

Collingbourne Ducis - Everleigh - Collingbourne Kingston

COURIER

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THE COURIER

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THE VIEW FROM EVERLEIGH

Denis Bottomley (01264 852731), Chairman, writes:

Our Christmas Carol Service took place at St Peter's Church on Saturday 10th December. This was a great opportunity for the village to get together, to hear the Christmas story and to sing traditional carols. The church was again superbly



decorated by the Ladies of Everleigh, led by Elizabeth East, with candles and flowers beautifully arranged. Rev Jo Reid conducted an excellent service and lessons were read with confidence and style. Kim Wheeler-Mallows produced outstanding light effects both inside and outside the church. Finally, our special thanks go to Gail Barkes, Alice Adams, Alison Whiteman and Debbie Hughes for organising absolutely delicious mulled wine, hot chocolate and mince pies after the service.

The Parish Council is now working on plans for this year. In the near future we intend to lay on two events: a village litter pick on Saturday 11th March at 11 am, meeting at The Crown bus shelter; and a work party to tidy up and maintain our playground on Saturday 15th April from 9.30 am until noon. On Saturday 6th May we are planning a large-scale village event at the playground/Jubilee field to celebrate the Royal Coronation. More details on each event will be promulgated in due course.

We have made good progress on our Everleigh Enhancement plan over the past two years. Achievements include a circular bench by The Crown bus shelter, a new all-weather bench by the playground with views across Salisbury Plain, two Caution Horses signs on Netheravon Road, a floral garden on the embankment in Everleigh Centre, a superb village map to support delivery drivers by the bus stop lay-by and the establishment of flower planters throughout the village.

This year our priorities will be a new all-weather bench in Everleigh Centre overlooking the floral garden, two additional planters to build on the success of that project and a Christmas Tree in December in Everleigh Centre.

A perennial issue is illegal dumping of rubbish and fly tipping on Salisbury Plain. These eyesores are really irritating and demonstrate a lack of respect for our scenic environment. Please report any sightings to Plain Watch 01980 674700, part of the Control Room at HQ Salisbury Plain Training Area. Reports can also be submitted using the Wiltshire Council app, MyWilts, available online and for mobile devices.

Finally, the next Parish Council meeting will take place on Tuesday 14th March 2023 at 7 pm at the Collingbourne Ducis Village Hall. 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

COLLINGBOURNE SCHOOL REPORT

Headteacher Harriet Phillips writes:

Happy New Year!

We have had busy start to the New Year, as always. We started term with a training day. The focus for our training day was to revisit our vision statement, we have been looking at this since the beginning of the academic year and have decided that these three words describe our school well:

Leading, loving, learning.

Leading the way, loving each other, learning together.

Alongside our three words we thought this bible quote aligns with our new description.

‘Let us not love in word or speech, but in action and in truth’ (1 John 3:18)



You will start to see these new additions in a number of things in and around school so keep your eye out!

The children came back ready to learn after their exciting Christmas holidays; Kingfishers (our oldest children) are learning about Ancient Greece, Otters are learning about the Ancient Egyptians, Hedgehogs are learning about China, including the Chinese New Year, and our Foxes (our youngest children) are learning about the tiger who came to tea.

Collingbourne Ducis Elf Trail

The Elf trail was a big hit. The families that joined in really enjoyed getting out and about in the village. The winner of the lucky draw was The Gibbs family who received a family hamper of goodies. Thank you to everyone who housed an elf and to those who took part. We hope to run this again next year.



Volunteers still needed

There are a number of ways you could volunteer to help the School. We are currently seeking Governors, who play a really important role in the strategic development of the school. If you think this is something that you could offer please ring the school office and speak to Kerry **01264 850346**.

We are also welcoming volunteers to listen to readers on a regular basis, if you could offer some time during the week please get in touch.

We also would love to hear from you if you are able to offer expertise in any of the topics being covered by the children in school.

All volunteers subject to a DBS check.

COLLINGBOURNE ROAD SAFETY WORKING GROUP (CRSWG)

Philip Palmer writes:

I am pleased to report some good news regarding the road safety campaign, which I take as a sign that it is having an effect.

Firstly over the calendar year 2022 police speeding enforcement in Collingbourne Kingston increased throughout the year to the extent that in 2022 and early 2023, 188 tickets were issued, of these:

- 1 176 carried Speed Awareness Courses
- 2 14 were Fixed Penalty Enforceable Tickets each resulting in a £100 fine and three penalty points
- 3 One Court Summons was issued

So the message should be getting out there to motorists passing through to adhere to the limits or there are consequences.

This success is due in no small measure to the continued good work by Kingston Parish Council Community Speed Watch and the relationship that they have with the local police, and inevitably due to public opinion as eloquently expressed at the two CRSWG meetings in 2022, which has certainly resulted in increased enforcement activity towards the later end of the year, including a day of checks on HGVs on the forecourt of the Barleycorn Public House.

Secondly, on 16th December 2022 myself and representatives from Collingbourne Ducis Parish Council met with T J Morris, trading as Home Bargains, and Wiltshire Council Highways officials for the first Local Forum meeting, albeit a condition of the planning application in 2015 for the Solstice Park RDC. At that meeting we were advised that in 2025 another Regional Distribution Centre for Home Bargains will go live in Warrington. This will take all of the current northbound Home Bargains HGV traffic. In the meantime they stated that they would undertake a review of the routes using the A338 and the possibility of re-routing some of them to lessen their traffic footprint.

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COURIER

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Fanny Cradock?

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with the readers of the Courier, so
please send them to us at:

cdkecouriercontribute@gmail.com

I was informed in early January that 57 routes use the A338 for 114 trips, presumably per week. The conclusion of their review is to re-route 28 routes for 56 trips up the A350, and nine routes for 18 trips up the A34. This leaves just 19 routes using the A338 for 38 trips.

They have also promised to expedite the insurance claim for repair to the bank of the Bourne following the crash there in August 2022. There is a further Local Forum meeting in March 2023 and I shall be holding them to these promises.

This can only be good news and if true represents a significant reduction in HGV traffic attributable to one specific haulier.

The campaign goes on and I hope to be able to bring you news of any progress as soon as I have it. On that note I need to form a core committee (as advised by Danny Kruger MP) and as such I only have five people and I am looking for about ten-twelve. If you are interested and able to offer some time to help please contact me on 07734 922751.

WILTSHIRE MOBILE LIBRARIES 2023

Pete Waterman (01225 713706 / 07384235642) writes:

Dates and times of future visits in 2023 can be found at the new location for Mobile Library information at <https://apps.wiltshire.gov.uk/librariesinformation/Library/Mobiles>

This is a new link to the previous one you were supplied with – we hope you like the new online Mobile Library information pages. I'm pleased to say that, (we think) they are much easier to use than the previous pages and have new functions like a postcode search that will tell you where your nearest five mobile/branch library locations are, and (at last!) a map that shows you exactly where mobile library stops are located (hopefully avoiding any more conversations with new residents such as 'No sorry, they were parked round the corner

by the “other” post-box near the church...’). However, unfortunately I still cannot find a software engineer that can stop the mobile library calendar from auto-filling the dates for Bank Holidays – please continue to disregard any timetabled dates that fall on Public Holidays (including the Coronation!) as the mobile libraries do not operate on these dates.

THEFILMPLACE - YOUR COMMUNITY CINEMA

Jim Plenderleith (01264 852734) writes:

Showing at THEFILMPLACE on Friday 24th February 2023 is *The Lost King* (PG-13) starring Sally Hawkins, Steve Coogan and Harry Lloyd.

THEFILMPLACE
YOUR COMMUNITY CINEMA 

This comedy drama is the life-affirming true story of a woman, Philippa Langley, who refused to be ignored and who took on the country's most eminent historians, forcing them to think again about one of the most controversial kings in England's history.

In 2012, having been lost for over five hundred years, the remains of King Richard III were discovered beneath a car park in Leicester. The search had been orchestrated by an amateur historian, Philippa Langley played by Sally Hawkins, whose unrelenting research had been met with incomprehension by her friends and family and with scepticism by experts and academics.

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

Tickets are still only £6 and are available now from Collingbourne Ducis Village Shop or by telephoning Jim Plenderleith **07906 593668**. Tickets will also be available on the door, if not previously sold out.

It is your monthly film show. Please keep giving us your feedback personally or by email to the following **thefilmplacecd@gmail.com**

COLLINGBOURNE KINGSTON WOMEN'S INSTITUTE REPORT

Sandra Fisher (01264 850363) writes:

The Christmas Party was held at Tidworth Golf Club on Thursday 8th December. The venue had to be changed because the Barleycorn was unable to cater for the number of members wishing to go. The



dining room at the Golf Club was warm and well decorated for Christmas, the food was very good and hot food was served on hot plates. After the meal the Committee organised some games which were great fun and everyone went home with a Christmas stocking.

The January meeting was held on Thursday 12th January at Collingbourne Kingston Village Hall. The president welcomed members and visitors and the minutes of the November meeting were signed off. Wendy reminded the members the AGM would be on 9th March. Future events were highlighted ranging from a Literary Lunch, to Belly Dancing, Hand Embroidery and a visit to an organic farm at Bishopstoke.

The speaker for the evening was unable to come but we were lucky to be able to call on one of our committee members, Sara Bottomley, who is an experienced quilter and WI speaker. She was able, at the last minute, to go home to collect some of her beautiful handmade quilts to show as she talked about her quilting journey, from the very beginning as a student nurse through her married life as an army wife and beyond. She has quilted nearly everywhere a British soldier could be posted! She was warmly thanked by Maz and members took the opportunity to examine the quilts closely.

The meeting closed with delicious refreshments and the drawing of the raffle.

Next Meeting	Thursday 9th February
Speaker	Dr Nicholas Henderson – The Finale.
Hostess	K. Preece
Raffle Prize	J. Oliphant
Tea Hostesses	L. Nichols L. Newman

Visitors are always welcomed to meetings on the second Thursday of the month at 7.30 pm in Collingbourne Kingston Village Hall. A donation of £4 is suggested.

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Home-Start helps families with children under five who are experiencing tough times. Volunteers visit families weekly to help them cope with challenges such as: isolation, poor mental health, financial worries, and multiple birth. Support is tailored to need. It could be accompanying a parent a playgroup or playing with a child whose parent is too ill. Often, just listening makes all the difference.

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Winners in the December Draw

£50	Yvette Hull	15
£25	Jim Plenderleith	181
£10	Nicki Bamford	201
£5	Christina Ankin	207

Winners in the January Draw

£50	Paul and Cath Hartley	283
£25	Wendy Chandler	80
£10	Jim Plenderleith	285
£5	David Paterson	86

Congratulations to all the winners.

If you want any information on the draw, please call Humphrey Sheppard on **07791 760241** or e-mail on **cdvhdrawing@gmail.com**.

The draw is open to anyone (over the age of 18) who wishes to take part.

If you previously had tickets, but have not been contacted please get in touch with me.

If your name is here and you have not received your winnings please contact me!

My thanks go to those loyal dogged supporters who help me every month to facilitate collection of money and with the draw.

Our Community Support Officers can be contacted on 101

DOROTHY SOFFE – A LIFE WELL LIVED

Rosemary Hosier writes:

Residents of the Collingbournes and members of the coffee club, will remember Mrs Dorothy Soffe who sadly passed away in December aged 102. In her later years, she moved to Weymouth, where she remained independent until the end.

Dorothy was my neighbour from 1965 until she moved away. She was a truly a remarkable lady. In the time I knew her, she ran a small holding, milking Jersey and Guernsey cows, cooked for Colonel Taylor, and for Colonel Ashton and also at the old School House Restaurant. This was in addition to bringing up two small boys.

Baking was her special skill, and when I spoke to her at the end of November, she was busy making a cake for a nephew who was due to visit!

During the Second World War, she was involved in building spitfires. When Southampton was bombed, Salisbury Coach Station was one site used to continue the production. Dorothy, together with other young untrained girls were in the lighting department. I am always reminded of this on the approach to Salisbury. I'm sure Dorothy would be amused to see the model which is suspended there. She might even have been critical!

Dorothy will be missed and remembered with affection.

MR FRANK SHEPHERD 1925 – 2022

Gerald Shepherd writes:

Frank was born in Lambourn and grew up in Aldbourne but lived most of his life in Collingbourne Kingston, first in Brunton and then Aughton. He worked for Hosier Equipment, local farmer Frank Crook and Erskine Guinness until his retirement. His wife, Jean, died suddenly in 1998 and they had one son, Gerald. Frank moved to live in Andover with Gerald in 2019 when his health began to fail. He was taken to Basingstoke hospital on 7th December after a fall and sadly died from a

combination of factors including heart failure, flu and pneumonia on the 30th December. His funeral will take place on Tuesday 7th February at 10am at Andover Crematorium and all are welcome.

MYRTLE EVANS

On 19th November 2022 Myrtle Evans passed peacefully away at the age of 94. Myrtle taught at Collingbourne School for many years and is fondly remembered by her past pupils for her teaching and her love of needlecraft. She taught with her husband Gwyn and lived in the School House, next to the old school, before moving to Bourne Rise in the early 1970s.

Myrtle enjoyed her retirement and was a member of the Gardening Club, Collingbourne Kingston W.I., the Sewing Club and the Church. She moved to be nearer her family in Southampton in recent years.

COLLINGBOURNES AND EVERLEIGH GARDENING CLUB

Patti Marsh, Secretary, (01264 850319) writes:

Our Christmas Party in December seems a long time ago now but it was a very pleasant evening. We all enjoyed a glass of wine (or two), a few quizzes, lots of chatting and shared the amazing selection of food that our members provided.



We started our year with the Annual General Meeting in January and are now looking forward to a Gardening Club year of meetings and trips out.

We are planning to visit Welford Park in February to see their fabulous display of Snowdrops – the date will be confirmed in our next Potting Shed.

Alan Goold will speak at the February meeting on the 23rd when his subject is Planting and Care of Roses. Starting at 7.30 pm in Kingston

Village Hall, visitors are very welcome. We have home-made cakes and tea or coffee to end the evening.

If you would like more information about the Gardening Club, please call me or our chairman, Jane Crook, **01264 850436** for more information.

THINGS TO DO IN THE GARDEN THIS MONTH

Floribunda writes:

Try to finish the 'Winter' work before March

Trim evergreens and plant new

Prune wisteria

Continue to protect vulnerable plants from frost

Prune standard apple and pear trees

Clear dead material and admire your bulbs coming up!

February tasks

Order plug plants for summer pots and bedding

Prune clematis that flowers off this year's growth

Prune Autumn fruiting raspberries close to the ground

Chit potatoes

Plant shallots – leave onion sets until March

Finish digging and prepare vegetable plot for sowing: apply fleece or black plastic to warm the soil

Clean the greenhouse windows, disinfect watering cans, water butts, pots and seed trays

Sow sweet peas – can leave until March

Most vegetables can be started early in pots or trays in the greenhouse, eg beans or spinach

These are just a few ideas to keep you busy. Keep warm and dry – it will warm up!

Happy gardening

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COLLINGBOURNE CRICKET CLUB

David Malley, Chairperson, writes:

Following the club's AGM in November, a small but significant number of changes have been made to the club's officers for the year ahead.

After five years at the helm as chairperson, John Baxter passed the baton over to former secretary David Malley, with Julie Sinclair stepping into the secretary's role. Karen Reed has stepped aside as club treasurer with Steve Sinclair now in charge of the club's finances.



Both Karl Gingell and Luke Sperry remain in position as 1st XI and Sunday captains respectively, with Barry Reed being appointed the 2nd XI captain as the club reinstates the side for the 2023 season. Aaron Hitchmough has been elected captain of the club's midweek team, and The Sapphires also appointed a new captain for this year, with Sophie Gleeson leading our ladies' side for the upcoming campaign.

The club would like to thank all outgoing officers for their efforts in recent years and wish the new incumbents the best of luck in 2023. The full list of committee appointments can be found on the cricket club website **www.collingbournecricketclub.co.uk**

In other news, the club is planning a pre-season social event for our members and friends in the local community. Back by popular demand, an Evening of Pig Racing will take place on Saturday 25th February at Ducis Village Hall. Doors open at 7 pm for this family-friendly evening, with the fun and games kicking off at 8 pm. It's just £5 per head (under 16s go free), and that includes entry and a cheeseboard! If you'd like to join us, then please contact Barry at **bazreed1286@gmail.com**

As we head into spring the club's cricketing activities are starting to ramp up too. Indoor cricket is the order of the day at this time of year

and the club has two sides currently halfway through their local hardball league season. The Sapphires have just started their indoor softball league campaign taking on teams from across Wiltshire.

Indoor practice sessions will start up for all teams over the next couple of weeks and, as always, we welcome any new players that are looking to get involved. We have a range of teams, so there's a level suitable for anybody wishing to join in – regardless of age, sex and ability!

If you'd like to join us for a training session, or would like to keep up to date with all the latest happenings at the club, then please visit our website, or follow us on Facebook.

1ST COLLINGBOURNE KINGSTON BROWNIES

Natalie Williams, Brown Owl, (01264 850566) writes:

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 Kingston Village Hall. We are always looking for new members to join our pack. Girls can join Brownies from the age of seven until they are ten, when they can go on to become Guides if they wish.



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

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

Is your daughter looking at a new challenge or would like to try something new and learn new skills?

Why not get in touch with Brown Owl who will be able to give you details or come along on a meeting night and visit us.

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Contact Brown Owl, Natalie Williams on 07976102650 or 01264 850566
or
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Brownie Bingo

The Owls would like to thank everyone for attending our Bingo fundraiser which was held on 13th December. A big thank you to Len Cross for being our Bingo caller and Wendy Chandler for helping make the evening run smoothly. Everyone had fun and went home with lots of prizes.

QUIZ FOR FEBRUARY 2023

The Courier is thirty - so here is a quiz with numbers as the answers!
Simon Gilford tests your knowledge of numbers

- 1 Which number Apollo mission was the space flight that landed the first two men on the Moon?
- 2 Wa, Cha, Wej, loS, Vagh, is counting from one to five in which language?
- 3 In scrabble, which is the only letter worth 5 points?
- 4 How many sculpted lions by Sir Edwin Landseer sit at the base of Trafalgar Square?
- 5 How many are in a Baker's Dozen?
- 6 How many landlocked countries are there in South America?
- 7 What is 'nine tenths of the law'?
- 8 In inches, how high is a table tennis net?
- 9 Who has written many books in series called 'The No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency' and '44 Scotland Street'?
- 10 What do the sum of all the numbers on a roulette wheel add up to?
- 11 How many yards are there in a mile?
- 12 Prior to the Korean War, what parallel north formed the border between North and South Korea?

- 13 President Obama was what number President of the United States?
- 14 What is an ogdoad?
- 15 How many times has Del Boy Trotter been married in the BBC sitcom Only Fools and Horses?
- 16 The EU Flag consists of a circle of how many golden stars?
- 17 How many players are there in an ice hockey team?
- 18 Adam Ant had a hit a British Number One hit with which song in the Summer of 1982?
- 19 How many years are celebrated in a traditional 'Pearl Wedding Anniversary'?
- 20 How much is a gross?
- 21 What number is the 'answer to the ultimate question of life, the universe, and everything' in the The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy?
- 22 What is the maximum number of clubs golf players are allowed in their bag?
- 23 What is the code for international direct phone calls to the United Kingdom?
- 24 What number was the average age of an American combat soldier in Vietnam according to a Paul Hardcastle song?

BURBAGE & DISTRICT MODEL RAILWAY CLUB (BDMRC)

Sonny Hamid (01672 811933) writes:

Members were treated to a double session during January.



The first was a Club Meet for Members to continue working on our extensive project; a replica of Burbage's Savernake High Railway station as it was in the 1960's. Work included laying more ballast in and around the tracks and some scenic spread at various parts of the layout.

Our second session was a slide presentation in the Collingbourne Kingston Village Hall on the History, Operation and Unusual features of the London Underground network. This presentation will also be repeated at several other venues during the coming months. More information on the presentation from Sonny Hamid sonnyhamid8@gmail.com

Our next session will be Monday, 20th February 2023 commencing at 1900 hours when we return to continue work on our large layout project.

We can arrange availability of working layouts and demonstration of modelling techniques at local village fairs and other Community gatherings. Organisers are invited to contact us regarding their requirements.

The Club welcomes new members and 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, on **01672 811933**.

A VERY UNPLEASANT BUSINESS IN EVERLEIGH IN 1861

Keith Cockerton writes:

It is Sunday 18th August 1861 and the weather is a little cool for the time of year. It is around 3 pm when there is knock at the pantry door at Everleigh Manor. The footman answers the door and there he is greeted by the under-game keeper John Stocker. Stocker conveys to him that he has passed the cottage of the head gamekeeper and has seen the gamekeeper's wife in the boiling house, 170 yards from the cottage, apparently dead and covered in blood. The footman informs Mr Charles James Monk who has been renting the manor house for shooting for the past two and a half years. He immediately goes to the cottage with the butler and Stocker. The cottage is half a mile from the manor and more in the direction of Pewsey in a secluded spot. The gamekeeper is Mr John Hill and he lives at the cottage with his wife

Ann Hill. The under-gamekeeper lives in a cottage with his wife and one child about half a mile distant. On arrival at the cottage, they are *'horrified at finding the poor woman lying on the floor, bathed in blood, and her throat cut in a most frightful manner'*. There are no appearances of any struggle having taken place, and there is no weapon of any kind. About the deceased's neck are two marks, apparently produced by cord, and it is presumed that the murderer, whoever he may be, approached her without any indication of violence, *'threw a noose over her head, and having strangled her, completed his diabolical purpose by cutting her throat'*. There are also bruises under one ear, and life would appear to have been extinct before the wound on the throat was inflicted. *'She was a strong, powerful woman and it is doubtful whether, but for the adoption of some artifice, any one man would have succeeded in overcoming her without a desperate struggle.'* Mr Monk confirms that Mrs Hill is dead and sends Stocker for the doctor in Everleigh and the police in Pewsey.

It is established that Mr Hill had permission to visit his brother-in-law in Worcestershire on the 16th and to return on the 20th. He arranged for Mrs Stocker to sleep at the Hill's cottage on Friday and Saturday nights to keep her company. He, himself, stayed at the The Crown on the Friday night so as to get an early lift for the train on Saturday morning.

Three local police arrive mid-afternoon, and they then call for assistance from the Marlborough station. Superintendent Thomas Stretten, along with Inspector James Mould, arrive at the scene late afternoon. They immediately instigate a search for a murder weapon but none is found. On questioning Stocker Supt. Stretten becomes suspicious and orders that Stocker be placed under observation. It is also discovered that money has been taken from the cottage. On the Tuesday he is arrested and, the following day, remanded. The case is well publicised nationally with lines like the following: *'The whole of Wiltshire has just been horrified at the commission of one of the most barbarous and revolting murders that have stained the pages of its criminal calendar'* and *'Until lately Wiltshire has,*

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K. Schermbucker

happily, been exempt from the stigma that has been attached to many other counties on account of the commission of great crimes'.

On Friday 6th September John Stocker is brought before a full bench magistrates court at Everleigh, charged with the wilful murder of Ann Hill. He is committed to take his trial at the next assizes, on the charge of wilful murder.

The evidence against him was:

1. He was seen at the scene at the time when Mrs Hill was murdered.
2. Blood-stained breeches, jacket and boots were found at Stocker's cottage on the Monday.
3. A dog whip was found in a jacket pocket of his which matched marks on the throat of Ann Hill, the day after the murder.
4. A knife was found in the grounds of his cottage with what looked like blood on the blade, also on the day following the murder.
5. Witnesses said there was ill feeling towards Mrs Hill such as *'he could not bear the woman, that it was no more harm to shoot her than to shoot rook'* also *'Hill was a very nice man, but that Mrs Hill was a bad tempered b***h'*.
6. He told Mr Monk that he saw her body as the door was open and he did not enter the building. Evidence suggested the door was closed and barley on the floor was found on his boots.
7. There was no sign of a struggle, and it appeared that Mrs Hill knew the assailant.
8. The dogs at the cottage bark whenever strangers are nearby but men working in the field nearby heard no barking. This suggested that the dogs recognised the attacker.

9. Stocker knew where the money was kept and police found money at his cottage when searched.

Thursday 3rd April 1862 John Stocker appeared before the Assizes Court in Devizes. *'A considerable crowd assembled outside and the court was well filled and a number of ladies were accommodated with seats on the Bench. The prisoner's mother was in court and sat immediately under the dock. Stocker pleaded not guilty.'* The case of the defence was:

1. The blood found could not be proved to be from Mrs Hill (or any other person) or from an animal.
2. As the blood-stained clothes were found the following day there was no proof he wore them on Sunday and none was noticed on his clothes on the day of the murder.
3. The money was accounted for. It was from extra work he had carried out the previous weeks.
4. There were many good character witnesses for him. It was stated that Mr Hill was instrumental in securing Stocker the job at Everleigh and they were friends from his previous employment.
5. A witness stated that Mr Hill had a row with his wife before he left.
6. It was not obvious if the stains on the knife were blood or rust.
7. The type of whip was used by a lot of people who worked on estates.
8. It could not be proved conclusively that the door was open or closed and the barley on his boots could have come from elsewhere.

OUR LINK COORDINATOR'S NUMBER IS CD 850807

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His Lordship, in his summing up, stressed to the jury that they had to have no doubt about his guilt as the prisoner's life was in their hands. He also added they must not convict upon mere suspicion. *'The jury retired at five minutes to five and returned in about half an hour to deliver their verdict. The prisoner looked anxiously round as they entered the box but did not betray the slightest emotion. The foreman delivered verdict of not guilty, and the prisoner was at once discharged. He changed his clothes before leaving the Courts, but notwithstanding this, was recognised by the crowd outside, who followed him through streets, in company with his wife and mother'*.

The outcome may have been very different with modern forensics and policing methods. My research so far suggests that no one else was convicted of the murder and John Stocker lost ten months of his freedom, reputation and wages to keep his wife and child. There was no recompense for being found innocent. (Text in quotes are from newspapers of the time.)

SAVERNAKE TEAM LETTER

Rev Michael McHugh, Savernake Team Rector, writes:

Sometimes in life we are presented with something that is difficult to explain. Last week, the Church Commissioners announced that they were giving £100 million to projects with communities that were linked to their historic investment in the Slave Trade. The hardest thing to explain is how £100m is available at a time when small cash strapped parishes are being asked to recover the post Covid debt. I can only offer my own resolution of this.

Like the prophet Amos, I come from a relatively humble background to respond to 'the cure of souls.' Most of my colleagues feel the same. As a younger man, unable to deal personally with a different church's institutional hypocrisy, I left ministry and became a teacher. After some years I was called back to my primary calling, for which I feel ill suited,



to try to live as Jesus lived. There are many who are much better at caring for the sick, feeding the hungry and so on. Maybe my edge is in the preaching of the good news.

To that effect, we are introducing Creation Church at St Katharine's on Sunday the 12th February at 4pm. A monthly chance to walk with the Lord and other friends, reflecting on the good things in life. On Monday 27th February at 6pm in Little Bedwyn we start 'Still Waters,' de-stressing for half an hour in a holy place. There are many other things going on, particularly during Lent when we will be following the theme of 'Give Up Stress for Lent.'

How do I deal with the Church Commissioners? I don't! My concern is the people who I have vowed to care for. Like Lot, I can't spend my life looking back. Looking back in the bible is always a source of sadness, whether it is Lot's wife who ironically turned into a form of money, or the rich young man in the gospels who was invited to follow Jesus. The linking ideas are of course money and corruption, both of which, Jesus, my model had little time for.

Where do I stand with respect to church donations? St Paul said, 'A workman deserves his wages.' We don't refuse to pay for our petrol because the oil companies are making obscene profits. We pay for our prophets out of respect for them, we pay for what we use!

I returned to ministry fifteen years ago because I believe that Jesus' message has something to say to the world. Whatever the hypocrisy of the institution, that message remains true. The true richness of church has little to do with institution and everything to do with people.

Join us for a walk, to be still, to sing, whatever floats your boat! But please remember your prophets are not the institution.

God Bless, *Michael*



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Wiltshire Country Council (highways)	☎0300 456 0105
Wiltshire Country Council (rubbish & recycling)	☎0300 456 0102

Wessex Water (sewerage & water leaks)	☎0345 600 4 600
Environment Agency Floodline (alerts/advice/report)	☎0345 988 1188
Report a Power Cut	☎105 or 0800 072 72 82

Collingbourne Ducis Parish Council	✉parishclerk@collingbourne-ducis.com
Collingbourne Kingston Parish Council	✉clerk@collingbournekingston.org.uk
Everleigh Parish Council	✉philip.gill101@ntlworld.com
Collingbourne Ducis Village Hall bookings	☎07776 465177
Collingbourne Kingston Village Hall bookings	☎07714 740917

Wiltshire County Councillor	✉christopher.williams@wiltshire.gov.uk
Member of Parliament	✉danny.kruger.mp@parliament.uk

St Andrew's Church (CD)/St Mary's Church(CK)	☎01672 550870
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ST ANDREW'S CHURCH, COLLINGBOURNE DUCIS

Churchwarden Tish Leigh (01264 850867) writes:



Even though it will be early February by the time you are reading this, Christmas can be said to continue until 2nd February as this is Candlemas, which is a Christian holiday occurring annually on this date, commemorating the Presentation of Jesus at the Temple when he was a baby. It occurs forty days (inclusively) after Christmas Day. While in many countries Christmas decorations are traditionally removed on Twelfth Night, for other countries it is customary to remove them on Candlemas. Therefore, there is no problem in mentioning our Christmas celebrations! From Brass and Carols at the Tipple – not forgetting the mince pies and mulled wine – many thanks to Dave and Sue - to the Candlelit Carol Service, Come to Bethlehem and the Midnight Communion on Christmas Eve. The church was certainly full of congregations of people from eight weeks old to eighty years (and possibly older!) clearly enjoying and appreciating the true meaning of Christmas. Many grateful thanks to all those who helped make Christmas special by ringing bells, playing the organ or the piano; flower arranging and decorating the Christmas tree, which was generously donated by Julian and Carolyn Price. Thank you also to those who provided and served refreshments and to those who cleaned the church throughout the Christmas season. The Come to Bethlehem service raised £172.51 which has been sent to the Children's Society.

Many thanks must also go to Joanna and Philip Seccombe, who organised the annual Christmas raffle, which made a fantastic £825 all of which was donated to the church clock repair fund. We are very grateful to all the star bakers who made the Christmas cakes and puddings. Many thanks also to Dan and Danny of Gardners,

Ludgershall for their continued support. Congratulations to the winners of the turkey, the ham and the many other Christmas related prizes. Thank you to everyone who donated prizes and who bought and sold tickets. Thank you all for your valued, continued support.

The main focus for St. Andrew's church fundraising at present is to raise funds to repaint and re-gild the turret clock face. Fund raising and generous donations throughout 2022 mean there are now enough funds to pay for the repair of the clock. The PCC is now hoping that we can raise a further £2,200 for work on the clock face. Our clock repairer, Symon Boyd, hopes to start work by June 2023.

As Candlemas marks the end of the Church's Christmas season, the Church colours change from white and gold to green and we look forward to Lent and Easter. Shrove Tuesday is on 21st February and Ash Wednesday on 22nd February this year.

Finally, remember St Andrew's Church has its own Facebook page where you can keep up to date with events, admire any photographs – and comment on them! The link is on our webpage or alternatively in Facebook just search for St Andrews Church, Collingbourne Ducis.

ST MARY'S CHURCH, COLLINGBOURNE KINGSTON

Nigel Worner-Phillips, Churchwarden, (01264 850070) writes:

St Mary's PCC Wishes everyone a Very Happy New Year!

We wish to express our sincere thanks to Sarah and Ben King from Manor Farm and Manor Farm B&B for donating the Christmas Tree this year. Also, they have kindly agreed to supply a Christmas tree annually, so we are extremely grateful for their generosity.

In addition, many thanks to all the flower arrangers for dressing the church so beautifully during the festive period.



ST MARY'S CHURCH, COLLINGBOURNE KINGSTON

Services in February

Sunday 5th	11 am Holy Communion
Sunday 12th	9.30 am Morning Worship
Sunday 19th	9.30 am Holy Communion
Sunday 26th	6 pm Evensong

ST ANDREW'S CHURCH, COLLINGBOURNE DUCIS

Services in February

Sunday 5th	6 pm Evensong
Sunday 12th	9 am Holy Communion
Sunday 19th	11 am Family Service
Wednesday 22nd	7.30 pm Ashing Service
Sunday 26th	11.30 am Holy Communion

Quiz Answers:

- 1 11 (Apollo 11)
- 2 Klingon
- 3 Letter 'K'
- 3 Four lions
- 5 13
- 6 Two (Bolivia and Paraguay)
- 7 Possession
- 8 Six inches
- 9 Alexander McCall Smith
- 10 666 (0 to 36)
- 11 1760 yards
- 12 38th
- 13 44th
- 14 A group of eight
15 (he never married Raquel)
- 16 12
- 17 Six
- 18 Goody Two Shoes
- 19 30
- 20 144
- 21 42
- 22 14
- 23 44
- 24 19

Cover picture : Footbridge over the River Bourne at the footpath between Aughton and Brunton. Photo taken from Aughton side, January 2023.

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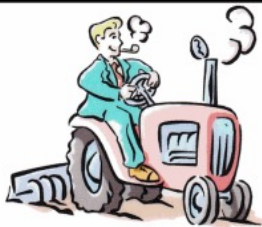
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