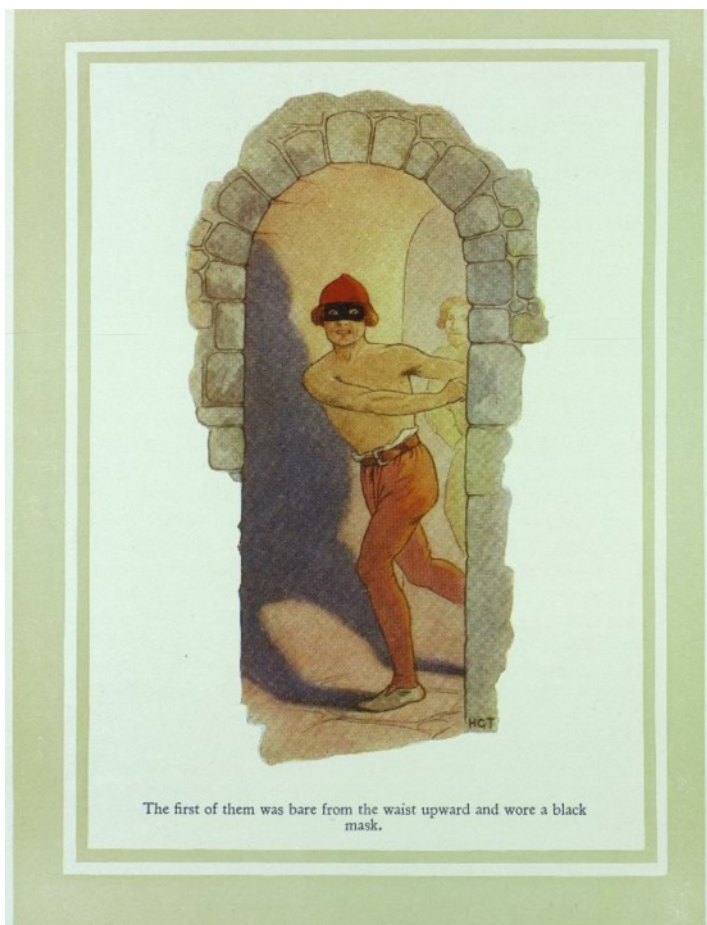


Collingbourne Ducis - Everleigh - Collingbourne Kingston

COURIER

Volume 27 No 1

February 2020
30p if sold



The first of them was bare from the waist upward and wore a black mask.

February 2020

THE COURIER

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COLLINGBOURNE KINGSTON PARISH COUNCIL

Guy Anderson, Vice Chair, writes:

Firstly I'd like to wish everyone a Happy New

Year and hope you and your loved ones managed to enjoy the break over Christmas.



I'm afraid that for this edition of our contribution to The Courier we have temporarily lost Steve Matanle our Chairman; he is currently somewhere off the coast of Australia on a racing yacht taking part in two legs of an around the world race. And, by the miracle of coincidences, as I write this I have just checked the web page and seen that the boat he is crewing on is in first place. The boat he is on is called GoToBermuda and you can follow the race here

<https://bit.ly/2rNgcMY>

Anyway, back to business. Our plans for the roundabout by the Church to slow traffic do need working on, and we are busy lobbying the County Council to persuade them to carry out additional work. Meeting with various groups within the County Council (such as the CATG Board) does take time to arrange and attend, which means nothing takes place overnight. Please bear with us whilst we patiently navigate our way around the various bodies at County Council level. We are constantly reminded that money is in short supply from Central and Local Government, but we as a Parish contributed to the improvement scheme so on your behalf we are determined to see an improvement.

On the point of helping to reduce speeding in the villages, we are constantly looking for new Community Speed Watch members. The current team work tirelessly and are an asset to village life. We have been encouraged by a patrolling policeman who stopped to assist the team, and consequently read the riot act to a number of speeding motorists. His encouragement to the volunteers working that day helps

them and the villages and we look forward to more engagement with the Constabulary at this level.

With a bit of luck and fair weather the first Village Maintenance day of 2020 should have taken place by now. As I have already mentioned, Local Government money is always going to be hard to get hold of, so volunteers who make our pavements a little easier to walk along, or side roads easier to pull out from, are always welcome. Giving up a couple of hours on a windy, damp cold day in January or February makes everyone feel a little better after the excesses of Christmas.

Last, but not least, a big thank you to the owner of the hedge alongside the path between Collingbourne Kingston and Collingbourne Ducis for having it so neatly trimmed. Overhanging hedges are the bane of anybody pushing a pushchair or pram with young children or the elderly trying to navigate their way along our paths. If you have a hedge that may intrude over a path, could you please take a look and think about trimming it back if it needs it.

THE VIEW FROM EVERLEIGH

Denis Bottomley (01264 852731), Chairman, writes:

Our Christmas Carol Service took place at St Peter's Church on Saturday 7th

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', with candles and flowers beautifully arranged.

Our vicar, Jo Reid, conducted an excellent service and lessons were read with confidence and style. Kim Wheeler-Mallows produced excellent light effects both inside and outside the church. Finally, our special thanks go to Eliza Hudson and Jenny Jones 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 7th March at 11 am, meeting at The Crown bus shelter; and a work party to tidy up and maintain our playground on Saturday 18th April at 9.30 am until noon. More details on each event will be promulgated in due course.

Have you visited a mobile library recently? If you are a parent with young children, you will find a great range of picture books and story CDs for them to enjoy; there are information books and plenty of exciting reading for older children as well. For adults, there are a large range of information books and novels, ranging from the latest thriller to best-selling autobiographies, cookery and gardening. There is also a wide selection of large print and talking books. It's easy to join, just bring along proof of your name and address and the friendly Mobile Manager will sign you up straight away – they are always happy to help. The Wiltshire Council mobile library visits Everleigh (High Trees lay by) on a Wednesday every four weeks. Time: 12.25 – 12.55 pm. Forthcoming visits are 12th February, 11th March, 8th April, 6th May, and 3rd June. For more information please visit **www.wiltshire.gov.uk/libraries**

There is still one vacancy on the Parish Council. No special skills are required, just a willingness to represent and promote the interests of the village. The effort is rewarding and fellow team members are a joy to work with. Interested volunteers are asked to contact Phil Gill, the Parish Clerk: Tel **01264 398534**; e-mail **philip.gill101@ntlworld.com**

The date for the next Parish Council meeting is Monday 2nd March 2020 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**

COLLINGBOURNE DUCIS PARISH COUNCIL

Peter Knowlson (01264 850812), Chairman, writes:

Happy New Year – On behalf of the Parish Councillors I'd like to wish you all a very Happy New Year. I hope that you all managed to have a nice break over Christmas, relaxing and enjoying time with your family and friends.

Christmas Brunch – I am very pleased to say the Big Brunch held in December was very well supported once again with around 130 people in attendance. It was great to see so many people catching up as well as some new faces in the village. I hope you all enjoyed the event. A big thank you to Cllr Cockerton and Cllr Gomes for all your help in organising the event.

Thank you as well to those who helped on the day to tidy up after the event and to those who kindly donated to the raffle. The raffle again was a great success and the money raised, as always, goes towards the funding for the next Christmas Brunch.

Community Speedwatch – There has been a slight hold-up with arranging the training that is required in order to partake and run a community speedwatch, which has been frustrating. However things are starting to move along now so hopefully by the time of the next Courier this will have taken place and our team will be ready for action. Cllr Hartley remains the Village Coordinator, and if anyone wishes to join the nine strong team do please contact him on **07930 838274**

Precept 2020 – At the last Parish Council meeting in January, having considered and scrutinised in detail a draft budget prepared and previously circulated by the Clerk and having taken into account future projects, Cllrs agreed that based on the now agreed Budget for FY20/21 that the Precept for FY 20/21 be set at £22,410.18. This is an increase in the Precept of 2.0% (£1.15p) for Band D) on FY 19/20, which is in line



with (just under) the Retail Price Index measure for September 2019 (2.1%), the figure used in accordance with normal Government practice.

Projects – One of the next village projects is to set up a Book Exchange; exact details are still to be finalised but may be in the form of purchasing and adapting an old-style red telephone box. Cllr Hartley has managed to get our project linked in with the Tesco ‘Bags of Help’ funding scheme, so please when you are next in Tesco remember to drop a blue token or two towards our project. Our community project will be in the local Tesco stores until March.

New Parish Councillor – I am really pleased to announce that we have a new Parish Councillor, Shaun Batley, who was co-opted onto the council at the January Parish Council meeting. Shaun has lived in the village for four years and has already been involved in previous community events and would like to continue to add his support by joining the Parish Council.

Vacancies – Although we have a new member in Shaun, we still have a few vacancies on the Parish Council, so if you would like to get involved 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

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 March. All members of the parish are welcome to attend.

OUR LINK COORDINATOR’S NUMBER IS CD 850807

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

COLLINGBOURNE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Dan Crossman, Headteacher, writes:

The new year is truly up and running at Collingbourne School, with lots of exciting learning happening in and out of our classrooms.



During February we will be welcoming the 'Dogs Trust' into school to help teach our children to stay safe around our four-legged friends. We will also be holding 'Number Day' to help raise money for the NSPCC. This will be a fun day where children (and adults!) can dress up as someone who uses maths in their job and we'll be doing lots of challenging 'real life' maths throughout the day too.

I was very impressed with the children in Kingfisher and Otter Classes. They came to me saying they were concerned about the wildfires in Australia and wanted to do something to help. There are now all sorts of plans afoot including a cake sale and 'Name the Koala' to raise money to help tackle the blazes.

We are lucky to have so many volunteers in school now to help with a 'Reading Buddies' programme. That said, there's always room for more so if you'd like to become more involved in our school please contact Mrs May in the school office (**01264 850346**)

SAMARITAN'S PURSE SHOE BOX APPEAL

Michael Bailey writes:

Good news! Mrs Wendy Chandler (**01264 850452**) and Mrs Dawn Roff (**01264 850477**) have kindly taken over the job of collecting the shoe boxes for the appeal this year. They will both have a supply of leaflets and will be happy to give them out to those that would like to support this worthy cause. I will also have some leaflets which I am happy to give out. Please note the boxes should be ready for collection by the beginning of November 2020.

THE FILM PLACE – YOUR COMMUNITY CINEMA

Jim Plenderleith writes:

Showing at THEFILMPLACE on Friday
28th February 2020 is THE LION KING

THEFILMPLACE
YOUR COMMUNITY CINEMA

(PG). Inspired by the 1994 classic film, The Lion King brings new dimensions, colour and depth to this wonderful tale from Africa.

Simba idolizes his father, King Mufasa, and takes to heart his own royal destiny on the plains of Africa. But not everyone in the kingdom celebrates the new cub's arrival. Scar, Mufasa's brother and former heir to the throne, has plans of his own. The battle for Pride Rock is soon ravaged with betrayal, tragedy and drama, ultimately resulting in Simba's exile. Now, with help from a curious pair of new-found friends, Simba must figure out how to grow up and take back what is rightfully his.

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) **07788 992588**. 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**

Dates for your 2020 diary:

Friday March 27th The Good Liar

Friday April 24th Knives Out

Our Community Support Officers can be contacted on 101

COLLINGBOURNE KINGSTON WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Sandra Fisher (01264 850363) writes:



On Wednesday 11th December 2019 at 7.30 pm in Collingbourne Kingston Village Hall the Women's Institute celebrated Christmas. Tables were laid up with decorations and delicious food and drinks. This was followed by an amazing selection of desserts which were enjoyed by all. A quiz, based around Christmas carols, tested brains a little and the evening ended with the distribution by the Committee of presents for everyone.

The first meeting of 2020 was held on Thursday 9th January in Kingston Hall and, despite some absence through illness, was well attended. The President welcomed members, members from the now defunct Pewsey WI and visitors from Australia. After the minutes of the November meeting had been signed off, the President discussed new events and opportunities. The meeting was told that Mrs Jane Crook had stitched a WI Centenary kneeler for Kingston church and recommended that members call in to see it.

The speaker for the evening had cancelled through illness and the President introduced Dorothy Cook, a senior midwife originally from Glasgow who has worked in Swindon for over thirty years. During these years she has been seconded to the Oman and Brazil to monitor and help with training. She had many amusing stories to tell about the changes in childbirth management since she trained and about the birthing preferences of the parents. Dorothy talked about birthing pools, home births and the science behind it all, she also talked about serious matters such as FGM.

After a thoroughly enjoyable talk she was warmly thanked. The evening ended with delicious refreshments and a raffle.

Next meeting: 13th February 2020

Speaker: Mandie Cran on Warfare to Welfare.

Tea Hostesses: R. Hosier and W. Heath

Hostess: G. Foster

Raffle Prize: K. Preece

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

COLLINGBOURNES AND EVERLEIGH GARDENING CLUB

Wendy Roper writes:

On 28th November we had the pleasure of having Sara Wilman from My Flower Patch show the members how to make their own Christmas wreath. From a base she wove layers of sphagnum moss to build a firm base and then made bunches of greenery and berries which were tied into the wreath. To help prolong the life of the wreath Sara enclosed ice cubes (yes, ice cubes!) into the moss. Everything looks fresh and keeps that way.



Sara holds workshops in Upavon Village Hall and she will show how to make your own wreaths and hand tied bouquets. She grows her own flowers so the bouquets she makes are seasonal and fresh.

We held our Christmas party in December when we enjoyed a variety of Christmas treats; everyone brought a plate of savouries and sweets to share and the variety, as always, was amazing and delicious! The evening's quizzes probably left some of us wondering how out of touch we are with current celebrities and events but were great fun.

Our annual general meeting is in January and details will be reported in next month's Courier. In the meantime, if you would like more information about the Gardening Club please call either our Chairman, Pam Haverson, on **01264 850609** or secretary, Patti Marsh on **01264 850319**

1ST COLLINGBOURNE KINGSTON BROWNIES

Natalie Williams, Brownie Owl, writes:



1st Collingbourne Kingston Brownies will have young girls on long waiting lists due to up and coming volunteer shortage. Volunteering with Girlguiding UK is a fantastic way to make a real difference to the lives of girls and young women in your community and gain some amazing experiences yourself.

Whether you can help out every once a month or make regular weekly commitments, we can find a role to suit you. Girlguiding UK welcomes volunteers of all backgrounds, age groups and abilities. Guiding is flexible and volunteering can be arranged to fit around a busy lifestyle.

Whatever your skills and interests, no matter how much or how little time you have to spare, one of our volunteering roles is bound to suit you and your contribution is sure to be appreciated by the girls.

Girlguiding is the leading charity for girls and young women in the UK. Thanks to the dedication and support of 100,000 amazing volunteers, we are active in every part of the UK, giving girls and young women a space where they can be themselves, have fun, build brilliant friendships, gain valuable life skills and make a positive difference to their lives and their communities. We build girls' confidence and raise their aspirations. We give them the chance to discover their full potential and encourage them to be a powerful force for good.

Do you know anyone that would like to get involved? If you would like to keep Collingbourne Brownies going then give us a call.

Yours in Guiding

Natalie Williams Brownie Owl

Email – Collingbourne7@yahoo.com

Contact – 07976102650

THE GLITTER BALL REPORT

Collingbourne Primary School PTA write:

The decadence of the Collingbourne Masquerade Ball that marked the beginning of the festive season for many Collingbourne residents now seems a distant memory.



In its fourth year, this fundraiser for Collingbourne Church of England Primary School has become rather a festive tradition in our Village. Guests are expected to don their most beautiful ball gowns, dinner jackets and black ties and they never fail to deliver on style and grace, we even see the occasional kilt and sporran! The 2019 Ball was no exception, apart of course from the addition of the spectacular Venetian masks and the extra etiquette to go with them!

As always with these events there are hundreds of 'Thank you's' to say to the people who commit to helping us and we would like to start by honouring the continued support of Signature Floors for once again donating the luxurious welcome glass of bubbly for all of our 148 guests and our local events and marketing company, Core Modular, for setting up our awesome glittery gin bar in the casino room... Thanks guys, it's these extra touches that make all the difference to the whole Glitter Ball experience.

In total we raised a staggering £7000 which will go a long way to updating our ICT suite. Old PCs will be replaced with modern laptops enabling our children to be taught on the most modern technology available.

We were delighted and overwhelmed by the generosity of our community and by how our vivacious guests love to have a good party and get behind a good cause. There were many awesome auction and raffle prizes donated by local businesses which helped us reach our outstanding total. Thank you to all our fantastic supporters, we really

couldn't do this without your help and enthusiasm. I'm sure we've said this before but Collingbourne is a special place and we are proud to have our school at in the heart of it!

1ST COLLINGBOURNE AIR SCOUTS

Natalie Williams, Group Scout Leader, writes:



1st Collingbourne Air Scouts are currently looking to recruit volunteer leaders, Chairman, Secretary, Executive members and helpers to assist with running the Group.

We believe in helping young people grow in confidence and explore their potential as well as providing a range of adult volunteering opportunities.

If you choose to volunteer, you can work directly with young people or in a support role as a team or individual. Prior experience or a connection with Scouting is not necessary and we welcome people from all backgrounds.

Why Scouting? The Scout Association in the UK's largest mixed youth movement. We offer activities, adventure and personal development opportunities to more than 400,000 young people and 100,000 adult volunteers.

You can decide how much or little time you give to Scouting!

Join the Adventure

If you would like to experience the fun, challenges and adventure of Scouting and are interested in joining and helping, out then please contact us:

Natalie Williams - Group Scout Leader:

Email: Natalie.williams@wiltshirescouts.org.uk

Phone: 07976102650

AN ORGAN RECITAL AND THE SARSEN SONGMEN AT ST MARY'S CHURCH, COLLINGBOURNE KINGSTON

Jackie Macbeth writes:

Saturday 22nd February 7.30 pm

Following on from an amazing debut performance at the Christmas Tree Festival Concert in December, sensational teenage organist Toby Wright returns to demonstrate once again the full potential of the organ in St Mary's Church. He received a standing ovation at the Christmas Tree Festival Concert and is coming back due to popular demand. Also performing are The Sarsen Songmen, a male voice choir who sing a wide range of different songs, unaccompanied, in four part harmony. Their repertoire includes music by Vaughan Williams, spirituals, traditional barbershop songs, humorous songs by Flanders and Swann and arrangements of pop songs. Our own Collingbourne Choir will also be putting in an appearance.

Free entry, refreshments available, donations welcome.

A NEPALESE AFTERNOON IN AID OF ALZHEIMER'S SUPPORT

Jackie Macbeth writes:

Sunday 1st March at Kennet Valley Hall, Lockeridge SN8 4EL

Stunning pictures of the Nepalese landscape and people by local photographer David White with accompanying music and singing by Jackie Macbeth and friends.

Doors open at 2.30 pm, the show begins at 3 pm and lasts for approximately 50 minutes. Refreshments available.

Tickets £8 from Alzheimer's Support **01225 776481**

Alzheimer's Support is an award-winning local charity which exists to improve quality of life of families affected by dementia in Wiltshire. For more information please visit **www.alzheimerswiltshire.org.uk**

CAT'S PROTECTION LEAGUE

Ruby Hallam writes:

Lovely Poppy from last month has been lucky enough to find a new home and is settling in well. We have a beautiful, friendly and very energetic young lady named Daisy who was handed into our care as a stray. Unfortunately we have been unable to trace her owner so she is now ready to find a new home. We are confident she would make an ideal family pet; please get in touch if you think you can offer Daisy a home. The vets estimate her to be about two years old.



Helpful tip - If the weather becomes particularly cold, keep your cat indoors. While they might seem bored or restless, pet cats aren't used to extreme temperatures and can even develop frostbite or hypothermia. Keep them entertained and exercised with enrichment toys and feeders.

For all homing, fund raising and volunteer enquiries;

Telephone: **0345 260 1501** or email: **sylvia.cp@outlook.com**

To view all cats currently up for adoption visit **andover.cats.org.uk**

COLLINGBOURNE DUCIS VILLAGE HALL DRAW

Jane Crook announces:

Congratulations to the winners of Collingbourne Ducis village hall draw.

December 2019

£50 S. Hull 16

£25 Amanda Dennis 79

£10 J. Plenderleith 181

£5 S. Larkin 73

January 2020

£50 V. Gordon 75

£25 W. Roper 5

£10 S. Griffiths 211

£5 P. Marsh 26

If you would like to join, please contact Jane Crook on **01264 850436**

SPRING SALE IN AID OF PARKINSON'S RESEARCH

Mary Doherty (01264 850705) writes:

We shall again be holding our annual Spring Sale in aid of Parkinson's Research

PARKINSON'S^{UK}
CHANGE ATTITUDES.
FIND A CURE.
JOIN US.

On	Saturday, 14th March 2020
In	Ducis Village Hall
Time	from 1 - 4 pm
Stalls include	Bric-a-brac, Jumble, Bottles and Cakes
Refreshments	Tea, Coffee and Cakes available to enjoy while you shop

I look forward to seeing you there!

BURBAGE AND DISTRICT VIDEO CAMERA CLUB (BDVCC)

Sonny Hamid writes:

At the first session of 2020, we were delighted to welcome two new members to our Club both of whom are very keen on developing their photography skills. The January session was a workshop on formal portraiture, and for this we were lucky to gain some volunteer models who sat patiently while members tried to discover different angles and lighting techniques to enhance their images.



We used the latest equipment consisting of two LED continuous light sources, lighting stands and reflector boards. Members had the opportunity to try out different lenses and check results produced from each of the lenses they used.

Since the last session in November 2019, our Members have produced several greeting cards and postcards all with images of local sites and these were offered for sale at village outlets. The profits have been donated to worthy community organizations and some to our Club funds. We were very encouraged by the sales and support given by Burbage residents and sincerely hope they will continue to support

our work in the future. Some of our work is still for sale at the Village Post Office.

Our next session will be held at 7.30 pm on Tuesday, 18th February 2020 at the White Hart Public House, High Street, Burbage where we have been invited to demonstrate our photographic skills. If you wish to take part in this session as a photographer or a model, please do let us know.

Our Club is willing to set up stands and mini-studios at Village events. Organisers are welcome to contact us and let us know how we can be of assistance at your event. 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 - here is the next part of my late Uncle Fred's war-time memoirs:

Rest and Recuperation

One day, while I was recuperating, the Red Cross arrived with a bus and took about twenty of us to Naples. We got off the bus outside a shabby looking building which looked just like a London railway station. But this was the Opera House and once inside it was fantastic. It was huge, brilliantly illuminated and the décor was red and gold.

There were five or six boxes around the walls and the stage was massive. We had the privilege of watching *Madame Butterfly*, sitting in the Royal Box! At the final curtain call there were over a hundred actors on the stage and it was a fantastic experience.

Another day while I was in Sorrento I got up and went outside and found everything covered in a black dust.



(Vesuvius erupting March 17th 1944)

During the night Vesuvius had erupted, but unfortunately it was too far away for us to see anything of the volcano.

The Red Cross came once and took us on a tour across Italy to some caves near the port of Bari. As we were passing the port, I noticed that there were two large ships tied up, completely burned-out. I don't know how that happened. The Germans may have done it in their retreat, or the RAF may have had something to do with it.

After a while we came to a valley where we got off the bus and went down a wide concrete stairway, down into the bowels of the earth. With my leg I wasn't too swift so I brought up the end of the queue. We were told the cave went on for a mile or more, but we could only go down two or three hundred yards because, being wartime, they were only allowed to put so many lights on. What we saw was out of this world; it would put Wookey Hole in the shade! I would love to visit there again.

Once I could walk without a stick, I was sent to a Holding Centre where I did some light training. After a few weeks I was passed fit and returned to my unit. By this time my company was up near Rimini, a town right up on the east side of Italy. I was glad to get back to my platoon and get up to date with all the news.

Promotion - July 1944

Once, while we were in the front line, I received an order to report to General S. Hawkworth and was given a six-figure map reference. After dusk I left my senior NCO in charge and proceeded to find my way in the dark to this map reference. It wasn't far, approximately three quarters of a mile, and turned out to be a few vehicles parked up. An officer met me and after he had confirmed my identity, he took me to an armoured caravan and introduced me to General Hawkworth, who shook my hand and thanked me for what I had done since landing in Italy. After a short conversation he asked me what my ambition was. Being caught out by the question I could only say that as a sergeant I would like to get to QMS, my next step up.

'No way', he said, or something to that effect, and then put something in my hand. This was two pips! * He then asked me if I wanted to return to my company or be transferred to another company. I explained that my platoon was the same one I joined in England and I would rather stay with them. We shook hands again and off I went out into the dark to find my way back. On re-joining my platoon, I went around telling my men of my promotion but we couldn't celebrate as we were still in the front line.

Third Wound - Italy 1994

The next offensive was to drive the enemy up the Po Valley and out of Italy. This was the first time I think Monty was able to use his tanks, but I didn't like working with tanks as they made so much noise, advertising our whereabouts. Surprise was always the best form of attack.

The enemy knew we were there because we periodically received a shower of mortar bombs. I had dug myself a nice little slit trench, about two feet deep, which was just deep enough to get my head down away

from any shrapnel that may have flown around after the mortar bomb had exploded.

During a lull in the bombing I decided it was safe enough to pop about twenty yards down into a small vineyard to relieve myself. This was not a very good idea as in the next shower of mortar bombs, I was caught with my trousers down! After a shower of mortar bombs have exploded it is wise to keep your head down for at least ten seconds because flying shrapnel can fly fifty yards or so. I failed to obey this unwritten rule, and in my haste to retrieve something from my parapet, I stood up and was struck in my right arm by some shrapnel, which removed my bicep.

This was the third time I had been wounded, and again I had to leave my platoon but at least this time I was only walking-wounded! I made my way to the ADS (Advance Dressing Station) and after my arm was put in a sling I was trucked down to Naples and put on a hospital ship. Someone on the ship said that as it was my third time of being injured, I would be returned to the UK. I was also aware of that information and as I had lost my right bicep it would be assumed that I wouldn't be able to carry a rifle. In fact, I always carried a TSMG, which was perhaps a little lighter.

However, whichever story was right, I found myself back in England, disembarking at Princess Pier, Liverpool on 3rd December 1944. I was granted leave until 1st January 1945, when I was transferred to RH Regiment (Royal Hampshire Regiment) who were in Helmsley, Yorkshire, and made Category B ** for three months. The RH were training in preparation to go into France and I did light training during the week and the usual church parade on Sundays in the local church.

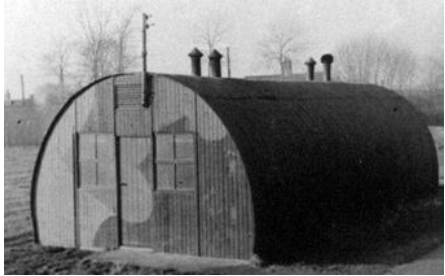
We were billeted in black Nissen huts in a park under a belt of large beech trees and one evening it rained a little, then a fog came up and during the night it froze.

The weight of the ice that formed on the heavy branches caused some of them to come crashing down. Unfortunately, one large branch crashed down onto one of our company Nissen huts and pinned two lads in their beds, killing them both.

To be continued

* Lieutenant

** Unfit for general service abroad but fit for base or garrison service at home and abroad



TAKE A LIFE CHANGING CHALLENGE FOR JULIA'S HOUSE

Susie Carver, Marketing & Communications Officer, writes:

Why not make the start of the next decade a life changing one by taking up a challenge for Julia's House? You can trek in deepest Peru, take a marathon walk along the coast, run a 5 or 10K or plunge through the skies on an exhilarating 120 mph skydive - signing up to a Julia's House 2020 challenge event will ensure it's a year to remember. And, you will be helping the Dorset and Wiltshire children's hospice charity raise money to continue to provide its life-changing care to local children and families.

With over five events to choose from, on two wheels or on foot, with family, with friends or with four-legged friends, it's a great opportunity to step outside your comfort zone and achieve something truly amazing in 2020. Even more amazing when you know that while you are taking on your own personal challenge, you are raising funds to help children living with life-limiting conditions and their families with the challenges they face every day. Choose from a once-in-a-lifetime trek to Machu Picchu through the Peruvian Andes mountain



range, a walk along the breath-taking Jurassic Coast or among ancient Wiltshire landmarks, a tandem skydive from 13,000 feet, the Big Ride cycle challenge with a choice of three distances, or slip on your running shoes for the new look Run Bournemouth event with a range of distances, junior races and a new dog jog for 2020.

The challenge season begins on Saturday 7th June with the Jurassic Coast trek along Dorset's stunning coastline, followed by The Big Jump sky dive on Saturday 1st August. Find out more and sign up at juliashouse.org/events or call Hannah Miller on 01202 644262

Don't miss out on your chance to be a Julia's House life changer.

SAVERNAKE TEAM LETTER

Colin Heber-Percy writes:

To you all,

I must begin by saying what a joy and thrill it is to be joining the Savernake Team. It feels very much like coming home. By the time you read this I will have started work in the parishes, but as I write I'm busy preparing for my Licensing Service on January 15th. There's a great deal to organise, and I'm profoundly grateful to all those who have helped put the service together. It's been quite a task! For the service, we need a bishop, an archdeacon, a dean, clouds of clergy all in robes, churchwardens with their staves, and lots of generous volunteers to read and participate in various ways. Again, I'm incredibly grateful.

Like an elaborate church service, life itself can sometimes feel complicated, confusing; it's easy to get lost in all the minutiae and detail, the business and bustle, to lose track of what really matters, to miss the heartbeat behind all the noise and fuss.

As I've been preparing for the service and looking forward to my first few weeks in the Team, I've found a fragment of verse going round



and round in my mind. An ancient lyric poet called Archilochos (c. 680 - c. 645BC) wrote this:

A fox knows many things, but a hedgehog knows one great thing.

What's that got to do with anything, you might ask. Perhaps this: while the world urges us to be busy, accomplished, encyclopaedic foxes, it occurs to me we should be more like hedgehogs, knowing **just one great thing**, stripping out all the superfluities in our lives.

So, I've pondered and prayed: what's the one great thing for me to know, here, now? The answer I've found in a verse even older than Archilochos'. The opening words of Psalm 89:

I will sing of the Lord's great love forever.

And that's it. That's all. If the Church were a hedgehog (and I think it should be!) that's the one great thing it should know and do: sing of God's love to the world forever. Maybe the same should go for us as individuals too. So, as I look forward to joining you, I pray that together we all may find that one great thing, that heartbeat in our communities, in our lives – the love of God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

One. Great. Thing. And sing of it forever.

Yours in Christ, *Colin*

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 and Christmas seems a while ago, there were so many enjoyable services and events it should not pass without a mention. Unfortunately the Brass and Carols at the Tipple had to be cancelled due to heavy rain. However, the Candlelit Carol Service, Come to Bethlehem, and Midnight Communion saw the



church full of congregations of people from two weeks to eighty years old (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; providing refreshments and cleaning up throughout the Christmas season. The Come to Bethlehem service raised a record £360.32 which has been sent to the Children's Society. Thank you to all of you who donated so generously. Sadly, the Advent ring made for use by Collingbourne Primary school during their Advent services was stolen from the church. It was therefore reluctantly decided to keep the church locked over the Christmas period, except during services, to prevent any possible further thefts. One dishonest, selfish person spoiled it for the many.

Many thanks must go to Joy and Peter Siggers who organised the annual Christmas raffle which made a fantastic £600, all of which was donated to the church. We are also very grateful to all the star bakers and the generous people who donated the excellent prizes, including the Christmas ham which was donated by Joy and Peter. Many thanks also to Dan and Danny of Gardners, Ludgershall for their help with the ham.

Anyone who walked through the churchyard during December could not fail to notice that a lot of much needed repair work to the church tower and to the church roof was happening, as the church was covered in scaffolding and two men were seen dangling from the church tower, repairing stonework, using a rope walk conservator!

Addresses for the village websites:

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

There is still some work to do making and erecting a new weatherboard over the clock. Once this is in place, hopefully we will get the clock working again. Having had all this repair work done the PCC coffers are now empty! Fund raising will continue and the next repair and maintenance project chosen asap.

I am very pleased to report that on Wednesday 15th January, Revd Dr Colin Heber-Percy was licensed to serve as interim Team Vicar in the Savernake Team. The service, at All Saint's Church Burbage, was led by the Rt. Revd Dr Andrew Rumsey, Bishop of Ramsbury and the Ven. Sue Groom, Archdeacon of Wilts. Revd Colin will be working part-time for the Savernake Team, while also continuing his work as a script writer. He will be serving as vicar in the parishes of Shalbourne, Burbage, Buttermere and Ham. This means that Rev. Jo Reid's parishes will now be Collingbourne Ducis, Collingbourne Kingston, Chute and Tidcombe. Rev. Jo will now be able to lead more services on Sundays in these parishes. Please take note of the revised service schedule at the back of the Courier.

It was a great pleasure to welcome little Eden Grace Martin into our Christian family, when she was baptised at the family service on 19th January. Eden was supported by many family members and friends at this joyful service.

Easter (not Christmas!) is the most important festival in the Christian calendar and this year Easter Sunday falls on 12th April. This is because it falls on the Sunday following the first full moon after the spring equinox. Forty days before this (not counting Sundays) the period of Lent begins. The first day of Lent is Ash Wednesday which falls on the 26th February this year. Therefore, February 25th is Shrove Tuesday, the day before Lent starts, when people traditionally ate pancakes to use up butter and eggs before Lent fasting begins. During Lent, we will be holding our usual Lent lunches at St. Andrew's

church. These consist of a mug, or two, of delicious home-made soup with a roll and butter. The Lent lunches this year will be held on five consecutive Wednesdays starting on 4th March at 12.30 pm. Come and join us for any or all of these dates; there is no charge but any donations will go to a chosen charity.

Looking forward to slightly later this year – an important date for your diaries – the Church Fete, including Tri-Village Tournament, will be held at the Village Hall and on the recreation ground on Saturday 16th May starting at 12 pm. More details in next month's Courier.

Keep up to date with fine detail changes in between Courier editions at www.savernaketeam.org.uk

ST MARY'S CHURCH, COLLINGBOURNE KINGSTON

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

Many thanks to everyone who took part in and contributed to the Christmas Tree Festival and Parish Carol Service, both of which were well attended and, from feedback received, both very successful. A special thanks to Jackie Macbeth for organizing the Christmas Tree Festival along with all the performers who took part. In addition, thanks go to all those of you that supplied a Christmas tree.



Thank you to the Collingbourne Choir for singing so well at the Parish Carol Service and to Julian Wethered for providing the mulled wine along with Val Patrick for providing mince pies. A big thank you to the Trick family of Hillview Garage for their very generous gift of our Christmas tree and thanks also, to the flower arrangers who decorated the church so beautifully as they do throughout the year.

We wish everyone a happy, healthy and prosperous 2020 and thank everyone who has helped support St. Mary's during 2019.

ST ANDREW'S CHURCH, COLLINGBOURNE DUCIS

Services in February

Sunday 2nd Evensong at 6 pm

Sunday 9th Holy Communion (BCP) 9 am

Sunday 16th Family Service 11 am

Sunday 23rd Holy Communion 11 am

ST MARY'S CHURCH, COLLINGBOURNE KINGSTON

Services in February

Sunday 2nd Morning Worship 9.30 am

Sunday 9th Holy Communion 11 am

Sunday 23rd Evensong 6 pm

Cover Picture: Courier team members arriving at the after-AGM party