chance of seeing someone creeping or moving up on you.

The night after our visit to the river, Billy Wise (who after the war would become my brother-in-law) and some other truck drivers dropped some boats for us as close as it was safe for them to come. We then had to carry them across the water meadows to the river and assemble them. The boats were flat, wooden bottomed, about ten feet long and with canvas sides. Some slats of timber, positioned here and there around the boat, kept up the sides. We managed to get our boat erected and partly in the water over the mud. I was in the front of the boat with my Thomson sub-machine gun and there were four men

behind me, each with a paddle. It was still fairly dark and it was supposed to have been a quiet crossing, but somehow we had attracted some unpleasant attention from the other side of the river. There was a burst of gunfire from the opposite bank and our boat turned into a colander. We quickly got out and away from the river. We regrouped some yards back from the river and sometime later we were informed that the battalion upstream had got a bridge across, so we quickly moved up there and were then able to continue our advance.

*To be continued*



*Photo above: British troops crossing the Garigliano river in canvas and wooden assault boat, January 1944.*

*Previous photo: Captured German Tiger I tank fitted with KwK 88mm gun, Tunis 1943.*





## SAVERNAKE TEAM LETTER

*Rev Michael McHugh, Savernake Team Rector*

Dear Reader,



I find myself preparing as usual the September letter halfway through what is for us a quiet period. I hope that for those of you who have hectic lives, that the summer has proved a time for rest and recuperation.

One of the things that happens over the summer is that I get a chance to crack open books properly. My very eclectic library is surprising. You will for example find on my bookshelf books by Dawkins and books that predict the decline of the Church of England. Comfortable bedfellows with theology, science and nature.

Many years ago, I took a master's degree specialising in the way in which Religion and Culture interact. In that I studied primal religions, learning about some that had a fundamentally good basis and others that were fundamentally evil. I could not have studied that 'on-line' because of the subconscious censure that exists there. You cannot speak freely of the slavery to evil religions and cultural practices. If it is censured, you cannot critique that which you do not know.

In September many of our children are starting secondary school. They will need to hear viewpoints and understand cultures including our own. They will learn about Christianity and the Humanist Society. Let's hope that they develop the breadth from books to make their own decisions on knowledge, faith and otherwise.

On a different note, on the 8th September, some of our young people who have made their own choices will be confirmed in Little

Bedwyn. Those of you who can, please support them with your prayers.

You might give a thought to those of us who are broadening our horizons on the 14th September by visiting our churches. This team is a round trip of approximately forty miles. On this occasion the desire is to raise money for these historic buildings.

I hope that the return to work is not too traumatic,

Every blessing,

*Michael*

### **ST MARY'S CHURCH, COLLINGBOURNE KINGSTON**

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

We have two events coming up in the next few weeks, further details of which are shown in the flyer enclosed with this copy of the Courier:



An exhibition of the history of Collingbourne Kingston in the church on Saturday and Sunday 14th and 15th September from 10 am until 4 pm. The exhibition will cover a wide range of subjects about the village, and please also see **[www.heritageopendays.org.uk](http://www.heritageopendays.org.uk)**

The Harvest Supper. Our annual Harvest Supper takes place on Monday 7th October at the Village Hall. It is open to all the residents of Kingston, Ducis, Everleigh and elsewhere and all are welcome.

We hope to see you there!

The Harvest Festival service will be held in the church at 11 am on Sunday 6th October at 9.30 am and all donations of garden produce will be very welcome. These should be delivered to the church by 2 pm on Saturday 5th October if at all possible. The produce will then

be transferred to the Village Hall on Monday 7th October to be auctioned at the Harvest Supper in aid of church funds.

The Women's Institute celebrated the centenary of its foundation with a flower festival and exhibition in the church on 6th July. The flowers were beautiful and many people called in at the church to take part.

The funeral was held on 30th July of Muriel Deboo, wife of Canon Alan. She, together with Alan, was a marvellous help to Collingbourne Kingston for over 25 years until ill health made it necessary for her to give up. She had a hand in many village activities, from welcoming newcomers, helping members of the parish with welfare problems, organising the Harvest Supper, numerous church matters and so much else. She is greatly missed, and our sincere sympathies go to Alan and his family.

### **ST ANDREW'S CHURCH, COLLINGBOURNE DUCIS**

*Tish Leigh (01264 850867) Churchwarden writes:*

Summer may be officially over and autumn on its way but September is often a glorious month – it can't be wetter than August can it?



At the time of writing, the rain is pouring down and much of the harvest is ready but still waiting to be gathered in. I hope that by the time you are reading this, our local farmers have successfully got most, if not all, of their crops harvested and that all of you have had a good summer break.

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### **Addresses for the village websites:**

CD: [www.collingbourne-ducis.com](http://www.collingbourne-ducis.com)  
CK: [www.collingbournekingston.org.uk](http://www.collingbournekingston.org.uk)  
Everleigh: [www.everleigh.org](http://www.everleigh.org)

A quick look back to August – love was definitely in the air as two weddings took place in St. Andrew’s Church.

The wedding of Kiera Perrin and Marcus Smith took place on Saturday 10th August. It was lovely to see the church full of their family and friends joyfully witnessing the occasion. The wedding of Louise Hyndman and Shaun Winter took place on Saturday 31st August. Although it will have taken place after this report was written, I’m sure it was a wonderful occasion, with family and friends to help celebrate their marriage.

The school holidays are almost over and the children will soon be back at school. In mid-September, Rev. Jo, helped by volunteers from the PCC and congregation, once again will be restarting the weekly after-school club for children in years 2 - 6 at Collingbourne Primary school, called JAM (Jesus and Me). This was a great success last year and we look forward to welcoming ‘old’ and new members. Further details will be sent home via the school.

As mentioned in the previous edition of the Courier, following the successful Church Fête and Tri-Village Tournament, we have booked the Village Hall and recreation ground for next year’s event for Saturday 16th May 2020. Our first planning meeting is scheduled for Thursday 5th September at 7.30 pm in St. Andrew’s Church. If you would like to be involved please come and join us; you will be very welcome.

The PCC is hopeful that work to repair stonework on the church tower, the repair of the prentice board above the clock and repairs to broken and loose tiles on the church roof will be taking place during the autumn. Once the prentice board is repaired and back in place, we hope to get the clock on the church tower working again. At present it would seem that the minute hand is helping to hold the

prentice board in place! Funds are in place for this work, thanks to the PCC's fund raising efforts during the last year and to a grant of £1000 from Wiltshire Historic Churches Trust. One of this charity's major fundraising campaigns is the annual Ride and Stride Event which takes place this year on Saturday 14th September. Volunteers raise money by visiting Wiltshire's churches or chapels around the county either on foot or by riding bikes or horses but other means of transport are allowed! Half of the money raised in sponsorship is kept by the volunteer's chosen parish and half goes to the WHCT. Some members of St. Andrew's congregation intend to ride or stride on 14th September in order to support WHCT and to raise money for our church. If you would like to join us or sponsor us please contact me or any member of the PCC for details.

St Andrew's Church Harvest Festival service will be held on Sunday 15th September at 11 am. Any donations of tins or packets of food will be donated to Andover Food Bank while fresh, more perishable items will be donated to West Farm House Nursing Home. Please join us for this celebration service which will be followed by refreshments.

On Friday 20th September, we will be holding our Harvest Supper at Collingbourne Ducis Village Hall. The bar opens at 6.30 pm. The supper of delicious home-cooked food will be served from 7 pm. Tickets: £10 for adults, £5 for children (primary school age). Proceeds will go to the church's repair and maintenance fund.

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 Ducis.

**ST MARY'S CHURCH, COLLINGBOURNE KINGSTON**

*Services in September*

|             |  |
|-------------|--|
| Sunday 1st  | Morning Worship at 9.30 am               |
| Sunday 8th  | Holy Communion at 11 am                  |
| Sunday 15th | Harvest Festival at Ducis at 11 am       |
| Sunday 22nd | Evensong at 6 pm                         |
| Sunday 29th | Cluster Holy Communion at Ducis at 11 am |

**ST ANDREW'S CHURCH, COLLINGBOURNE DUCIS**

*Services in September*

|             |                                      |
|-------------|--------------------------------------|
| Sunday 1st  | Evensong at 6 pm                     |
| Sunday 8th  | Holy Communion at St Mary's at 11 am |
| Sunday 15th | Harvest Festival Service at 11 am    |
| Sunday 22nd | Holy Communion at 9 am               |
| Sunday 29th | Holy Communion at 11 am              |

*Cover Photo: Italian agriculturalists*