

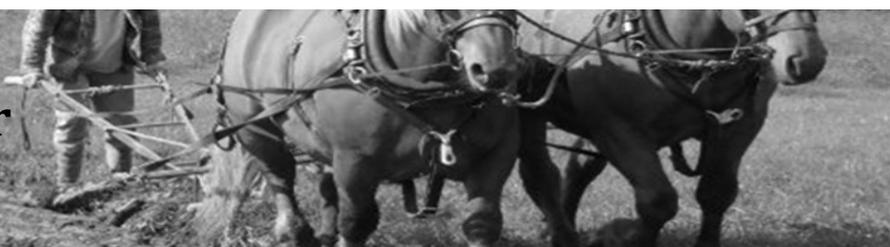
COLLINGTREE NEWS

February 2016

Visit the only website dedicated to
Collingtree village & parish

www.justcollingtree.co.uk

Last links with our rural past



It will be the Secretary of State and the government who will decide, later this year, whether Bovis can build a thousand plus houses on the green fields between Hunsbury and Collingtree. For most people, the major issues have always been about traffic congestion, noise and air pollution, flood risk and lack of infrastructure. At the recent Public Inquiry into an Appeal against refusal by Bovis, Northampton Borough Council left it to other objectors to raise these issues and chose to focus only on Noise from the M1 and the impact on the heritage features of Collingtree Village and its Conservation Area. Nevertheless, the expert witness used by NBC at the Appeal Inquiry, put up a pretty good case.

Ignus Froneman from Heritage Collective argued that the Phase 1 development of 378 houses on the fields alongside Barn Corner and the Bridle Path would *'lead to serious harm both to the church of St Columba and the Conservation Area'*. He cited section 66 of the 1990 Listed Buildings and Conservation Area Act and also the new NPPF Planning framework, as reasons why the appeal should be dismissed. He produced photographic evidence to demonstrate that the fields under threat provide the last remaining link with the rural history of the village. He said the effect of the development would mean *'the comprehensive urbanisation of the field to the west of Barn Corner and the associated destruction of any ridge and furrow'* (Ridge and furrow was the method of ploughing with Oxen that goes back to Medieval times. It had the effect of pushing the land into strips of rounded mounds to produce a corrugated appearance. Northamptonshire had many surviving examples and there are several around the west of Collingtree) The heritage expert also highlighted the importance of the ancient footpath across the field which is *'an important approach to the historic village'* This was the route taken in the 18th century when a single Rector would look after both Collingtree and Milton Malsor. He claimed that the case for the destruction of these historic links with the pastoral setting of Collingtree Village had not been made.

Just how much notice the government will take of the disappearance of these links with Collingtree's past, remains to be seen.

Try something new in 2016 !

Grow your own fruit & vegetables at Collingtree Allotments



There is something special about designing and creating your own allotment space, planting seeds, nurturing the plants through the season and then reaping the rewards of a successful harvest. Why not give it a try ?

*Fresh air - Meet new people - Different plot sizes available
Make jams & chutneys - Fill your freezer with home-grown food
Save money - Fun for children too.*

An allotment rental costs just £20 per YEAR (plus initial returnable deposit)

Are you interested ? - If so contact Martin on 762700 or Bob on 761368 for more information.

ST COLUMBA'S + COLLINGTREE

Minister

Rev. Mike Burton

Church Warden

John Green 763468

PCC Secretary

Chris Wright 761930

Collingtree is part of the combined Salcey Benefice together with Roade, Courteenhall, Ashton & Hartwell.



The Friends of St Columba's

A voluntary group formed to raise funds for the fabric of Collingtree's ancient Church.

To get involved call Peter Skinner on 768394

Services for February

Sunday 7th February

10am Morning Prayer

Wednesday 10th February

7.30pm Ash Wednesday Service

Sunday 14th February

9am Holy Communion

Sunday 21st February

10am Morning Prayer

Sunday 28th February

10.30am Family Service

Church Flowers Rota

Saturday 6th February

Catherine Thompson (Altar) Kerry Godfrey (Memorial)

All flowers will be removed from the Church on 9th February before Lent starts on Ash Wednesday 10th February.



Friends Coffee Morning



Following the highly successful Coffee Morning held in the Church on Saturday 16th January, the 'Friends of St Columba's' have decided to host a regular 'Coffee Morning' every third Saturday in the month. These will start on Saturday 20th February and will be between 10am and 12noon.

Do come and enjoy a coffee (or tea) and a selection of cakes. There is no charge although a donation would be most welcome.

Whether you have just moved to the village or parish or have lived here for some time, getting out and about is the best way to meet and talk with fellow residents. Do take advantage of the 'Friends' Coffee Morning—see you there!

Lent Lunches

Joanna Edmunds will be once again holding 'Lent Lunches' at her home at 4 Barn Mews, Collingtree Village.

The lunches (between 12.30 & 2pm) will be every Tuesday from 16th February until 22nd March inclusive and all proceeds go to the 'Forever Angels' baby and toddler home in Mwanza, Tanzania where they do such wonderful work for tiny children who have so little. Do come and support them.

Drop in and enjoy soup, a roll, cheese and an apple - all for £1 or a donation.

For more details call Joanna on 761759

What's On at the Village Room

Each Monday Morning - 10 - 11am Cha Char Chimps Activity Group for up to 4yr olds.

Each Thursday Morning - 10am - 11.30am Adult Art Group.

On Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday afternoons, there is an After School Club between 3pm & 6pm.

All Groups are open to everyone and some make a small charge. **For more details or to book the Village Room for your event - call Esther on 07788 766616**

VILLAGE ASSOCIATIONS & SOCIAL GROUPS

Allotments Association

Plots of varying sizes are now available.

Contact Martin 762700 or Bob 761368

Milton Malsor & Collingtree WI

The next meeting is at 7.30pm on Thursday 11th February at Milton Malsor Village Hall. This month, for the second meeting of the year, we have an Indian Cooking Demonstration by Anita Chikpalkatty—just the thing for a Winter's

evening.. The competition is 'Spice of Life. Make an early date in your Diary for this year's 'Outing'. We are planning a trip on 4th June to Bury St Edmunds—the coach is booked, and at only £12 per person, too good an opportunity to miss (there is already a list!) As usual the coach will leave Milton at 9am & Collingtree at 9.05 (not too early!) More details will follow.

For further information call Ann Marsh 766060

Medicine Collection for February

Week starting 1st February -
Shirley Flight 764433

Week starting 8th & 15th February -
Jane Grosse 762700

Week starting 22nd February -
Shirley Flight 764433

There is an urgent need for more volunteers to keep this service going. If you can help occasionally—please contact Shirley Flight 764433

SPORTS CLUBS

Pub Skittles

All is going well for the Skittles Team with a string of wins since last newsletter - one minor but significant blip was a loss to The Compass last week. We had our pub championship over the Christmas Period - Mark Underwood is our singles champion and Adrian Flowers/Grant Jones won the pairs - good luck to all three when they represent us later in the year. Kev Hardisty is now the 'Lowestoft Loser' after ending his consecutive win series -

Currently Mark Underwood (5) and Tony Jones (7) have significant winning streaks. More details from Tony Jones 07789 912796

Cricket Club

Winter nets are held from 8pm - 9pm at the County Ground and continue until March.

For more details call Karen Hopkins on 07787 786094

Tennis Club

New Year, new beginnings! All those New Year's resolutions about getting fit - what better way than to join your local tennis group? We welcome all ages and standards.

To find out more about the Club visit our website:
www.collingtreetennis.co.uk

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

PARISH CLERK: SHIRLEY WONG 01604 700691 E: collingtreeparishcouncil@gmail.com

CHAIRMAN: MALCOLM BRICE 01604 764723

Parish finances The Parish Council decided to ask for a precept of £18,000 partly to progress its request for double yellow lines in Watering Lane. Having had complaints about near-misses, as explained in the last newsletter, the Parish Council must try to solve this problem urgently because of its duty of care to its residents.

Planning. A proposal has been made to site a road-rail interchange on land between the Northampton loop line at Milton Malsor and the land to the west of the Milton Malsor to Blisworth Road behind where Young's Nursery was situated. This would appear to cut the existing Milton Malsor to Blisworth road. This is at an early stage and the Planning Inspectorate wished to receive initial comments by 10th January.

The Parish Council duly sent its comments but was later advised, like Roade Parish Council, that the Inspectorate did not want these comments because the land is not in the parish. Our MP, Andrea Leadson, has been asked to check into this as planning comments are normally requested from adjacent parties.

However, the comments will go to the developer.

Local Parish Council Meeting An informal meeting has recently been held between a number of local Parish Councils to explore the best ways for Parish Councils to tackle difficult and contentious planning applications,

This meeting was attended by the Chairman and it was agreed to work together over applications such as the above and as part of the preparation in the next year for the Local Plan for Northampton.

Playing Field matters The playing field gate must always be left locked as this prevents any traveller incursions! Should this not be possible, or it has been left open, please notify the Parish Council Clerk. Action has been taken to have the trees to the west of the tennis courts cut back as their height is affecting light to neighbouring houses. The cost will be shared between the Parish Council and the Tennis Club.

Streetlights Any faulty lights should be notified to the Parish Council Clerk or Chairman. It is possible for parishioners to report incidents or faulty street lights themselves if they so wish by using the numbers on the lamp posts. 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.

Trees and bushes alongside pavements Will all residents please continue to check that any trees or bushes alongside pavements are kept pruned back so that the full width of the pavement is clear and fully accessible. There are several wheelchair users in the village and obstruction of pavements is an offence. If residents have problems over this, please contact the Clerk.

Parish Council contact Please make any contact with the Parish Council through the Clerk, Shirley Wong, on 01604 700691, or via collingtreeparishcouncil@gmail.com

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Wednesday 9th March, 2016 at 7.30 in the Village Room. Minutes of all meetings are placed in the Parish Council notice-boards and email versions can be gained from the Clerk. Minutes and accounts now also appear on the Just Collingtree website with thanks to Rod Sellers..

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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Parish News is printed by Sharpe Media
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Planning Watchdog

A new Action Group has been formed to oppose the huge Industrial Park proposed between Milton Malsor and Blisworth. It is called 'SAY NO TO RAIL CENTRAL' and has put up roadside banners and has a web-site:

www.norailinterchange.co.uk



A major concern is that the Developers, Ashfield Land, are seeking to bypass the local planning laws and public opinion by labelling their scheme a 'Nationally Strategic Infrastructure Project' when in reality it is just another warehouse park with some limited capability to accept rail freight.

This and other projects close to the M1 are increasingly being decided on political grounds rather than planning and it will be for voters to voice their opinion as opportunities arise.

FILM SHOW - MILTON MALSOR VILLAGE HALL

'The Theory of Everything'

Starring Eddie Redmayne and Felicity Jones

Friday 5th February 2016

Doors open 7pm Film starts 7.30pm Tickets £5

Refreshments and Bar available—for details call 858418

Parish Notices

- A well attended meeting of volunteers was held on 27th January to explore options for restoring the Ornamental Lake. The aim is to set up a Charitable Trust and formalise agreements with landowners. A further meeting is planned for 17th February - details from Esther on 07788 766616
- The Burns Night Supper held on 25th January in the Village Room was a great success and also raised funds for the Cub Scouts.
- School Recruitment. The School currently has vacancies for two School Governors. This is not an onerous job, but a most important one. The School needs the support of the Village. Can you help? Contact Ann Marsh on 766060 for more details.
- 'Peter Skinner Chairman of the 'Friends' writes : 'Marjorie Ball who died in October last year was a lifelong member of St Columba Church, supporting it in many ways. Tom her husband asked that in her memory and in accordance with her wishes any donations should be given to the 'Friends of St Columba's Church' I am pleased to advise that the total sum of over £663 was donated reflecting the affection in which she was held by her friends'.

It's official - it's good to live near a pub!

New research from Oxford University has shown that it's good to live in an area with a small, local pub nearby. People who enjoy a pint in a local are, according to the research, significantly happier, have more friends, better life satisfaction and are less likely to drink to excess. Cheers!

Professor Robin Dunbar of Oxford University, said 'Friendship and community are probably the two most important factors influencing our health and well being. But it has to be done face to face - rather than relying on digital devices.'

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WE ARE DELIGHTED TO SPONSOR THE COLLINGTREE PARISH NEWSLETTER AGAIN DURING 2016.

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