

COLLINGTREE NEWS

January 2015

*Visit the only website dedicated to
Collingtree village & parish*

www.justcollingtree.co.uk

Some Highs and Lows of 2014



The Good

What is very good about Collingtree is the strong community spirit that has survived down the years. Social and fundraising events centred on the Church, the School and the Pub, have all been well supported and for a small village it is a tribute to all those who give their time and energy to making them happen. The Midlands and South East England are facing unprecedented change through overdevelopment and the failures of the planning system. Keeping what is good about English community life has never been more important. *(picture: Carols at the Wooden Walls)*



The Bad

The long running saga of the Bovis application to build 1000 houses on farmland and part of the Collingtree Park Golf Course has not yet been resolved. The Developer has been waiting for the 'West Northamptonshire Joint Planning Strategy' to be approved first. What is bad for Collingtree and for local democracy, is that on 15th December the Joint Strategy was approved, but only on the casting vote of the Chairman (from South Northants) supported by the Vice Chairman (from Daventry). All the Northampton Borough members, plus the County Council members voted against and there now may be a legal challenge. With the elections coming up in May, many may wonder why to bother to vote for local councillors if the decisions that affect Collingtree continue to be made in Daventry and Towcester.

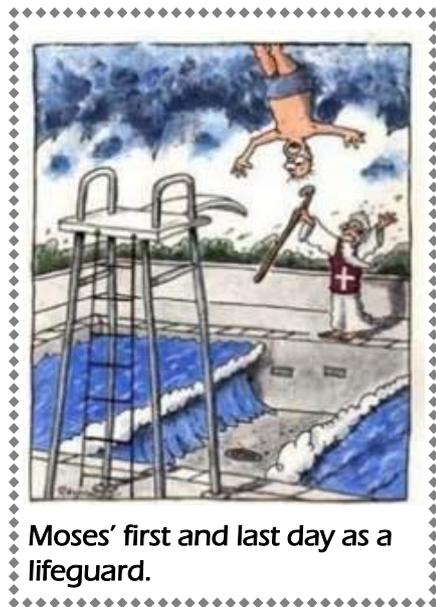


And the Ugly

A proposal for what would be the biggest warehouse and distribution centre in the world (2.2m sq ft) has been made by Howden's to be built on farmland adjoining Junction 15 and the boundary with Collingtree. Although the planning application (when made) will be to South Northants District Council, the impact of noise and air pollution will be on Collingtree and Hunsbury. The developers argue that they will fund improvements to Junction 15 but the operation from the site of hundreds of diesel HGV's delivering to 590 depots nationwide will add to congestion and pollution. The application will also

be in conflict with the Joint Strategy (referred to above) which does not allocate building on this land.

ST COLUMBA'S +



Church Wardens

John Green 6 Watering Lane 763468
 Peter Skinner 'Lynton' Barn Corner 768394

Deputy Warden

Chris Wright 8 Watering Lane 761930

Services for January

4th January

6pm Evening Service

11th January

9am Parish Communion

18th January

10am Morning Praise

25th January

10.30am Family Service

SALCEY BENEFICE SERVICES

MINISTER: REVEREND MIKE BURTON 862284

Ashton 4th January 9.30am Morning Prayer— 11th January 10.30am Sunday School - 18th January 10.30am All Age Service
 25th January 8.15am Holy Communion.

Courteenhall 4th January 9.15 Communion—11th January 10.30am Morning Prayer— 25th January 10.30am Informal Service.

Hartwell 4th January 10.30am All Age Service—11th January 10am Morning Praise—18th January 9.15am Parish Communion - 25th January 10am Morning Praise.

Roade 4th January 10.30am Lighthouse—11th January 10.30am All Age Service 6pm Benefice Youth Group - 18th January 10.30am Morning Praise & Sunday School Club.—25th January 9.15am Parish Communion.

Church Flowers Rota

3rd January

Pam Gosling (Altar) Gill Berry (Memorial)

10th January - 17th January

Cheruth Brown (A) Jan Birch (M)

24th January—31st January

Gill Whiting (A) Kath McCallum (M)

Queries to Joanna Edmunds 761759 or
 Ann Marsh 766060

Medicine Collection Rota

W/C 5th & 12th January

Jane Thompson 761968

W/C 19th & 26th January

Gill Whiting 677851

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

Church Christmas Events

In a combined effort, the Collingtree PCC and members of the village Art Group, held a most successful festive event on 7th December.

Using both the Village Room and St Columba's Church, an exhibition and sale of paintings, a display of decorated Christmas trees and the sale of personalised Christmas wreaths, raised £623 for Church Funds.

Thanks to all who supported these efforts and especially to Agnes Barfoot the Art Group organiser and to Pam Jackson the overall coordinator.

VILLAGE ASSOCIATIONS & SOCIAL GROUPS

Collingtree Allotment Association

Many of us were able to enjoy the vegetables we have grown with our Christmas lunch. Roast potatoes, parsnips, carrots and the all important Brussels sprouts taste so much better when you have grown them yourself. The Association also had a chance to display a decorated tree in church using glittery carrots, Brussels and beans as well as red onions and parsnips. Tin foil spades and forks completed the display—which many thought the best

on show. The catchment is now extended to include Milton Malsor and there are some plots available for the coming season.

For details of plot availability, contact Martin Grosse 762700

Milton & Collingtree Women's Institute

Thursday 8th January at 7.30pm in Milton Malsor Village Hall, sees the first meeting of the New Year. We welcome Val Bridges from 'Tools for self reliance' to speak on the important

work of this Charity. There will also be a 'bring & buy' in support of the Charity. The competition is an unusual object.

More details from Ann Marsh 766060

Collingtree Art Group

The Art Group meets at 10am every Thursday (during term time) in Collingtree Village Room. (see page 2 for details of our very successful Christmas Art Sale. *To find out more call Agnes Barfoot on 762389.*

SPORTS CLUBS

Pub Skittles

A decent month for the team with 3 wins out of 4 matches played this month. We are now on our 'mid-season break' from league matches although singles/doubles qualifiers will need to be played over the next few weeks. Playing record so far is played 13 won 10 lost 3 which is in fact our best ever '1st half' performance, a good second half now should see us showing continuous performance – a real achievement. Special mention to Chris Wykes for showing real improvement and Glenn Bass and Ade Flowers who continue to play consistently well – However as always it has been a fantastic team performance coupled with a real laugh and enjoyable times.

A Merry Xmas and a Very Happy New Year

To get involved call Mark Underwood 07864 51876

Tennis Club

Collingtree Tennis Club hope that everyone enjoyed a happy Christmas and will have an 'active' New Year

More details: www.collingtreetennis.co.uk

Cricket Club

Winter nets will take place on Wednesdays 8-9pm at the County Ground, running from 7th January until 25th March. For those interested in coming along, it is £3 a session. Look forward to seeing you there.

A Happy New Year to all.

Anyone interested in joining the Club - please contact Karen Hopkins 07787786094 or Mark Underwood 0786451876

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

PARISH CLERK: TESS TAYLOR 07729784653 E: collingtreeparishcouncil@gmail.com

The Parish Council wishes all parishioners the compliments of the season and a healthy and prosperous New Year. Whilst presents are topical what about thinking of a present for the community in the New Year? In May 2015 there will be a need for new Parish Council members to be elected so please think of putting yourself forward to replace some of those who have served several years. It would be particularly helpful to reduce the average age of the membership so if you are interested please contact the Clerk or any of the current councillors.

Ash Lane Traffic Calming. This should now be discussed at the next meeting on 7th January 2015. At the last meeting the precept for next year was reduced to £12000 but this still allows money to add to the street calming funds that will be held over.

Planning matters

Golf Course development As suggested at the last Parish Council meeting, the

date for this to go before the Northampton Borough Council Planning Committee Meeting did not turn out to be 16th December after all.

We are advised the application may not even be considered in January. The application numbers are N/2013/1035 and N/2013/1063 and parishioners still should make their comments directly to Northampton Borough Planning Department.

Howden Proposals for just south west of M1 junction 15

A Mr Graham Mellers attended the last meeting of the Parish Council on behalf of the developing agents and answered questions or took comment from a good number of parishioners who were there. Some changes have been made and other points were put to Mr Mellers for his response. His responses will be placed in the notice boards over the Christmas period or can be requested from the Clerk or Chairman. The overall response message was of no change.

Parish Council Clerk This position is becoming vacant in the near future and three people have shown an interest so interviews will be held towards the end of January.. Anyone else interested in this part-time, paid position should contact the present Clerk as below or the Chairman on 01604 764723 as soon as possible.

Street lights Any street lights not working should be reported to the Clerk or Chairman as above. 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.

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

The next meeting will be 7th January 2015.

'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.

Compiler/Editor

Rod Sellers

01604 769407

Email rod.sellers@sky.com

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Parish Notices

- A big thank you from Collingtree Primary School, to everyone who helped with and supported their recent Christmas Fayre. The event raised over £1200. On Friday 16th January at 2.30pm, the School will host a 'New Year Celebration' and would love to welcome anyone interested in finding out more about the school, its curriculum and its hopes for the future.
- The 'Carols by Candlelight' at St Columba's on 14th December attracted a congregation of 123 to join in with the nine lessons and carols in a service led by Peter Skinner with a guest appearance from the Bishop of Brixworth.
- Another good turnout was for 'Carols in the Courtyard' on 18th December at the Wooden Walls pub. Blazing logs, mulled wine and a dry night all made for an enjoyable evening. Thanks to all the team at the pub for their support.

The Wooden Walls of Old England

December 28th Charity lunchtime festivities—Skittles, darts and cards, great prizes and a 'meat' raffle—all welcome.

New Year's Day we are open from 11am for Full English breakfast with toast and unlimited tea and coffee - £10 per head and 'Sunday' lunch £11 - to assist with those hangovers!

We have a few tickets left for New Years Eve, disco and buffet - £5

Sue and the Team wish everyone a Happy New Year

01604 760641

Planning Watchdog

There are several major planning proposals in the pipeline that directly impact upon Collingtree.



*At a Meeting at County Hall on 15th December, the Joint Planning Committee voted to adopt the Expansion Strategy that includes the Bovis site (see front page). The Hunsbury & Collingtree Residents Alliance (HCRA) spoke at the meeting and highlighted the governments National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) which states: 'Planning proposals should be genuinely 'plan led' empowering local people to shape their surroundings' The HCRA argues that the Expansion Strategy fails to do this, it is developer led, concretes over green fields and adds to traffic congestion and air pollution. The views of local people have been disregarded as have the objections of local councillors and all our members of Parliament.. The HCRA is considering a legal challenge to the way the vote was conducted.

*At the time of printing this Newsletter, an application has not yet been submitted to South Northants Council for the 2.2m sq ft distribution warehouse next to Junction 15 (see front page) The wisdom of allowing these mega developments on Greenfield land has been further questioned with the major supermarkets and retailers like B&Q admitting that they now have too much space and need to downsize. Greenfields have been lost for no purpose. Visit www.HCRA2013.co.uk

Village Room Hire

Collingtree Village Room remains the only public meeting place in the village. It is equipped with comfortable seating, a stage, disabled access and a spacious kitchen. To enquire about hiring contact:

Helen Pearce

7 High Street, Collingtree Tel: 07590 037090 helen2504@sky.com

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