

COLLINGTREE NEWS

April 2015

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Collingtree village & parish*

www.justcollingtree.co.uk

“ If voting made any difference - they wouldn't let us do it”

Mark Twain

On May 7th Collingtree Village Room is normally the Polling Station for Collingtree Village (Collingtree Park residents vote on Windingbrook Lane) when we vote in the General Election for a Member of Parliament and in the Northampton Borough Election for two local councillors .

The hope always is that this will ensure local democracy and that our chosen representatives will influence what is best for Collingtree and the surrounding area. But for a community like Collingtree, right on the border of different administrative areas, it is not that simple.

At the Parliamentary level, we are on the northern tip of the South Northamptonshire Constituency (*Andrea Leadsom MP*)

This is a new seat, only created in 2010, and is based on its heartlands of Towcester and Brackley. The Nene Valley ward which includes Collingtree, was formerly part of the Northampton South constituency and would have been moved back in again if the Boundary Commission proposals had not been caught up in cross-party wrangling.

Collingtree also borders the Daventry constituency (*Chris Heaton Harris MP*) on the south side of the M1. This means that when major warehouse development like Howden's comes along (see back page) the MP for our area has little direct say.

The same confusing situation applies at the Borough and District Council level. Collingtree Village is part of Nene Valley ward which has two council seats on Northampton Borough Council. Collingtree Park is part of the East Hunsbury Ward and has two different Borough Council-

lors. Both parts of Collingtree Parish are heavily impacted on by planning decisions made on the other side of the A45 by South Northamptonshire District Council (see back page)

On top of all this, there is the now infamous West Northamptonshire Joint Strategic Planning Committee (WNJSC) made up of Daventry, SNC and NBC. This body has spent

8 years developing an expansion strategy that has resulted in dumping most of the planned growth on Northampton's doorstep and has been forced through purely on the votes of Daventry and SNC councillors.

In national elections, voters will make their decision on issues such as immigration, the NHS and the costs of being in the EU. At the local level it will be based on how well roads have been maintained and lit at night, how well refuse has

been collected and whether planning decisions have been supported by essential infrastructure.

However, the complexity of local government organisations makes it difficult to know who does what—and how well they do it.

A prime example is the traffic and environmental disaster area around the A45 and Junction 15. Who has responsibility?

Is it the Highways Agency (unelected) Northamptonshire County Council, Northampton Borough Council, South Northants Council - or all of them? The link between the ballot box and effective change is becoming less and less clear.



ST COLUMBA'S +

Fish & Chip Supper

On St George's Day

Collingtree PCC will be holding its annual Fish & Chip Supper at the Village Room on **Thursday 23rd April at 7.30pm**. This very popular event includes fish and chips, apple pie and ice - cream, all for £8. Bring your own cutlery, drinks and glasses. Tickets from Mick & Ann Marsh (766060) and Irene Skinner (768394)

PCC AGM

Collingtree Parochial Church Council will hold its AGM at 7.30pm on Tuesday 14th April in the Village Room. All parishioners are most welcome. We need your help and support.



Church Wardens

John Green 6 Watering Lane 763468

Peter Skinner 'Lynton' Barn Corner 768394

Deputy Warden

Chris Wright 8 Watering Lane 761930

Services for April

5th April (Easter Day)

10am Easter Communion

12th April

9am Parish Communion.

19th April

10am Morning Praise.

26th April

10.30am Family Service.

St Columba's will be open on 3rd April (Good Friday) between 12 noon and 3pm for Private Prayer

SALCEY BENEFICE SERVICES MINISTER: REVEREND MIKE BURTON 862284

Ashton 5th April 9.15 am Parish Communion— 12th April 10.30am Sunday School - 19th April 10.30am All Age Service
26th April 8.15am Holy Communion.

Courteenhall 5th April 10.30 am Parish Communion —12th April 10.30am Morning Prayer— 26th 10.30am Informal Service.

Hartwell 5th April 10.30am All Age Service—12th April 10am Morning Praise—19th April 9.15am Parish Communion
26th April 10am Morning Praise.

Road 5th April 10.30am All Age Service —12th April 10.30am All Age Service 6.30pm Benefice Youth Group -
19th April 10.30am Morning Praise and Sunday School Club - 26th April 9.15am Parish Communion.

Additional Services: 2nd April 6pm Benefice Communion at Road—3rd April 7.30pm Evening Service at Road .

Church Flowers Rota

There will be no Flower Arrangements in Church until Easter Saturday on 4th April . We ask as many Flower Ladies as possible to help on that date.

18th & 25th April

Ann Marsh (Altar) Jo Clamp (Memorial)

Queries to Joanna Edmunds 761759 or Ann Marsh 766060

oOo

Medicine Collection Rota

W/C 30th March & 6th April

Jo Clamp 761349

W/C 12th & 20th April

Barbara Brice 764723

W/C 27th April

Margaret Joll 767277

For anyone in Collingtree who has difficulty in getting to Road or Blisworth Surgeries, help with collecting prescriptions can be a lifeline. If you can help contact: Coordinator: Shirley Flight 764433

How to Stay Young!

Throw out non essential numbers. your age, weight and height. Let the doctors worry about them. That is what they are paid a lot of money for. Keep only cheerful friends. The moaners will wear you down.

Keep learning. Learn how to use a computer, get involved in whatever but never let the brain idle.' An idle mind is the workshop of Satan who will play tricks with your thoughts.

Enjoy the simple things of life and live your life to the full. Smile and laugh often, long and loud. The tears will happen but you must endure, grieve, have faith, and move on. The only person, who is with you for your entire life, is yourself.

Surround yourself with what you love, whether it's family, pets, keepsakes, music, plants, hobbies, whatever. Your home is your refuge. Cherish your health: If it is good, preserve it. If it is unstable, improve it. If it is beyond what you can improve, get help. Don't take guilt trips. Take a trip to the shops, even a holiday but never to where the guilt originated.

Come to Church and show your faith in your heavenly maker.

Peter Skinner

VILLAGE ASSOCIATIONS & SOCIAL GROUPS

Collingtree Allotment Association

With the arrival of April, hopefully, we will all be feeling the benefit of the lengthening days and warm sunshine. It is a 'let's go for it!' month on the allotment, but beware there is always a price to pay with the threat of hard night frosts never far away. Better to hold back and wait a day or two rather than take a risk. It isn't the loss of seedlings or young plants that causes the problems but the loss of your precious time that does the damage. The allot-

ment will always catch up eventually and reward your patience with a bumper harvest of fresh organic produce. Fancy giving it a try?

For details of plot availability, contact Martin Grosse 762700

Milton & Collingtree Women's Institute

The next meeting will be on Thursday 9th April at 7.30p.m. in Milton Malsor Village Hall. The Speaker is Shirley Allen and her subject "Recycle & Re-

new". The Competition is for "A Revamped Item".

More details from Ann Marsh 766060

Collingtree Art Group

The Art Group meets at 10am every Thursday (during term time) in Collingtree Village Room.

To find out more call Agnes Barfoot on 762389.

SPORTS CLUBS

Pub Skittles

The season is drawing to a close and another place in the top 4 of the League is looking likely after another solid month. In other comps - Sue Blackman the landlady was unfortunately beaten in the semi final of the Landlords Cup whilst Mark Underwood has qualified for the finals night in the Captains Cup for the 3rd successive season. We look forward to finishing the season on a winning note and wishing good luck to Oscar Simmonds in the singles and Ade Flowers and Chris Pedel in the singles and pairs.

To get involved call Mark Underwood 07864 51876

Cricket Club

April sees the start of the new season. The fixtures for April are 12th April New Bradwell at Home 1pm, 19th April Braybrooke at Home 1pm start, 26th April at Old Away 1pm start. We start May with an away fixture at Castlethorpe.

If interested in joining the Club - please contact Karen Hopkins 07787786094

Tennis Club

The Tennis Club has played in leagues throughout the winter and we are looking forward to the better weather around the corner and playing in the Summer leagues.

More details of events and playing times are on the Club website:

www.collingtreetennis.co.uk

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS PARISH CLERK: TESS TAYLOR 07729784653 E: collingtreeparishcouncil@gmail.com
CHAIRMAN: MALCOLM BRICE 01604 764723

Elections in May 2015. The packs needed for standing in the May election for the Parish Council have just arrived at my house, 5 Spinney Drive, Collingtree Village. They can be completed and returned from 30th March until 4.00 on Thursday 9th April at the Guildhall. Two people are required to nominate someone so if you would like a pack, please let me know, though it might be best if you collected one.

Finance Parishioners will no doubt be delighted to notice that the Parish Precept has returned to its more normal level of £12,000 which includes funds for meeting the expense of the election rooms and a small further amount for the proposed traffic calming in Ash Lane. The speed survey conducted in Ash Lane by Northants Highways showed an average speed of 39 to 40mph, rather too much for 30mph limit. and a proposal is now being drawn up to move forward the ideas for a 20mph limit and a pedestrian crossing at the crossroads.

Planning matters Golf Course development The Managing Director of Bovis Homes South Midlands Region has since

indicated there will be an appeal. and the Borough Planning Committee is looking into the 106 agreements as it is required to do in preparation for an appeal.

Howden Proposals for just south west of M1 junction 15 An agreed statement was sent to South Northants Council (SNC) opposing this application and there has been no further news except that various documents are on the South Northants Council website ref application number

S/2014/2468/EIA. The Parish Council thought one of the documents about noise was inadequate and registered its objections. A pollution paper has yet to be lodged but it is understood a further delay of two months has been requested by the Highways Agency.

Toms Close Northampton Partnership Homes (NPH) have taken over this matter from the Borough Council as part of the responsibility for Council Housing being passed to them. Two confidential meetings, facilitated by the Parish Council Chairman, have now been held between NPH and the owner-occupiers and progress to allow the owner-occupiers to remain in Collingtree, is being made..

Street lights None of the Parish Council owned lights have been switched off to save energy. so faulty lights should be notified to the Parish Clerk or Chairman. It is possible for parishioners to report faulty street lights themselves if they so wish. The contact for most village lights is E.ON on 01604 493743. For Collingtree Park lights and those in Glebe Farm Close, the contact is Balfour Beatty on 0300 126 1000 option 4.

Parish Council contact Please make any contact with the Parish Council through the Clerk, (see above)

The next meeting will be the ***Annual Parish (Public) Meeting on 22nd April.*** and can those who give reports at this meeting please prepare them. Reports can be read in person or by being given to the Parish Clerk.

This meeting will be followed immediately by an Extraordinary Meeting of the Parish Council for the purpose of signing off the audit. Minutes of all meetings are placed in the Parish Council notice-boards and email versions can be gained from the Clerk.

Parish Notices

'Collingtree News is produced and delivered to every household each month, at no cost to the parish.

The support of the Parish Council and the Women's Institute is gratefully acknowledged. We also appreciate the support of our regular Sponsor, Central Foods.

A special thank you to all those who deliver the Newsletter door to every household every month.

Compiler/Editor

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- *Collingtree PCC (Church Council) is still urgently seeking a volunteer to replace its current Treasurer who retires on 23rd April. The post is essential for the continuation of St Columba's and if you feel you can help please contact Peter Skinner on 768394*
- *Northamptonshire County Highways are aware of the road surface problems along Watering Lane but say it is not currently high on their list of priorities. To help make the case it would be helpful if as many residents as possible could use the 'Street Doctor' website to report the growing number of potholes. http://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/en/councilservices/Transport/roads/Pages/report_problem.aspx*
- *The Peterborough Diocese is to support the Blisworth Benefice (which includes Milton Malsor) with a new Curate to share in the work involved. The Diocese has further decided that whilst undergoing training, the Curate will live at Collingtree Rectory although this will not assist in the running of St Columba's.*

The Wooden Walls of Old England

Due to customer feedback we are changing our opening hours as follows

Tuesday to Thursday ~ bar 4pm til 11pm ~ food 5pm til 9pm
(Early Bird Menu 5pm til 7pm)

Friday ~ Bar 12 noon til 11pm ~ Food 12 til 2pm and
6 til 9.30pm (Early Bird 6 til 7pm)

Saturday ~ Bar 12 noon til 11pm ~ Food 12 til 2.30 and
6 til 9.30pm

Sunday ~ Bar 12 noon til 10.30pm ~ Food 12 til 5pm
(last table booking 4.30pm)

We look forward to seeing you!

Sue Blackman 01604 760641

Planning Watchdog

Howden's

The number of objections to the application for a 2.67 million sq ft Distribution Centre, continues to clog up the South Northants Council website. The Highways Agency (who are responsible for Junction 15 and the A45) have now said they want another two month delay (beyond the Elections) before any decision. Sadly, Northampton Borough Council (NBC) say they support the proposal despite its impact on Collingtree.

Bovis

Following the refusal of applications for 1000 houses (between East Hunsbury and Collingtree) Bovis is expected to appeal - although has not yet done so. Curiously, NBC say that they still have to negotiate with the developer over what conditions/contributions might make the application acceptable. It is unlikely that anything further will happen until after the Elections.

Grange Park

In addition to the warehouse erected behind the Filling Station on the A45, SNC are considering applications for two more on the Saxon Avenue site next to J15. Neither Northampton Borough Council or Collingtree Parish have been consulted on these applications.



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