

Collingbourne Ducis - Everleigh - Collingbourne Kingston



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THE COURIER

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COLLINGBOURNE DUCIS PARISH COUNCIL

Peter Knowlson (01264 850812), Chairman, writes:

Well it's been a wet and windy start to the year with Storms Ciara and Dennis which have taken their toll on a few trees around the village; hopefully you have not been too badly affected and things will start to dry up and settle down as we move towards spring.



Litter Pick – I will be running our Annual Village Litter Pick this year on Saturday 4th April. This annual event is linked in with many thousands of others across the country as part of Great British Spring Clean. As usual we will meet at Collingbourne Ducis Village Hall from 9.30 am and finish around 11.30 am. We do have litter pickers, gloves and high-vis tops to help you as you go around. We will also provide you with some refreshments at the hall. It would be great to see as many of you as possible.

Benches – As part of our ongoing maintenance of Parish Council property, I'm pleased to confirm that two of the Parish Council Benches up at the recreation ground have now been given a new lease of life with some replacement timbers giving them a fresh new look.

Recreation Ground Bookings – Following some recent confusion with local clubs and events I would like to point out that the hire of the Recreation Ground and the hire of the Village Hall do need to be separate requests. By booking one of the facilities does not mean that both form part of the same booking. This is because the Parish Council own the recreation ground and the Village Hall Committee are responsible for the booking of the Village Hall and changing rooms. Should you be looking in the future to book both facilities for the same time, please check availability with the parishclerk@collingbourne-ducis.com for the recreation ground, and

the Bookings Manager, Tanya Dale, on 07776 465177 for Village Hall availability.

Dog Mess – I have been asked again to remind people to make sure they clear up any mess left behind after your pooch has done its business. In particular the recreation ground has had many unwanted presents left up there in recent weeks, which is not nice for anyone using the area whether it be walking the dog or playing sports. Please remember to take poo bags with you and clean up after your dog.

Vacancies – 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.

THE VIEW FROM EVERLEIGH

Denis Bottomley (01264 852731), Chairman, writes:

Our next village event will be a Litter Pick on Saturday 7th March, meeting up at The Crown bus shelter at 11 am and finishing

by 12.30 pm; this effort is in line with a national initiative, The Great British Spring Clean. After issuing of equipment, we will split into several groups to clean up the verges of all arterial roads approaching and running through the village. Please come and help keep your village clean!



A village work party will assemble on Saturday 18th April to conduct general maintenance and tidying up at the playground from 9.30 am

until noon. More details will be available in the next edition of the Courier.

Wiltshire Council are introducing changes to the way in which recyclable materials are collected from the kerbside. The good news is that residents will be able to place more materials in the blue lidded bin. Many households will also see their collection day change as Wiltshire Council will be making the collection routes more efficient.

Letters are being sent to every household in Wiltshire to inform them of their new collection day. Once residents have received their letters they can go online and check their collection day and print off a bespoke collection calendar at **www.wiltshire.gov.uk/rubbish-andrecycling** Residents will receive a leaflet with the letter containing more information about the changes, as well as a sticker explaining which materials can be placed in the blue lidded bin.

There will be no change to the household waste collection service or the chargeable garden waste collection service. Your collection days for these services will remain the same. The service changes will take place over a four-week period from 24th February to 20th March.

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 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 PRIMARY SCHOOL

Dan Crossman, Headteacher, writes:

We were delighted to receive our letter from Nick Gibb MP congratulating us on being in **the top 1% of schools nationally** for Writing and Maths, this is something to be truly proud of.



A real highlight of this term has been witnessing the children addressing the wildfire crisis in Australia. They independently chose to create Koala badges, sell them at break and send the proceeds to aid those people and animals that need our help. Well done everyone!

In other news, we have recently had a sort of inspection! Now you might think we had enough of those last year but we have joined forces with 2 other village schools to conduct 'Peer Reviews' of each other twice a year so that we can make sure we are always doing our very best. The 'review' went really well and some of the comments are quoted below:

This is clearly a strong school.

All pupils spoken to were positive and articulate when talking about their experiences at the school. They demonstrated an appetite and enthusiasm for learning and were clearly proud to be part of Collingbourne School.

A strong atmosphere of purposeful learning and positive teacher/pupil relationships is evident in all classes. The high calibre of the very skilled teaching assistants and the deployment and working partnership between them and teachers is clearly a significant factor in the school's success.

Finally, our sports teams continue to perform brilliantly. Recently our hockey team reached the semi-finals of the district tournament displaying some silky skills on the way. After the half-term break we will be competing in the district rugby tournament and the county netball finals.

WILTSHIRE CRIMESTOPPERS

Matt McGinn, Chairman, writes:

I am the volunteer chair of Wiltshire Crimestoppers, the County branch of



Crimestoppers UK, a national charitable organisation that provides an anonymous crime reporting service throughout the Country. We work with County Police Forces to help reduce crime in our communities and to protect vulnerable individuals. Crimestoppers nationally runs a large number of campaigns each year educating the public about different crime types and appealing for information. The national website is www.crimestoppers-uk.org. should you want to find out more.

In Wiltshire, we are trying to increase our reach to the public with a number of initiatives to make our communities more aware of our service and encourage its use. We are also looking for volunteer 'Ambassadors' within individual parishes to help us stay aware of local issues and promote the use of the service. Public reporting of crime and anti-social behaviour using 999 or 101 is sometimes inhibited through fear of identification, and thus also of recrimination or reprisal. In providing a 100% guaranteed anonymous reporting system through Crimestoppers using the number **0800 555 111**, we hope to overcome those fears and thus make our communities safer for all. In the last year anonymous reports of crime to Crimestoppers in our county have led to a number of convictions.

One of our our objectives this year is to make more people in Wiltshire, especially the more vulnerable members of our communities, aware of the Crimestoppers reporting service through

OUR LINK COORDINATOR'S NUMBER IS CD 850807

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

the parish magazines of the County. We hope, for example, to keep the Crimestoppers logo and contact details constantly in the public eye through regular placements in publications such as these.

Additionally, if anyone has any events that they wish the Committee to support by presenting on what Crimestoppers do, or delivering Crime prevention training, please do let me know.

Finally, as a volunteer Committee we are always looking for people to help our cause and kindly give us their time to make our communities safer; if anyone is interested in helping, please do let me know.

COURIER DELIVERY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED IN COLLINGBOURNE DUCIS

Jill Horsfall (01264 850542) writes:

The last part of the production of the Courier is when your copy comes through your letter box. This is made possible by a team of volunteers, each one with a small number of copies to deliver.



For various reasons we need replacements for the Sunton area and for part of Cadley Road.

There are 25 copies to be delivered in Sunton, from the junction with Cadley Road to Island House. It sounds a lot but many of the properties are close to the road so not a great deal of walking is involved.

Delivery in Cadley Road requires 16 copies and covers 101, Holly Cottage to Windfall bungalow, including Oxford Street on the north side. The south side is from Apple Tree House to Garlands.

Can you help with either of these please? If so please contact me. Jill.

COLLINGBOURNE BEERFEST

Barry Reed writes:



We are pleased to announce the date of this year's premier Village Summer event on Saturday 27th June 2020. Collingbourne Beerfest will again be a ticket only event for Over 18's, with several local bands and a huge array of locally sourced alcoholic beverages!! We are currently working through our plans to improve on last year and further information will be announced soon.

On Sunday 28th June, Collingbourne Picnic in the Park Family Day will return as part of our weekend festivities – with live music, licenced bar, food offerings and activities to keep the whole family entertained.

Our ever-popular barrel sponsorships are now available for this year's Beerfest, along with a number of other opportunities to sponsor the event, so make sure your business is at the forefront of the biggest local event of the summer! For further information email sponsors@collingbournebeerfest.co.uk

COLLINGBOURNE SCHOOL PTA'S COLLINGBOURNE CANTER 5K FUN RUN

Carl North writes:

The PTA will be repeating the popular Collingbourne Canter 5K and Children's 1K fun run on Saturday 6th June at the Ducis Recreation Ground.

To register and for more information, please visit <https://www.evententry.co.uk/collingbourne-canter-5k-fun-run-2020>

Our Community Support Officers can be contacted on 101

THEFILMPLACE – YOUR COMMUNITY CINEMA

Jim Plenderleith writes:

Showing at THEFILMPLACE on Friday

27th March 2020 is THE GOOD LIAR

(15) starring Ian McKellen and Helen Mirren as a veteran conman and a chintzy widow in a sparky drama steeped in deception.

There's embellishing a dating app profile and then there's creating an entirely fictitious persona. But for dapper charmer Roy Courtney (Ian McKellen), a grizzled grifter and veteran conman, lying is a way of life. When he meets well-heeled widow Betty McLeish (Helen Mirren), he settles comfortably into her suburban lifestyle, a world of polite pastels that he privately describes as like being "smothered in beige". Betty, meanwhile, seems determined to grasp late-life happiness with Roy, despite the reservations of her grandson Steven (Russel Tovey).

Adapted by Jeffrey Hatcher from a novel by Nicholas Searle, The Good Liar set in 2009 is at its sparky best when Mirren and McKellen are on screen, waltzing smoothly through a plot that feels like a Russian doll of deeper and deeper deceptions.

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**

Date for your 2020 diary – Friday April 24th, Knives Out.

THEFILMPLACE
YOUR COMMUNITY CINEMA

1ST COLLINGBOURNE AIR SCOUTS

Natalie Williams, Group Scout Leader, writes:



1st Collingbourne Air Scouts are currently looking in recruiting 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!

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

Natalie Williams - Group Scout Leader:

Email: Natalie.williams@wiltshirescouts.org.uk

Phone: 07976102650

COLLINGBOULES PÉTANQUE CLUB

Jan Kenny, Secretary, writes:

This is a shout out to all members and prospective members that the 2020 season will begin again in April, we look forward to seeing you all. Watch this space for the date and details of matches for the season!

CRICKETING COMMENT

David Malley writes:

Firstly, a big thank you to everyone who came along to Snowfest at the beginning of February. A great night was had by all and we managed to raise £700 for the club. We have a number of on-going projects, so that money will help finish those off before the season begins.



And talking of the new season, our full fixture lists for the youth, ladies and senior teams will be available soon. We will also be circulating the times and dates of our pre-season net sessions too, so please keep an eye on our website and social media for those. As ever the club is always open to players of any age, sex and ability, so if you're looking to get involved then please do pop along!

The next date for your diary is Saturday 21st March for the annual St Patrick's Day Quiz Night. Pit your wits against the villages' finest at 7.30 pm at CD village hall. A fully licensed bar and a traditional Irish stew will be on the menu to keep those brain boxes whirring! To reserve your table call/message Jane on **07951 678615** or email **info@collingbournecricketclub.co.uk**

If you wish to keep up-to-date with the latest developments at the club, including details of all of the above, then please visit **www.collingbournecricketclub.co.uk** or find us on facebook.

COLLINGBOURNE DUCIS VILLAGE HALL DRAW

Jane Crook announces the lucky winners:

The winners of Collingbourne Ducis Village Hall draw for February were:

£50 P. Foxall 299 £25 W. Lee 125

£10 Godden 19 £5 C. Price 77



To enter, contact Jane Crook, **01264 850436**

COLLINGBOURNES AND EVERLEIGH GARDENING CLUB

Wendy Roper writes:

In January we held our thirtieth AGM! Last year we were concerned that no one was enthusiastic enough to take up the role of our chairman. Fortunately, Pam Haverson agreed to remain for one more year and this year Caroline Bouwens volunteered to take over the role, so the club will continue. We are in a good position and finances are healthy but we do need some younger members. We have interesting speakers and evening trips in the summer.



After the AGM business Pam Haverson regaled us with tales from her time when she introduced gardening at the primary school. She worked with six-year-olds and began with one raised 8ft x 6ft bed made by Terry Greenwood. It was filled with compost and soil and Pam asked the children what they would like to grow. A long list was reduced to salad items!

The following year more beds were created using scaffold boards and old tyres. Tomatoes, strawberries and runner beans were now being grown and watering had to be carefully managed. Small children don't grow seeds in straight lines and Pam patiently taught them how to sow and water carefully!

Eating what they had grown was an adventure for the children, freshly picked strawberries were especially exciting. Garlic was grown and the children were shown how to prepare garlic butter and then eat their own garlic bread. They were also shown how to save seeds for the next year but the most exciting time was when the produce was entered for the Village Show and they won firsts for three successive years, what a wonderful reward for hard work!

Pam is often accosted in the local supermarket by children who introduce her to their parents. The parents are encouraged by these

children to begin planting their own vegetables, what a very satisfying scenario. Thank you Pam for such an uplifting talk.

Our February meeting is by Thomas Stone with his subject 'Not Just a Rose Garden' and on 26th March Anne Keenan will talk on 'The Heritage Garden at the Manoir au Quatre Saisons' in Ducis Village Hall.

Everyone is very welcome and refreshments with homemade cakes are available after the meeting. If you want any further information please call our chairman, Caroline Bouwens on **01264 850250** and secretary, Patti Marsh on **01264 850319**.

SUPPORT AND KINDNESS FOR MENTAL HEALTH

Kim Olliver writes:

Dear all,

I am pleased to see that Mental Health is starting to be recognised and treated better in recent times. Physical health still seems to be better understood and treated and accepted by society. There can still often be an element of shame surrounding our mental health but I believe that stigma is starting to reduce.

Including myself, I know many others that have had or continue to have mental health difficulties in whatever shape or form. This can be very isolating, distressing for the individual as well as their family. I want people in the villages to know if this applies to you, you are not alone.

I was wondering if perhaps we could set up a support group in a safe place for those that want to come and chat or just to listen and be there for each other. If this is something of interest, do please feel free to contact me at **kimolliver@yahoo.co.uk** and hopefully we can sort something out.

COLLINGBOURNE KINGSTON WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Sandra Fisher (01264 850363) writes:



At the meeting held on Thursday 13th February the President, Wendy Brown, welcomed members and visitors. Apologies were given, the minutes of the previous meeting were signed off and forthcoming events were discussed. Two local events were particularly mentioned, the Bowls evening at Collingbourne Ducis on 11th March and the visit to Tedworth House on 18th March.

The evening's speaker was then introduced. Mandie Cran told the meeting that when she was thirteen years old her father was teaching her brother to tie knots. Mandie asked if he would teach her only to be told that she didn't need to learn as she was a girl. This made her determined not to allow anyone to tell her what she could or couldn't do just because she was female, and that she wouldn't wait for someone to teach her but would find things out for herself.

At the age of nineteen she had obtained her Yachtmaster Certificate and was on her way to university to study engineering. She went to Sandhurst and came out with a WRAC cap badge, but this was not what she wanted and before very long had transferred to REME and was wearing their badge. Her army career was very varied, rebuilding a cannibalised helicopter, a posting to Germany when she cycled through East Germany immediately after the fall of the Berlin Wall, officer training and sailing a 55ft yacht across the Atlantic with a crew of young, inexperienced soldiers.

She married a submariner based in Faslane and when they decided to start a family, they eventually had two daughters, she left the Regular Army and joined the Territorial Army (now the Reserve) where she finished her career as a Colonel. At this time in her life she also turned to an earlier love of painting.

Mandie now works with the Buzz Group, teaches navigation, volunteers at Holfords of Westonbirt Trust's garden, which is being restored, also at the Tetbury Goods Shed Arts Centre, to list just a few things.

When thanking Mandie for her inspirational talk, Maz said how interesting and enjoyable it had been but added that it had made her feel tired!

The evening closed with delicious refreshments and a raffle.

Next meeting: 14th March 2020

Speaker: Annual General Meeting

Tea Hostesses: N. Binge and M. Willis

Hostess: N/A

Raffle Prize: W. Heath

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

SPRING SALE IN AID OF PARKINSON'S RESEARCH

Mary Doherty (01264 850705) writes:

Don't forget 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 pm – 4 pm

Stalls include Bric-a-brac, Jumble, Bottles and Cakes

Refreshments Tea, Coffee and Cakes available to enjoy while you shop

There's bound to be something of interest to you! Hope to see you then.

1ST COLLINGBOURNE KINSTON BROWNIES

Natalie Williams, Brown Owl, writes:



1st Collingbourne Kingston Brownies will have young girls on long waiting lists due to up and coming volunteer shortage. Volunteering with Girl guiding 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. Girl guiding 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, and 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.

Girl guiding 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, Brown Owl

Email – **Collingbourne7@yahoo.com**

Contact - **07976102650**

RURAL ARTS TOURING

Maggie Hall writes:

Live music returns to Collingbourne Ducis this April in partnership with the Rural Arts Touring Programme with support from Arts Council England and Wiltshire Council. Come and see Moscow Drug Club on Saturday 25th April at Collingbourne Ducis Village Hall. Doors open at 7.00 pm for a 7.30 pm start.



Moscow Drug Club are a curious musical place where elements of Berlin Cabaret, Hot Club de France, French Musette and Storytelling meet. Combining their original material with songs by the likes of Jaques Brel, Tom Waits, Leonard Cohen & Eartha Kitt, Moscow Drug Club deliver an intoxicating and intimate musical experience. You are cordially invited to share a wry smile with them as you enter their darkly comic world. For a sneak peek visit:

www.moscowdrugclub.com

A licensed bar and nibbles will be available on the night, and all profits from this event will be used to support art projects within the Collingbournes and Everleigh.

Tickets cost £10 (£8 concessions/£5 children) and are available by contacting Maggie Hall on **01264 850039** or emailing **ducisvillagehall@gmail.com**. Alternatively book online at:

www.tinyurl.com/MDCtickets

MOBILE LIBRARY SERVICE

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

FRIENDS OF LUDGERSHALL

Doreen Sawyer, Secretary, writes:

Since the New Year we have been happy to welcome a number of new members to Friends of Ludgershall. We meet on a Thursday from 10.30 am to 3 pm in the Ludgershall Sports & Social Club. In addition to refreshments throughout the day, members receive a two course meal at midday.

If you are new to the area, are feeling lonely and isolated, or would simply like to make new friends, then give us a call on **07990 620660** if you would like to join us.

Due to our continued success we need more volunteer drivers, and also additional trustees who may have relevant business or charity experience to help us take the charity forward. If interested feel free to ring us on the above number or email **friendsofludgershall@gmail.com**

PROSPECT HOSPICE

Amy Francombe writes:

Mount Kilimanjaro Information Evening

Prospect Hospice is organising a trek to Mount Kilimanjaro in January 2021. We would like to invite you along to our information evening to find out about this adventure challenge, how to raise funds for your local hospice and to listen to one of our supporters who has just returned from his trek to the world's highest freestanding mountain.

Thursday 5th March, 7 pm at the Prospect Hospice Wellbeing Centre at Savernake Hospital.

To reserve a space please email **fundraisingandevents@prospect-hospice.net** or call **01793 816161**



CATS PROTECTION

Ruby writes:

We have a handsome male cat named Snowy who came into our care as his owner was struggling due to ill health. The vet estimates he is about six years old. He has had lots of dental work done and will be ready for homing soon. He is very friendly so will love a fuss once he has settled in. Daisy, our featured cat from last month, was homed to an older couple and is being thoroughly spoilt.



Helpful tip: Cats have evolved to eat little and often. In the wild a cat would eat around 10-12 small meals throughout the day. Pet cats will often prefer the same, although once neutered, cats typically have reduced energy needs, so consider cutting down their daily amount accordingly.

We are urgently in need of more volunteers and have several roles available. Please get in touch if you think you can offer any assistance to help our little branch.

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**

FREDERICK HUGHES MM

Patti Marsh writes - here is the final part of my late Uncle Fred's wartime memoirs:

Buckingham Palace - 19 March 1945

While at Helmsley it appeared on Orders, always posted on a noticeboard outside the Company HQ Office, that I and some other lads of the battalion were required to 'Present themselves, not later than 1015 hours on Tuesday, 20th March 1945 at Buckingham Palace for presentation by His Majesty the King of their medals.'

Most of the other lads were from Andover. We were allowed two relatives to witness the ceremony and my mother and sister Nellie came with me. I still have their passes to Buckingham Palace. I was on leave at the time and the trains during the war from Andover were not reliable into London. I rang and explained the situation so I was told to get to Waterloo Station the day before where we would be met and taken to our hotel.

We had to wait under the clock on the station and were approached by a taxi driver who took us to our hotel where we were given afternoon tea and later an evening meal. In the morning, after breakfast, our taxi was there again, the same driver, and so we were dropped outside the gates of Buckingham Palace. He indicated to me where he would be waiting for us.

After receiving the usual appropriate salute from the sentries outside the main gate, we proceeded across the quadrangle and through some more gates into the courtyard that led up to the main steps. We were met in the Hall, which was massive, by the Lord Chamberlain. He told me to go to the left into another large room and an usher took my mother and sister to their seats.

I estimated that there must have been 200-300 small armchairs in a half-circle facing the dais. Up in the corner to the right there was a string quintet of the Scots Guards playing soft music.

In this massive room to the rear of the dais there were approximately two hundred of us to be presented to the King.

After a while the Lord Chamberlain came in and instructed us as to what we had to do. Our names were called out and we had to queue around the room, as that was the order in which we would be called forward. He also pointed out that the toilets were down a

passageway to our right, but I didn't take the opportunity to inspect them although many did.

I was ninth in the queue. While the recipient was with the King the next one had to be at the bottom of the dais, ready to walk up.

I received my medal and he thanked me for what I had done in Italy. I then took one step back, bowed, and left the dais down the opposite side. I then went outside to wait for my mother and sister as no visitor could leave their seats until the whole ceremony was over.



Outside the gates we found our taxi driver, who took us back to our hotel where we picked up our bags. We were then taken straight to Waterloo and back down in the train to Andover station. The occasion was one that you could never forget, and it didn't cost us a penny!

A Civilian Again

After my leave I returned to Helmsley where I was attached to the RWK (Royal West Kents) for a while, then posted to Travelling Wing HQSW District. This was because the 1st Battalion Hampshire Regiment, with whom I had been at Helmsley, had gone to France. On the 25th April 1946 I received my papers, Class A Release. I was again a civilian.

Postscript

I received a few letters from Major Bailey MC, who was my Company Commander in Italy, asking me to emigrate to South Africa. He explained he was the manager of a bank in Johannesburg and that there was a job there waiting for me. I thought this over for a

long time. Because of the situation there with apartheid I eventually turned down his kind offer. I often wonder, with the situation in South Africa greatly improved and the easy air travel these days, whether I missed out by not going. No one will ever know.

I did see, a few years ago in an English daily paper that Lt Gerard Norton VC MM (see November 2019 Courier) had lost his VC in Zimbabwe after a raid on his farm, but I have not heard of anything since, or if he returned to South Africa.

Fred spent his post-war life working locally. He lived on a smallholding, which took up a lot of his spare time but he was still quite athletic and played badminton and tennis. In his early seventies he sold the smallholding and moved to a flat, first in Amesbury and then back to Ludgershall. When he was 97 he had a stroke which left his right side paralysed. He then moved into Millway House in Weyhill where he was really well looked after until his death at ninety-nine and a half. He always said he would like to live longer than his granny, who lived until she was 101, but sadly it was not to be.

SAVERNAKE TEAM LETTER

Rev Michael McHugh, Savernake Team Rector writes:

Dear Reader,

The week that you will receive this magazine will coincide with the beginning of Lent, a period of time whose significance is often lost in our culture of all year round hot cross buns.

In Christianity we have a principle which states that human thinking is flawed. That principle tends to counteract our natural simplification of the problems of caring for (God's) Earth. It prevents us from focussing on one aspect and encourages us to see a bigger picture.

Throughout the Pewsey Deanery, we are focussing on the God of Creation this Lent. Some highlights are; 'Is there any hope in the



climate crisis?', 'What really matters?' and 'Foraging in the wild'. Advertising is up around the Parishes.

You can find out more on www.comeandyouwillsee.com

Phone Brenda on **01672 562221** or look on Facebook.

In addition there will be our normal Lenten Courses and talks. Please make use of them. I look forward to the stimulating conversations this should produce.

With every blessing, *Michael*

ST MARY'S CHURCH, COLLINGBOURNE KINGSTON

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

Following our Quinquennial Inspection we have carried out all necessary and cosmetic repairs to the church. I am sure that those who have visited the church recently will notice the vast improvement in the West Wall to the rear of the organ which has



been greatly improved. Also, the PCC wish to express their thanks to Charles Howard for arranging and overseeing the two week building period.

Thanks also need to be expressed to all those involved in the Christmas Tree Festival and Fair that took place at the Church on December 7th. This was organized by Wendy Brown, Sandra Fisher and Gill McIntyre and generated £180 for the Church Funds. In addition, a big thank you to the craft stallholders, bakers and refreshments team.

Addresses for the village websites:

CD: www.collingbourne-ducis.com

CK: www.collingbournekingston.org.uk

Everleigh: www.everleigh.org

ST ANDREW'S CHURCH, COLLINGBOURNE DUCIS

Tish Leigh, Churchwarden (01264 850867) writes:

Hopefully by the time you are reading this, we will be enjoying a drier spell of warmer weather and spring will be well on its way. March 1st marks the first Sunday of Lent as Easter Day falls on 11th April this year.



The annual pancake races took place at Collingbourne Primary School on 25th February, Shrove Tuesday. After the races, the children and staff all enjoyed the delicious pancakes made and served by some members of St. Andrew's congregation.

Our weekly Lent lunches begin on Wednesday 4th March and will continue to take place on every Wednesday for the following four Wednesdays (11th March, 18th March, 25th March and 1st April) at 12 pm in St. Andrew's Church. Delicious home-made soup and a roll will be on the menu. Please do come and join us; it's sociable and there is no charge, although any donations will go to a nominated charity.

A Lent Course, based on Paula Gooder's book, 'The Joy of the Gospel,' will be taking place throughout March. Beginning on the Thursday 5th March at 7.30 pm; the subsequent sessions will be on the next five Wednesdays, the final session taking place on Wednesday 8th April. Please contact Rev Jo Reid or myself, if you would like to know more and to join us.

We will be holding a Mothering Sunday family service of Holy Communion at 11 am on 22nd March. There will be posies of flowers for all the Mums plus any Grandmas or great-Grandmas who attend the service.

This month we also celebrate Rev. Jo Reid having been licensed to the Savernake Team for six years as of 13th March. Congratulations Rev. Jo!

'Come and See' is back! Once again, our churches are planning exciting and thought provoking events during Lent: talks, workshops, cinema evenings and much more. If you would like to know more and to sign up for events go to **www.comeandyouwillsee.com**

St Andrew's Church Fete and the Tri-Village Tournament will be taking place on Saturday 16th May at Collingbourne Ducis Village Hall from midday to 4.30 pm. Alongside the traditional stalls which will include face painting this year; Durrington Brass band will be providing musical entertainment; there will a BBQ and the Pimms, beer and cider tent, plus other attractions which we have yet to finally confirm. The Tri-Village Tournament provided enthusiastic, friendly rivalry between our three villages last year with the cup being won by Collingbourne Kingston. No doubt the team from Collingbourne Kingston will endeavour to retain the cup, however I know that Collingbourne Ducis and Everleigh will be doing their very best to win it instead! Join your village's team to take part in the friendly rivalry. All sorts of fun races and activities for all ages are planned, including dash and splash, speedy knitting and tug-of-war. There will be more details next month on how to join your village team. With so many activities, stalls and events we will need lots of help with the organisation and on the day. If you would like to help in some way, please contact me on the phone number above or email **tish.leigh@savernaketeam.com** - We would love you to join us!

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. Andrews Church, Collingbourne Ducis.

ST MARY'S CHURCH, COLLINGBOURNE KINGSTON

Services in March

Sunday 1st Morning Worship 9.30 am

Sunday 8th Holy Communion 11 am

Sunday 22nd Evensong 6 pm

ST ANDREW'S CHURCH, COLLINGBOURNE DUCIS

Services in March

Sunday 1st Evensong 6 pm

Sunday 8th Holy Communion (BCP) 9 am

Sunday 15th Family Service 11 am

Sunday 22nd Mothering Sunday Family Holy Communion 11 am

Sunday 29th Cluster service of Holy Communion at St. Nicholas'
Church, Chute 11 am