

COURIER

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THE COURIER

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THE VIEW FROM EVERLEIGH

Denis Bottomley, Chairman, (01264 852731) writes:

We continue to make good progress on our Everleigh Enhancement plans; flower planters are now in position at the playground, in The Street, in West View, on Marlborough Road and in Lower Everleigh. Minor amendments have been made to our new village property map to assist visitors and delivery drivers, and we now intend to position it on the wooden fence by the Crown bus stop lay-by.



St Andrew's Church Fete takes place on Saturday 3rd of September from 12 noon until 5 pm in the Ducis Village Hall and on the recreation ground. There will be a variety of stalls and activities, and refreshments will include a bar, barbecue, teas and cakes. Everleigh has been invited to participate in games with Ducis and Kingston folk. Events will include races (egg and spoon, three-legged, and dash & splash), welly wanging and tug of war. We need volunteers for Team Everleigh! Please get in touch (my contact details are above); no particular experience or skills are required – this is a purely fun occasion with our neighbours from the Collingbournes.

There are two events at St Peter's Church planned for the remainder of this year. Firstly, a Harvest Festival Service will take place on Saturday 8th October at 3 pm. Then, a Christmas Carol Service is scheduled for Saturday 10th December at 5 pm, followed by mulled wine and mince pies.

A village litter pick will take place on Saturday 22nd October, meeting up at The Crown bus shelter at 11 am and finishing by 12.30 pm. Please come and help keep our village clean!

A village bonfire night was first held in Jubilee Field in November 2012, having previously been fireworks only at The Crown. The event was held annually until 2018 and took considerable time and effort to

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organise. Consequently, parishioners were consulted in May/June 2019 to seek their views. Only 13 out of 94 households responded that they would like the bonfire night to continue. After much consideration, the Parish Council therefore decided to suspend the event. Following the popular beacon bonfire at the village celebration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and a quite large turnover of residents, there have been calls to reinstate a village bonfire night. After review, Parish Councillors concluded that a bonfire night would be held this year on Saturday 5th November from 6.30 pm in Jubilee Field and measures to alleviate noise and car parking would be addressed. More details will follow in the next edition of the Courier.

On several occasions at the end of last year the Lower Everleigh postal collection box was vandalised by person(s) unknown, and in February was deliberately pushed over. Although nobody was caught, it was assumed that the direction of attack was made by someone parking in the pull-in on the A342. After several attempts to remedy this and after five months absence, in conjunction with Councillor Kim Wheeler-Mallows, Royal Mail erected a new collection box further into Lower Everleigh on Monday 18th July, where it is easily observed by residents. As an alternative to the Marlborough Road and The Street collection boxes the Lower Everleigh box has routine collections at 9 am Monday - Friday, and 7 am on Saturday.

Finally, the next Parish Council meeting will take place on Tuesday 6th September 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 KINGSTON PARISH COUNCIL

Richard Semple, Chairman, writes:

It seems to have been a long hot summer and I hope that you have all managed to enjoy the sunshine as well as



contending with the challenges of sustaining gardens, crops and livestock. Although the heat wave appears to have subsided, much of the countryside in and around our Parish is still tinder dry so we need to remain alert to the risk of fire. On which subject, many of you will have been aware of the lorry that caught fire on the A338 just near to the junction with Mill Drove. I understand that it was due to an electrical fault on the vehicle and our thanks must go to the rapid and effective response from our local fire service who contained the spread of flames to the verges either side of the road.

My thanks also go to Wiltshire Police for their increased presence on the A338 over the past few weeks and to our own community speed watch team, run by Councillor Tim Keighley. Road safety remains a top priority for the Council and I have no doubt that their efforts are having a real impact in reducing the volume of speeding traffic through the Parish. Tim would be very pleased to hear from you if you can spare a few hours each month to join the team. Please contact him via email: timkeighley@tiscali.co.uk.

Your Parish Council continues to welcome your input and views which can be passed by email to our Parish Clerk, Philip Palmer: clerk@collingbournekingston.org.uk. You are also most welcome to attend our Parish Council meetings, the next one of which will take place on Tuesday 13th September, at 6.30 pm, in the Ruth Fisher Room, Collingbourne Kingston Village Hall.

COLLINGBOURNE DUCIS PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman John Wood writes:

By way of introduction, for those of you I have not met, my name is John Wood. I live on the High Street in Collingbourne Ducis and have recently taken on the duties as Chair of the Parish Council. It is with much sadness that I have to announce the resignations of two Councillors; Paul Hartley



and Keith Cockerton. Paul, for personal and professional reasons has had to step away from Council business to focus on his family and work commitments which, given the uncertainty in Eastern Europe, is understandable. The Council will miss his energy, enthusiasm and leadership and we wish him well in all his endeavours, particularly in the knowledge that he will return sometime in the future. A long-standing member of the Parish Council, Keith has made significant contributions to village life, particularly by his stewardship of the annual Xmas Big Brunch and the catering for the recent Jubilee celebration, which have all been made possible with the support of his wife Jill and family. Keith and Jill look after the book library and Keith had, until recently, been responsible for the Council web site; his knowledge and experience will be missed.

On a lighter note the Collingbourne Beerfest was triumphant, making its post COVID return. Thank you to the Beerfest committee for a slick, well run event. The next Village Fete and Tri-Village Tournament is scheduled for Saturday 3rd September. A Team Captain who will be charged with the important task of retaining the Cup is required, so if you are able to support, please do.

The website for the Parish Council has been revamped and recently launched under the professional guidance of Councillor Kelly Earle who is responsible for digital communications and engagement. Please take the time to visit the site and get to know more about the Parish Council.

In other news, the Road Traffic Accident in July which resulted in a heavy goods vehicle and a car in the Bourne, demonstrated how vulnerable parishioners and their property are to the traffic passing through the village. It was evident from the public meeting attended by the Wiltshire Police Assistant Chief Constable (ACC) David Minty, Danny Kruger MP and Councillors that there is no quick fix or something that can be achieved overnight and it may require changes to

legislation to make possible. The ACC has tasked both the roads policing unit and local policing team to increase patrols on and alongside the A338. In Collingbourne Ducis we can play our part by continuing to monitor the speed of vehicles through the village and increase the presence of our Speed Watch team coordinated by Paul Hartley.

Recently, Collingbourne Ducis residents were sent a flyer which was included with the last edition of the Courier, inviting responses to a short survey about future projects for the Parish. Over the past few years, a number of projects have been completed by the Parish Council and now is the time to identify and prioritise future projects. Any and all ideas are welcome, so do please contribute. An online version of the survey can be found at <https://tinyurl.com/4vjate8>

Our next Parish Council Meeting is scheduled for Thursday 8th of September 2022 at 7 pm at Collingbourne Ducis Village Hall. As ever, Parish Council Meetings are open events which members of the public are more than welcome to attend. If any parishioners wish to get involved or get in contact with the Parish Council, do feel free to email the Parish Clerk, Mr Phil Gill, parishclerk@collingbourne-ducis.com

COLLINGBOURNE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Harriet Phillips, Headteacher, writes:

As we start September we welcome seventeen new children into Fox class. The Fox Class team have been working really hard to give the classroom a complete makeover which I am sure the children will love.



We will start the academic year with some teacher training and will welcome the children in Hedgehogs, Otters and Kingfishers back on Monday 5th September.

Many of you will have seen the new bin store at the front of the school, thank you to the Parish Council for supporting with some of the

funding for this. I am sure you will agree it has improved the look of the front of the school, but most importantly it has reduced any risk of the path being obstructed by bins.

This year sees us returning to normal and welcoming visitors into school. If you would be interested in volunteering please do give us a call, we would love to see you!

COLLINGBOURNES ROAD SAFETY WORKING GROUP (CRSWG)

Philip Palmer writes:

On Thursday July 28th, about 120 people met in Collingbourne Kingston Village Hall, only eighteen days after a Home Bargains HGV plunged down the Bourne ditch in Collingbourne Ducis. Now, as I write this, only two days have passed since a six-axled HGV appeared to have spontaneously combusted on the A338 just yards from my house. Added together with all the catalogue of similar events over the last four years, namely, the motorcyclist killed just outside Aughton (2019), the double fatality between Ducis and Kingston (2020), the tragic death of Eloise Jackson (2021) and incidents of vehicles crashing into roadside properties: Mayzells Cottage (2019), Barleycorn/57 Collingbourne Kingston (2020), the Kingston village gates outside Fesdu (2021), accident outside Hillview Garage (2022) should give cause for serious concern about road safety in these villages.

The public meeting I referred to above was with Danny Kruger MP, Philip Wilkinson OBE (the PCC for Wiltshire), Peter Binley (Interim Head of Highways and Transport for Wiltshire Council), Chris Williams (Local Councillor for Ludgershall North and Rural) and Assistant Chief Constable David Minty QPM. The purpose was to publicly put our feelings across about the A338, to see if change is possible, and what that change might be. Full notes of the meeting have been made

OUR LINK COORDINATOR'S NUMBER IS CD 850807

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

available so I will not go into them here. Various actions came out of the meeting and these are being co-ordinated by Danny Kruger. Perhaps most notably in the short term is the intention to get Dr Mark McClelland, the Wiltshire Council Cabinet Minister for Transport, Waste, Street Scene and Flooding, to visit the area and walk with Danny Kruger and I to see the danger points in our villages in August/September.

However, the feeling that I get from the majority of people that I speak to is one of anger mixed with resolution at living along this road with its appalling safety record, speeding problems and thundering HGVs. Some people seem to think that it's 'my fault, after all I bought a house here, no one forced me'. To counter that argument, I'd say that you may like the situation as it is now but let me assure you that once the old Honda site is developed by Panattoni, a logistics company, at a cost of £700m into a 145 hectare logistics and manufacturing centre, you may have second thoughts, because much of the traffic to and from this site will be coming this way.

Others say, 'I heard all this before, we've tried but nothing ever happens'. Again I'd say, that may have been the case then, but this is now, let's try again, and again and again. The more we try the more likely that some of those who are elected to represent us will have to help if they want to be re-elected by us.

So, here we are, one year into my campaign that I started after the death of my little friend Eloise Jackson and for whose memory I personally have been making this stand. I have built a relationship of sorts with Danny Kruger and intend to use it to get him to represent us. It is early days but I intend to keep him to his word. But this is a Herculean task, not one that a single person can do, so I am appealing for help, and throwing it open to you. It may be that you have a skill set in your day job that will be useful, or some time on your hands to help carry out a lorry count, proof reading to make sure that our

apostrophes are all in the correct place or just that you want to know what's going on with the campaign. We are launching a new improved Facebook Page with the above name for villagers to sign up to. This should give you the latest on the campaign. Of course we'd love to hear your suggestions, views and near miss experiences on the A338, perhaps even dashcam footage of them. It all helps to build up the picture. However, the FB page is no place to be discourteous or rude to others participating, however disparate your opinion on the subject may be. I do hope that you will get involved; the aim is to improve road safety and quality of life for all of us. To make a change you have to be part of the change, no one is going to do it for us. If we are successful, even in some small measure then it will have all been worth it. Please help.

TIDWORTH AREA BOARD

Councillor Chris Williams writes:

Tidworth Area Board will meet on Monday 12th September, 7 pm, at Chute Village Hall, but how many of you have heard of an Area Board and just what does it achieve? Area Boards were set up by Wiltshire Council in 2009 and their purpose is to bring local decision making back into the community. All towns and villages in the county are represented by their own Area Board.



Tidworth Area Board consists of both Tidworth and Ludgershall and the villages of Everleigh, The Collingbournes and The Chutes. The Board will hold four formal decision making meetings per annum and then informal flexible engagement meetings that focus on a particular topic or issue that is clearly linked to one of the local priority schemes. Our local priorities continue to focus on Positive Activities for young

Our Community Support Officers can be contacted on 101

people, Climate Change, Health and Wellbeing and Community Resilience.

Area Boards have delegated powers and devolved budgets to help facilitate community led action and a key role of the Board is to provide grants to community groups and youth funding, in partnership with local youth networks. The local Community Engagement Manager (CEM) supports all elements of the Area Board and is the main point of contact for any questions on grants.

Membership of Tidworth Area Board consists of the three unitary Councillors for the Tidworth Community Area, I represent the Ludgershall North and Rural Division and currently chair Tidworth Area Board. Also attending will be Wiltshire Council officers, depending on the issues being discussed, Town and Parish Councillors from the different parishes, members of the public and representatives from various organisations and groups. These may be from the Police, PCC, Fire Service, Army, Healthwatch, local health representatives and the voluntary sector.

I hope this has given you a brief insight into the role of the Area Board and please contact me if you require further information on this or any other Wiltshire Council matter. I may not be able to give an instant reply to your query but usually do know someone in the Council who will be able to help.

Cllr Chris Williams

christopher.williams@wiltshire.gov.uk Mobile 07712 159562

ST ANDREW'S CHURCH FÊTE

Tish Leigh writes:

Saturday 3rd September 12 - 5 pm, Collingbourne Ducis Village Hall. Profits from the fête will go towards the repair and restoration of the turret clock and its clockface.

Coming to the fête you can visit the bottle stall, buy a cake or a delicious burger, some books or a toy, enjoy a cup of tea and a slice of cake or something more alcoholic. There will also be Boule for you to try your hand at as well as entering your dog in Becky Oldfield's Dog Show - or just enjoying watching if you haven't got a dog- and last and not least, how about entering some events in Tri-Village -Tournament? Help your village team win the cup!

Musical entertainment by the Phoenix Brass Band and the Two of Us.

Tri-Village -Tournament Events:

Egg & spoon race – races from age 5 – adults

Three-legged-race – races from age 2 to 11 + an adult ; KS2 children can be pairs of same or similar age or + an adult

Sack races - races from age 2 – 11

Welly wanging - ages 2- adult

Dash and Splash – races from 7 years to adult

Tug of war – 'pulls' for ages 7 to adults

Enter on the day or contact your village team captain now!

Team Captains:

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Collingbourne Ducis – Karin Bell **0745705972**

Collingbourne Kingston – Steve Clement **07958138622**

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VISIT TO SCHOOL BY LORD LIEUTENANT OF WILTSHIRE

Jill Stevens writes:

Crowning Visit to Collingbourne School.

Collingbourne Primary School welcomed the Lord Lieutenant of Wiltshire into school on Thursday 21st July to celebrate the children all completing a very special award.

Mrs. Sarah Troughton presented a certificate and commemorative coin from the Royal Mint to all of the children in Years 1-6 who had recently completed the Queen's Green Canopy Junior Foresters Award organised by the Royal Forestry Society.

Collingbourne Primary is the only school in Wiltshire to have completed this award. The children began work in March during their Forest School sessions and undertook tasks such as planting hedges, learning tree names, creating habitats for wildlife and becoming tree ambassadors. Forest School leader Jill Stevens, aka 'Willow', said 'It has been really exciting to see how keen the children are to learn about the environment. They are passionate about protecting it for the future. The school has now started to work towards the Green Tree Schools award run by the Woodland Trust.

MERRY PIM

1935-2022

Merry Pim, who died earlier this year, had been a popular character within Collingbourne Ducis since she and Micky arrived here in 1977. Merry was born in India in 1935, her father being an officer of the Gurkha Rifles, perhaps one could say with a silver spoon in one hand and a chapati in the other. Her mother, Evelyn, was a devoted Army wife – with a spirit for adventure and a love of sport, art and nature – whose mantra was: Try to do everything and never say 'I can't'. Never give in and never say 'I'm bored'. These powerful words coloured Merry's attitude to her whole life from an early age.

In 1944 Merry was sent to a convent in Ottakamund in Kerala. Described as a very dicey school by her mother, she only spent a year there before being shipped back to England at the end of the war in 1945, celebrating her 10th birthday at sea. Her life on the move continued in the same vein after the end of the war. They moved to war-torn Germany in 1946. Food rationing was still part of life and 'make do and mend' was the dominant philosophy – another mantra that Merry would abide by throughout her life – evidenced clearly in the arm covers of the hand-me-down sofa and armchairs that she hung onto and continued to mend and darn over a period of 50 years. Many will have sat on these at Old Lime Farm. Not immediately evident to many, Merry would whip off the heavily patched arm covers when she had visitors.

Merry's life as a child was very much an itinerant one. In 1948 she was dispatched from Germany to a less dicey school – Godolphin in Salisbury. Putting the Hindu Kush firmly behind her, she was about to be introduced to a very different world, that of the English boarding school, encapsulated in the school's meticulous clothing list. With the exception of six white aertex blouses, a white sailor's hat, white petticoats and white gloves, every other item on the extensive clothing list was navy blue, including the ubiquitous navy blue knickers to be worn with navy blue linen frocks. No surprise navy blue was forever after Merry's signature colour. In her teenage years Merry was to discover her love of sport. Her life as a sixteen year old, recorded in her diary, reads as one of unfettered merriment. True to her mother's mantra, she tried and embraced everything on offer with enthusiasm – particularly tennis, skiing, dancing, and boys too. After Godolphin, realising Merry's artistic talent, her mother packed her off to Farnham Art School. Art was something Merry loved but for which she found little time as her life got busier. It was a talent however that would stay with her forever. Merry also attended Secretarial College and a Cookery

School. She entered the adult stage as a well-finished all rounder. With her brother Ian taking on a commission in the Army and parents then living in Camberley – the social epicentre of all things Army – it was almost inevitable that Merry should find a match in Micky, made in India too. Born in Karachi, dressed in Khaki from birth and also arriving in England in 1945. They spoke the same language, understood curry and poppadoms, and had friends in common. They were married in 1959 and so began a life-long partnership and round two of military postings for Merry – this time following her newly-wed, first back to Germany and then with two young boys in tow, to Malaysia. Much in the style of Merry's own parents exploring remote parts of Tibet, Merry and Micky made several intrepid trips up the Sunghi Pahang river and thence into the back waters of the Malaysian jungles in search of rare butterflies – a shared passion at the time. With postings back in Germany and a handful in the UK, a lifetime of moving homes came to an end when Merry and Micky finally got to find her forever home here in the Collingbournes in 1977.

Never one to sit still, Merry was a community activist from the word go. She touched and lit up the lives of many people in the village – from the youngest as Primary School Secretary to the oldest as a Volunteer Driver with the Link Scheme. She both instigated and supported many village activities – from Sewing, Knitting, Gardening and Boules Clubs, to the WI, the village magazine and the PCC to mention but a few. As School Secretary and aware that facilities at the School were less than adequate, typically, Merry invited every class to her garden where the children enjoyed playing in the shade and listened to stories sitting beneath the trees. She was also a committed member of the Village Church for forty-three years – her actions and deeds testimony to her Christian beliefs.

Merry was a passionate tennis player, an LTA coach for many years and a keen competitor both at home and away, being a long-standing

member and supporter of The Archers Tennis Club. She was always keen to share her love of the game with friends and family. She showed an equal passion for gardening and her knowledge of plants never failed to impress us. Renowned for having the finest collection of Ground Elder in Wiltshire, Merry also nurtured a much-envied vegetable garden.

A wearer of many hats, Merry's best hat was reserved for Micky. She was his anchor, his lifelong partner, travel companion and ultimately his care-giver – at his side through life's ups and downs. We witnessed and were humbled by her selfless devotion to him over the last ten long years of his life as it was slowly whittled away by Parkinson's Disease. Merry was a product of her generation and she bore these challenges with great fortitude and an impeccably trained stiff upper lip – counterbalanced by a wonderful sense of humour commented on by so many. Showing no signs of wanting to slow down in her eighties, Merry made a brave but heart-wrenching decision – mid-pandemic – to hang up her lawn-mowing hat and sell her deeply cherished home of forty-three years to move to the tranquillity of Manor Court in Pewsey.

Wanting to lessen the burden on others, she could see a happy independent future ahead of her, but just on a smaller scale. It was a bitter twist of fate that within two weeks of settling into Manor Court she was handed a terminal diagnosis in the shape of Motor Neurone Disease, explaining the loss of her voice – her most treasured instrument. She took it on the chin like no other, amazing everyone with her drive and determination not to let it get the better of her. Not once did Merry complain as her health deteriorated. She continued to play tennis, walked more briskly than ever, and despite having no voice, rarely struggled to communicate what she was thinking.

Merry was simply unstoppable – continuing to try new things, never giving up and never saying 'I can't!'

CRICKETING COMMENT

David Malley writes:

The Cricket Club's 1st XI has been enjoying a stellar season! With just one game to go, captain Karl Gingell and his side have already secured promotion, finishing top of their division. Currently sitting with twelve wins from twelve games, the 2022 campaign is sure to be one of the most successful in the club's history. Well done to Karl and his team! Twenty-three players have been used so far this season in the league, including a good number of our current and former youth players. All in all, promising signs for the future!



Elsewhere, The Sapphires – the club's women's team – have been travelling the length and breadth of Wiltshire this summer taking part in numerous softball festivals and racking up some great wins along the way. The Sapphires will host their own festival on Sunday 11th September at Ducis recreation ground, so please come along and show them your support.

The festival will be one half of the club's 'Pink Weekend' – our fundraising event for 'Against Breast Cancer'. On Saturday 10th September, a variety of fun matches will take place over the course of the day, including a softball family Smash and Bash, so bring your kids and show them your cricketing skills! The bar and barbecue will, of course, be up and running all weekend for what promises to be fun for players and spectators alike.

As ever, we're always on the lookout for new players, and although we're approaching the end of the summer, it's not too late! So, if you think you'd like to get involved then please get in touch.

Email info@collingbournecricketclub.co.uk or find us on Facebook. You can also keep up to date with all the latest results and league tables by visiting www.collingbourne.play-cricket.com



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SYLVIA ROSE GINGELL

1925-2022

Sylvia Gingell, one of Everleigh's oldest villagers, has died at the age of ninety-seven.

Sylvia was born and brought up in London with her four brothers and sisters and, after leaving school, she worked as a Telephonist. Her friend Joyce lived in Everleigh and on a weekend visit to Joyce's parents she met Henry, her future husband. They married in 1949 and Sylvia moved from the capital city to the quiet Wiltshire village, which must have been quite a shock. Their first home was a remote cottage with no mod-cons, but as Henry did the gardening for both the church and the rectory (in his spare time) they were able to live rent-free.

Sylvia and Henry brought up two sons and two daughters in that small cottage and then they moved to Pigleaze Cottages. Here two more sons were added to their family. The younger children never had the thrill of going from a cottage with an outside loo to a house with a proper bathroom!

While the family were growing up Sylvia worked at various jobs - cleaning for the lads at the Stables, behind the counter at the local shop and at the David Bruce Laboratories looking after the animals.

Henry died after thirty-seven years of marriage in 1986 and Sylvia remained strong and independent. She had always loved working in her greenhouse, but she then took solace in his domain, the garden, and continued to grow wonderful vegetables for the family.

Sylvia loved quizzes and supported both the Barleycorn and Tipple. Her knowledge was far-ranging and astounding. She regularly completed crosswords and her family were amazed not only at her ability to spell obscure words but knowing the meaning of them too!

She was the oldest member of the Table Tennis Club; bending down to retrieve balls or whizzing around the table left many of the younger members amazed. She always played to win too!

Sylvia's children Mary, Andrew, Lorna, John, David and Jimmy all lived reasonably local and visited her regularly. She had eleven grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

Sylvia was fortunate that although her health was failing in the last few months she was able to continue living in her own home supported by her daughters and sons.

A lovely lady who will be greatly missed.

COLLINGBOURNES AND EVERLEIGH GARDENING CLUB

Patti Marsh, Secretary, (01264 850319) writes:

Our annual Gardeners' Lunch held at Highfield House in July was very enjoyable – this was before the heat wave and, although we watched the clouds circling, the rain did not come and we were able to sit in Carolyn and Julian's garden. Members' children in particular had a marvellous time dry-sledging the grassy slopes.



The club has arranged a coach trip to the Malvern Show on Saturday 24th September leaving Pewsey at 8.45 am and Collingbourne just after 9 am. There are a few seats left if anyone would like to join us – cost is £38 which covers the coach fare and entry to the show.

Our next evening meeting will be in Kingston Village Hall on 27th October at 7.30 pm when Ray Broughton will be making a welcome return.

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

COLLINGBOURNE BEERFEST 2022

Ashley Bevan writes:



The Collingbourne Beerfest Committee would like to say a huge thank you to all those who supported this year's event, which took place over the weekend of 25th and 26th June. After a two-year enforced absence, it was great to see so many people from our villages gathered together, enjoying some long overdue social bonhomie, to raise money for local clubs and organisations that may need a helping hand.

We were fortunate to be treated to some lovely weather over the Beerfest weekend, the perfect accompaniment to a scrumptious array of drinks, the opportunity to meet friends old and new, live music from local bands and, of course, some compulsory end-of-the-night dancing. But none of this would have been possible without the support of our wonderful sponsors, who once again did the event proud. We would like to thank again:

Southgrove Farm; Aughton Farm; Parsonage Farm; Court Farm; Manor Farm; Westhill Farm; Sargent & Waight; Everleigh Equestrian; Summerdown Shoot; Hillview Garage; Rick Harris Engineering; RRev Ltd; The Barleycorn Inn; The Shears alongside Brakspear; The Tipple Inn; Contented Gundogs Training Club; Balding Design Ltd; Pauline Oliver Fotos; The Goa Balti Indian Restaurant and Bar; Marco Pierre White Steakhouse Bar & Grill Salisbury; Signature Floors; Roger Marsh Landscapes; Trevor Cook Construction; Nicky Bamford; The Courier; and Richard Hannon Racing.

Our thanks and gratitude also go to Steve 'Clem' Clements and his team at Core (Bar and Event Hire) in helping to put this event together, and to the army of volunteers whose hard work and commitment, both over the event weekend and for many months before, ensured that it was the success it proved to be. This hard work has resulted in a fantastic sum of over £5,500 being raised across the main Saturday 'Beerfest' and

Sunday 'Picnic in the Park' events. This is an amazing sum of money and will help numerous groups in and around the area. As with previous years, we have a grant application process for clubs and organisations which have the need for a small cash injection. This process is now open and interested groups can email grants@collingbournebeerfest.co.uk for details.

COLLINGBOURNE KINGSTON VILLAGE HALL QUIZ

Chris Patrick (01264 850345) writes:

The quiz restarts on 15th September in the Collingbourne Kingston Village Hall at 7.30 pm, finishing at around 9.30 pm. Cost is £2 per person towards Hall funds; tea, coffee and biscuits available at half time for a small charge. Teams of four or thereabouts, so no blame or shame. All welcome; do come and join us and help raise funds for our Village Hall.

COLLINGBOURNE KINGSTON WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Sandra Fisher (01264 850363) writes:

The Summer Party was held on 14th July in the Collingbourne Kingston Village Hall grounds. Four team leaders had been chosen, who each picked four team members. The teams were assigned a Continent and their challenge was to prepare their table, costumes and food to represent that Continent. This was great fun and all the teams produced amazing results. The weather had been warm and dry all day but when the sun set the breeze felt quite cool and coats and covers came out of cars.

The August meeting was held in the Village Hall on Thursday 11th at 7.30 pm. In the absence of the President the meeting was taken by Maz Clifton who welcomed the members. She worked through the considerable list of events which have been arranged by the county for the early autumn period. The meeting was also asked to tick a list giving their preference for the Christmas Party. Maz then introduced



the speaker for the evening, Debbie Towlson, who gave a demonstration on making unusual chocolate desserts. She showed the members how to make chocolate salami, which is an Italian Christmas treat. When finished it looks just like a savoury salami but is full of chocolate and goodies. The other sweet treat was French Mendiants, which are chocolate discs topped with chopped nuts and dried fruit. At the end of the session she presented 'some she had made earlier' and everyone was able to taste the results. Delicious! Maz thanked Debbie and the members warmly applauded.

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

Next Meeting: 8th September 2022 Highwaymen of Wiltshire

Hostess: H. Ball

Raffle Prize: S. Davies

Tea Hostesses: Sara Bottomley and Muriel Cross.

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.

STONEHENGE AND PEWSEY VALE CANCER RESEARCH

Chris Patrick (01264 850345) writes:

The July social evening with speaker and ploughman's supper held in Collingbourne Kingston Village Hall raised a fantastic £1,037.50 and was much enjoyed by all. The committee would like to thank all those who supported it, with special thanks to the Reverend Nicholas Henderson for his most interesting talk on Great Myths and Conspiracy Theories.

The next Cancer Research event is a curry lunch at the Goa Balti restaurant, Everleigh, on 16th October. Tickets from Val Patrick on **01264 850345**.

1ST COLLINGBOURNE AIR SCOUTS

Natalie Williams (Ameek), (01264 850566 – 07976102650), writes:

It is with great sadness that I am having to say that 1st Collingbourne Air Scout group has disbanded. This was due to low numbers of children within all sections, Leaders to run the group and adults to help in all other areas of keeping a group running.



The group held activity days, recruitment sessions and took part in village events to promote the group and looked forward to it growing. Sadly, this was not enough.

The group has been running for many a year, with a many of the leaders coming from within the villages. I would like to thank everyone who has been involved with the group over the years from running sections to being part of the other areas that are needed to run a group. Scouting is a voluntary commitment but everyone involved does it for the experience that it gives the young people.

I know myself, seeing the young Beavers walk through the door and taking part in their very first meeting, enjoying every minute of their time, through into Cubs then Scouts and several going on to Explorers. Some of those Explorers coming back as leaders taking the next generation through the Scouting experience.

Both Pam Stone and I have not come out of Scouting but have joined the Savernake Scout Group in Burbage which is another local group within our District.

I feel sad for the village that this group has gone but have enjoyed all my roles within it.

email: Natalie.Williams@wiltshirescouts.org.uk

HOW TO HELP THE HUMBLE HEDGEHOG

Emily Gilford writes:



Hedgehogs are arguably Britain's most unmistakable native mammal. They have a coat covered in spines and are packed full of character. While interviewing for my new role at the Mammal Society, I was asked what my favourite UK mammal was, and it wasn't even a contest - it's got to be the humble hedgehog. In 2016, they were voted as the UK's favourite native mammal in the Royal Society of Biology's public vote.

Hedgehogs are quite secretive and elusive creatures. Being nocturnal, it's rare to come across one in the daylight, and they're incredibly hard to track. This can, unfortunately, mean that we often have no idea how wild populations of hedgehogs are doing. This has meant in the past, that we've just assumed that they're doing well, when they're really not.

We have one species of native hedgehog in the UK - the European Hedgehog (*Erinaceus europaeus*). These are not to be confused with the much smaller and lighter in colour African Pygmy (*Atelerix albiventris*) which has become a popular pet. In 2020, European Hedgehogs were placed on the Red List for British Mammals, declaring them as vulnerable to extinction. What does this mean, and what can we do to help?

In the 1950s it was thought that there were over thirty five million hedgehogs in Britain, but this has declined substantially to less than one million in the UK in 2019. These severe declines are linked to intensive farming methods including the destruction of hedgerows and the use of pesticides. Because of the destruction of their habitats, like many other UK mammals, hedgehogs are traversing into more suburban and urban areas to find food, mates and shelter. So what can we do to make our houses and surrounding areas safer for our prickly friends?

In normal circumstances, hedgehogs will travel up to three miles per night to find mates and food. In urban areas, such as gardens, this can be tricky. People like to keep to themselves when they're at home, so fence off their gardens and houses. This is great for your own privacy, but not for the social life (or stomach!) of a hedgehog. To allow them to travel freely, you should look into adding something called a hedgehog highway into your garden. This is a small hole or two in the boundaries of your garden that hedgehogs, and other small mammals, can pass through freely. When I first started researching hedgehogs at university, my dad had just put in a new fence. Safe to say, he was a bit grumpy about cutting a hole in it, but that old man angst was quickly displaced when we had some spiky garden visitors show up on our trail camera!

We performed some research and found some hedgehog houses to place in the garden, with special doorways that foxes and badgers cannot sneak into for a spikey snack. We left out some dry cat biscuits and some water, which were topped up every evening and sure enough, our hedgehog friends kept coming back to visit. We don't have a pond or big source of water in our garden, but if you do, make sure you pop a ramp or steps to make sure the hedgehogs can escape if they need to. They are not particularly able swimmers!

Attracting wildlife also can be a bit of an excuse to let your garden grow a little wild. The best thing, instead of leaving out food for hogs, is to provide excellent opportunities for beetles, slugs, worms and some of the hedgehog's other favourite snacks, to thrive. Piles of dead wood or large rocks are great for this and will boost the biodiversity of your garden. You will start to see much more wildlife, like small mammals and birds as your garden becomes wilder.

Alongside our trail camera (you can pick up a variety of great cheap ones on eBay or sometimes Lidl and Aldi!), we found it fun to put out some footprint tunnels. You line them with paper and paw-friendly ink

made from charcoal and vegetable oil. Anything in your garden can run through and leave little inky prints along the paper lining. It was lovely to see what had been wandering about the night before! You can pick up the tunnels quite cheaply online from places like NHBS and WildCare, and it is a great and rewarding activity to do with younger people.

Hedgehog Street, www.hedgehogstreet.org, is a fantastic place to learn more about how to help hedgehogs, both in the 'proper wild' and in your garden. Alongside the British Hedgehog Preservation Society and the People's Trust for Endangered Species, the organisation works to understand the State of Britain's Hedgehogs report, which is published once every three to four years. The report uses different scientific studies and citizen science data to work out how hedgehogs are doing. They also have lots of fantastic advice on food suitable for hedgehogs, and how to change your garden practices to benefit our prickly pals.

THEFILMPLACE - YOUR COMMUNITY CINEMA

Jim Plenderleith writes:

THEFILMPLACE
YOUR COMMUNITY CINEMA 

We are starting our Autumn 2022 season on the 30th September with a very different capability. We have obtained funds from Ducis Parish Council, Tidworth Area Board, Ducis Village Hall and a couple of anonymous donors to enable THEFILMPLACE to purchase its own sound and vision equipment which we will debut in September. Most of you will have seen the large, high quality electric drop down screen installed a couple of years ago. Now we have a state-of-the-art laser projector with 7:1 sound system and the newly installed acoustic roof panels ready to provide the best possible cinema experience to entertain you. Come and enjoy your new cinema made possible with your ongoing support.

Showing at THEFILM PLACE on Friday 30th September is Operation Mincemeat starring Colin Firth and Matthew MacFadyen. Operation

Mincemeat was the bizarre real-life scheme cooked up by British intelligence in 1943 to fool Nazi Germany into thinking the allies planned to invade Greece and Sardinia, rather than their actual target, Sicily. An unidentified body was dressed up as fictitious 'Capt. William Martin' and carried elaborate bogus plans for this non-existent invasion; the body was dumped into the sea so that it would wash up in Spain where the British were confident this phoney intelligence would be obediently passed to the Germans.

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 still only £6.00 and are available now from Collingbourne Ducis village shop or by telephoning Jim Plenderleith (CD) **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**

A DIP INTO THE PAST

Keith Cockerton writes:

Each of these events is gleaned from the local newspaper archives. One thing to note is that, in those days, the Parish boundaries will have been different. An example of this is that half of what is now regarded as being in Collingbourne Ducis was in Kingston. Also, Everleigh was important as it held a Petty Sessions Court.

Published 8th April 1858 in the Devizes & Wiltshire Gazette:

SERIOUS CHARGE OF ARSON AGAINST A CHILD. A boy, only 12 years of age named Silas Barlow, was indicted for wilfully setting fire to 3 barns, and granary containing corn, ricks of wheat, and 16 1/2 quarters of barley, the property of Joseph Hill, at Collingbourne Ducis, on the 23rd of March last. The boy first pleaded guilty to having set the property on fire but said he did not mean do so; but at the persuasion of

the learned counsel who appeared on his behalf, he subsequently pleaded guilty to the charge of arson. Mr. Justice Willes, in passing sentence upon him, said: "Silas Barlow: you appear to be a very dangerous sort of boy. Your master appears to have beaten you, and out of revenge for his doing so, you set fire to his property, and do one hundred pounds' worth of damage. Had you been a grown-up person, and capable of seeing the full consequence of such an act, I should have felt obliged to consign you to slavery—and a very bad slavery—perhaps for the remainder of your days. But that is not the way in which boys who have done wrong are treated now-a-days. Instead of that, they are sent to school, where they have an opportunity of getting instructed, so that they may hereafter become proper and well-behaved members of society, and at the same time be able to do some good for themselves. Now, of course I cannot let you go out into the world again immediately. If I were to do so, the next farmer who gave you a box in the ear might probably have £100 worth of his property destroyed. I must send you to school, and you must stay there until you are able to conduct yourself in a proper manner and earn your bread. The sentence of the Court is, that you be imprisoned for one month, and that you then be sent to the Wilts Reformatory School for 5 years".

Published 29th July 1848 in the Salisbury & Winchester Journal:

On Thursday, July 20, a match of cricket was played on Wedgerly Down, Collingbourne Ducis, between eleven of Collingbourne and eleven of Pewsey, which was won by the former with twenty-six runs to spare.

(Cricket was as important to the village then as it is now. Does anyone know where Wedgerly Down is or was?)

Published 30th August 1866 in the Devizes & Wiltshire Gazette:

At Collingbourne Ducis, on the body of George Cook. This person was ostler at the Blue Lion, Collingbourne, and bore an excellent character

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for steadiness and sobriety. He went to bed in his usual health and during the night aroused his wife and complained of his arm. She ran to a neighbour for help but he died immediately. The medical evidence proved that the cause of death was disease of the heart. Verdict Visitation of God.

(Visitation of God more comforting than 'natural causes?')

Published 28th August 1890 in the Devizes & Wiltshire Gazette:

ON WEDNESDAY NEXT. HIGHFIELD LODGE, COLLINGBOURNE KINGSTONE. Sale of a most attractive and Modern built RESIDENCE, situate within two minutes' walk of Collingbourne Ducis Station, M. and S.W.J. Railway, and within five minutes of the church and Postal Telegraph Office. R. T. LAVINGTON is favoured with instructions from the Trustees of Miss E. Piper, deceased, to SELL by AUCTION on the premises as above, on Wednesday, September 3rd, 1890, at 3 o'clock precisely, the above substantial brick and tile built RESIDENCE, comprising large and lofty Entrance Hall, with tessellated tile floor, Three reception Rooms, Six Bedrooms, Linen Closet, W.C., capital Kitchen, Scullery, dry underground Cellars, and the usual outdoor domestic offices There is a capital Stable, fitted with two stalls and large loose Box, Coach House and Saddle room, also substantially built brick and tile. The Residence is approached from the main road by carriage drive and stands in its own ornamentally planted pleasure grounds, with a most productive and well stocked walled-in kitchen garden, and in extent 1a. 3r. 9p. (more or less). There is a coursing meeting held annually within the parish, and the noted Tedworth kennels are within four miles. The above property stands upon high ground, is in good repair, has an unfailing supply of good water, and is very suitable for shooting or hunting box. The property is held under lease, of which 30 years are unexpired.

(Interesting plus points for selling!)

Published 12th December 1868 in the Salisbury & Winchester Journal:
Wholesale Burglaries. On the night of the 28th July, the house of John Chandler, of Collingbourne Ducis, was burglariously entered, and a top coat, a loaf, six teaspoons two table spoons, a currant cake, and shoe brush stolen there from. The same night, at the same place, the house of Mary Webb was similarly entered, and a sheet, boy's shirt, 1lb. sugar, 1/2lb. butter, 2oz. of tea, a piece of cheese, and 2d. in copper stolen. Also, the same night and place, the house of Jane Smith was entered, and two shawl pieces, 1/2lb. of tea, 3lbs. of sugar, 2lbs. of candles, two men's shirts, one white petticoat, one pair of women's drawers, two loaves, a boiled sheep's head, and two chemises stolen.

(Interesting hauls, reflecting the times!)

1ST COLLINGBOURNE KINGSTON BROWNIES

Natalie Williams (Brown Owl), (01264 850566 – 07976102650), 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 Collingbourne 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 Guides if they wish.

Contact Brown Owl, Natalie Williams on **07976102650** or **01264 850566** or Email **Collingbourne7@yahoo.com**

CKFM - YOUR LOCAL ENTERTAINMENT STATION RADIO AS YOU REMEMBER IT ...

Robin Crossely writes:

Does anybody remember tuning into those pirate radio stations back in the day? They were the first real pop music-based entertainment stations, with pioneering DJs playing great music, that many of us wanted to listen to... music that was not available on the BBC.



Well, you might not know that we actually have our own local radio station called CKFM (Collingbourne Kingston FM) that is forging ahead with a sound and feel that is reminiscent of those first pioneering entertainment stations in the UK, from the pirate stations of the 1960s through to the first generation of land-based commercial stations of the 1970s and 1980s such as Radio Victory, BRMB, Capital 194 and others. CKFM features music from just the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s, together with jingles, vintage adverts, news clips, humour and DJ legends. The station features shows like The Golden Hour, Pick of the Pops 2, the Big Mix and a specialist Soul Show called Soul Sonic, which plays on the 1st of every month between 6 pm and 7 pm. There's also a link-up with another nostalgia station, Pirate Days Radio, who contribute a number of shows to CKFM.

The DJs are local people but these days it's all legal and above board and makes use of modern technology to broadcast locally and globally using the power of the internet to reach people everywhere. Listening to the station is absolutely free and no subscription is needed. You just need an internet connection and a laptop, smartphone or tablet to listen in. It will cost you nothing and hopefully you will enjoy listening to the music and retro adverts that will take you back – so don't miss out.

Here is the web link for those that might want to listen-in **www.ckfm.listen2myshow.com** There's also an App you can download to your smartphone or tablet. Search for Listen2MyRadio in your App Store and then use the App's Search function to find CKFM. If you'd like more information, then please do feel free to email us at **ckfmstudio@gmail.com**

From Wiltshire to the World.... CKFM ... Radio as you remember it.

Addresses for the village websites:

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

SAVERNAKE TEAM LETTER

Michael McHugh, Team Rector, writes:

An Open Letter to Sisyphus

Sisyphus was not a very nice character and was condemned to pushing a rock up a mountain for eternity for his general sneakiness and nastiness.



Whenever he got close to the top of the hill, the boulder would roll to the bottom again. Although I am not suggesting that we are like Sisyphus, I am suggesting that life sometimes presents us with situations that feel like a Sisyphean task. Our current world and national situation seem like this.

We are at the beginning of a new term and although the New Year is traditionally on the first of January, for many of us, it is the academic year that governs our lives. We now face the monotony. The pushing of the boulder up the hill. I can stretch the analogy ad infinitum (and beyond). Now more than ever, despite our massive generosity through the virus, is our chance to look sideways and help a neighbour as the boulder rolls back down the hill. You hear the news. You don't need me to tell you about it.

It's actually in the stepping outside of our perceived limitations that we break the grind of Sisyphus. That's actually what we see in the effect that Jesus had on his followers. How does it make sense for fishermen from Galilee to go to all over the world? When I face the grind of daily work, it often feels like I am sharing the labours of Sisyphus. I pine for a break from the uphill push. But in focussing on pushing a boulder up a hill we can so easily miss the wonderful things and people that we pass.

By stepping outside the norm, we can break the condemnation of the gods, break the grind. This term brings us Harvest, Remembrance and many other things. If you feel like sponsoring me, or joining in, we have 'Ride and Stride' at the beginning of the month to raise money for

our historic churches. Break out of the norm or the sensible and break the Sisyphean cycle.

I hope that your return to work or normality this autumn does not feel like a grind. I hope also that you will be attentive to the wonderful, if sometimes needy, people around you. We don't need to be defined by selfish acts like Sisyphus.

Every Blessing, *Michael*.

ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH, COLLINGBOURNE DUCIS

Churchwarden Tish Leigh (01264 850867) writes:

Wiltshire Historic Churches Trust has granted St. Andrew's Church generous donations towards repairs in the past. One of this charity's major fundraising campaigns is the annual Ride and Stride Event which takes place this year on Saturday 10th September. Volunteers raise money by being sponsored for visiting Wiltshire's churches or chapels around the county on foot or by riding on bicycles or on horseback. Half of the money raised in sponsorship is kept by the volunteer's chosen parish and half goes to the WHCT. Some members of St. Andrew's congregation intend to ride or stride on September 10th in order to support WHCT and to raise money for our church. If you would like to join us or sponsor us, please contact me or any member of the PCC for details. (I will have my sponsor form with me at the fête!)



Our harvest festival service this year will be at 11am on Sunday 18th September. Although grateful for the many dry days during July and August, the extreme heat and concern about fires made this harvest quite fraught at times, bringing another shade of meaning to thanking God for a harvest safely gathered in. Please join us for this celebration service which will be followed by refreshments.

ST MARY'S CHURCH, COLLINGBOURNE KINGSTON

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

HARVEST SUPPER

Our Harvest Supper will be on Monday 3rd October.
Please look out for the flyer in the Courier for more information.



ST MARY'S CHURCH, COLLINGBOURNE KINGSTON

Services in September

Sunday 4th	11am Holy Communion
Sunday 11th	9.30 am Morning Worship
Sunday 18th	9.30 am Holy Communion
Sunday 25th	6 pm Evensong

ST ANDREW'S CHURCH, COLLINGBOURNE DUCIS

Services in September

Sunday 4th	Evensong at 6 pm
Sunday 11th	Holy Communion (BCP) at 9 am
Sunday 18th	Harvest Festival at 11 am
Sunday 25th	Holy Communion at 11 am

*Cover Picture: Recent traffic accident in Collingbourne Ducis
Photo by Simon Gilford*

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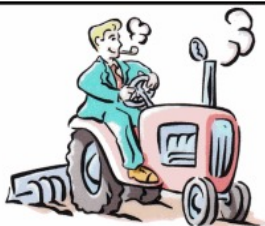
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