

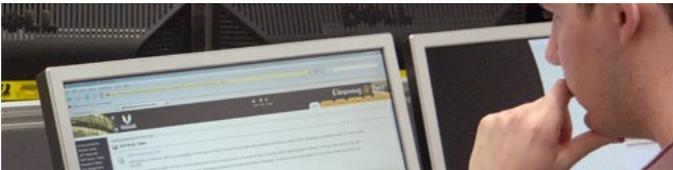
COLLINGTREE NEWS

January 2016

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

www.justcollingtree.co.uk

Bovis Inquiry: A clear case of GIGO !



The golden rule of computer forecasts is that they are only as good as the facts and figures they are based on. Garbage in - Garbage out. This was the overriding truth to emerge from the 10 day Appeal Inquiry into the Bovis Planning application, that ended on 18th December.

The Inquiry, held strangely in a hospitality lounge at Franklin's Gardens, followed a courtroom format with competing QC's and their witnesses giving evidence to an Inspector who listened but said little. Northampton Borough Council were defending their refusal of 1,000 houses between Hunsbury and Collingtree on the narrow grounds of noise levels that would affect some of the new houses and the impact of the development on Collingtree Village and its Conservation Area.

The original major reasons for refusal, traffic and air quality, had been dropped at the last minute by NBC who had feared being hit with legal costs. As a result, it was left to the local campaign groups (Hunsbury & Collingtree Residents Alliance, Wootton Brook Action Group and Collingtree Park Residents Association) to make the case on these key issues. They were backed up by both local Parish Councils, all local County and Borough Councillors and both Members of Parliament.

The campaign groups provided detailed evidence and real life examples to show that the Bovis traffic estimates were wildly inaccurate, that their computer modelling of future air pollution is flawed and that the noise levels on all the new houses built would exceed national guidelines. None of these claims were challenged at the Inquiry.

The campaigners were also allowed by the Inspector to give evidence on the likely flood risks on the site even though NBC had not given this as a reason for refusal and had accepted the computer modelling provided by the Environment Agency. Wootton Brook Action Group demonstrated in its evidence that even the Environment Agency admits that the Brook is 'unpredictable' and that its modelling techniques may have to be reviewed. Again this evidence was not challenged at the Inquiry.

Whether the Inspector will take any of this into account remains to be seen. He will now prepare his report for the Government and the Secretary of State will announce the decision later this year.

A Collingtree Christmas

Friends Coach Trip to Birmingham

The trip on 5th December, made possible by local firm Collingtree Coaches, raised over £500, which will go towards the maintenance costs of St Columba's.

Full Peal of Bells

The Centenary of the recasting Collingtree Church Bells was celebrated on 19th December with a once in a lifetime bell ringing event (5040 Doubles) that lasted 3 hours and 3 minutes.

Carols by Candlelight

St Columba's was packed on 20th December for a superb evening of congregational singing, fine organ playing and a delightful children's choir.

Midnight Eucharist

The traditional Christmas Eve Service, as always, was also very well attended .

Village Lights

Finally, a mention for the incredible efforts made by many villagers to decorate their homes and windows with festive lighting. It brought a Christmas glow to both residents and visitors - especially those driving along Watering Lane and Ash Lane.

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 January

Sunday 3rd January

10am Morning Prayer

Sunday 10th January

9am Holy Communion

Sunday 17th January

10am Morning Prayer

Sunday 24th January

10.30am Family Service

There is a Benefice Service at Roade on Sunday 31st January at 10.30am.

Church Flowers Rota

Saturdays 2nd & 9th January

Gill Whiting (Altar) Jan Birch (Memorial)

Saturdays 16th & 23rd January

Ann Marsh (Altar) Jo Clamp (Memorial)

Saturday 30th January

Catherine Thompson Kerry Godfrey (Memorial)



'Clean for the Queen' National Campaign

Even allowing for the time of year, the amount of litter and debris polluting roadsides and verges is depressing. The UK seems to attract more litter louts than other similar countries and Collingtree also has its share. The village has organised Spring Clean Ups in the past but has always depended on just a few volunteers. A national scheme is being planned for the weekend of 4th/6th March called 'Clean Up for the Queen' to mark the Queens 90th birthday and will be run by those who organised the Diamond Jubilee River Pageant in 2012. The aim is to work with people of all ages and backgrounds who take pride in their local communities and send a message that litter will not be tolerated.

So, if there are public spirited volunteers who want to take a lead to help clean up Collingtree - here is an opportunity to get together and link with a national event to mark the Queen's 90th Birthday.

AND ON THAT NOTE - SEE PANEL ALONGSIDE

SAVING THE SECRET LAKE

Several folk in Collingtree are aware of the 'Secret Lake' on the edge of the village close to the Nursing Home and want to see if it can be restored.

The Sears family who owned 'The Grange' built the ornamental lake on land that is now owned by the Golf Club. In its heyday, the lake was edged with rockery gardens and walkways and was large enough for boating. When The Grange was demolished the lake fell into disuse, although it was restored by the Golf Club in the 1980's. Sadly it has now once again become derelict.

A number of interested villagers have examined the possibility of forming a group to first clean up the lake and then maintain it long term. It is possible that the Golf Club would relinquish the land if a suitable management group could take over responsibility. The first task is to see what level of interest there is in the village and who might be prepared to get involved.

To find out more call Esther on 07788 766616

What's On at the Village Room

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

Each Monday Evening - 7 - 8pm Shakers Group Meditation Class

Each Tuesday Morning - 11.40am - Pilates Exercise Class (£6)

First Tuesday Evening each month - 7 - 8pm 'Paeon Frequencies' Relaxation & Meditation to Music Group.

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

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

January is probably the coldest period of the winter and it is well worth taking the time to look over the allotment and prioritise the jobs for the month. Top of the list has to be clean up the plot and dispose of all of the damaged and rotten crops. Don't worry too much about soil preparations for now, just concentrate on clearing the way for a February blitz; weather permitting of course. If you've never tried growing your own fruit and veg now is the time to give it a try. *Contact Martin 762700 or Bob 761368 and we will guide you.*

Milton Malsor & Collingtree WI

January 14th, Milton Malsor Village Hall at 7.30pm, we begin the New Year with our Charity evening. The Speaker is Anthony Lunch of the Mondo Challenge - supporting Nepal following the earthquake - rebuilding classrooms. This is a 2 year, £350,000 project. There will be a 'bring & buy' on this evening in support.

For further information call Ann Marsh 766060

Collingtree Art Group

The group usually meets each Thursday morning at 10am in the Village Room. Following our Christmas break we begin again on 7th January. *For more details call Agnes Barfoot 762389*



SPORTS CLUBS

Pub Skittles

Thursday nights are rocking at the Walls with the magical sound of stacks and floorers.

Half way stage of the skittles season and we are joint 2nd in the league - played 15 and lost only twice. Oscar Simmonds is our top performer although the perennial leader Mark Underwood is gaining ground having re-discovered his Mojo.

Kev Hardisty is 'Mr Consistent' - having won 7 games on the trot which is amaz-

ing - apparently the most significant achievement ever by someone from Lowestoft!

More details from Tony Jones 07789 912796

Cricket Club

As we look forward to the start of the new season in April, winter nets begin on 6th January 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

Golf Course development The Bovis Appeal Inquiry finished on 18th December. Those representing the local Parish Councils and the residents groups did their best and produced some critical comments on the Bovis proposal that apparently the Borough Council officers were unable to find. The traffic movement figures were met with incredulity and it was clearly established that no-one has accurate figures to define the level of air pollution across the site. As local people know too well the noise levels across the site are higher than acceptable for a housing development. The Bovis position was that the best possible usage was being proposed for the site but the Borough disagreed. The Inspector was given quite a lot to think about and his report may not be made until April when it goes to the Secretary of State for the decision, possibly as late as June. The writer Thomas Hardy once wrote about "waiting in unhope" and that may prove relevant but we can hope not.

Parish Finances The Parish Council is minded to ask for £16,000, an increase on the £12,00 this year but this may need to rise to £18,000 for highway matters. The final decision will be taken in the meeting

on January 13th, 2016.

Planning. A proposal has been made to site a road-rail interchange on land between the Milton Malsor to Blisworth road and the old Blisworth Station area. This is at an early stage but the Planning Inspectorate wishes to receive initial comments by 10th January.

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.

Streetlights Any faulty lights should be notified to the Parish Council Clerk or Chairman. Parishioners can report incidents or faulty street lights themselves if they 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.

Watering Lane Vehicles parking towards the top of the road tend to cause drivers leaving the village to move towards the wrong side of the road. This results in difficulties, especially when the low winter sun shines into their cars. As there have been several near misses, one involving a bus, at the bend in the road near Toms Close, the Parish Council is to seek double yellow lines to run from outside no 27 Watering Lane to Toms Close. The Parish Council has received comments about this and there will be further discussion in the next meeting.

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Wednesday 13th January, 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 :

www.justcollingtree.co.uk

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

Rail Interchange proposal A 'Scoping Report' has been prepared for the Development of a Strategic Rail Freight Interchange to provide up to 743,200 sq m (8,000,000 sq ft) of storage and distribution buildings with ancillary office accommodation, rail infrastructure (to include new sidings), service depot, HGV facilities, hotel and public house/restaurant, associated access, ground works, highways, landscaping and other accompanying infrastructure works. Immediate concerns raised are the flood risk implications and the added pressures on the surrounding roads. There are also concerns that the development would be extended on to the land adjoining Collingtree previously proposed for the Howden's Distribution Centre, which was then withdrawn.



The site (covering 6/700 acres) is bounded on the east by the Northampton Loop Line and on the west by the West Coast Line and will adjoin the villages of Blisworth and Milton Malsor. It will extend up to the Collingtree Road close to Maple Farm. (see map opposite)

As yet there is no Planning Application but the Scoping Report has been sent to the Planning Inspectorate for their initial opinion. Any responses have to be sent to the Inspectorate by 11th January.

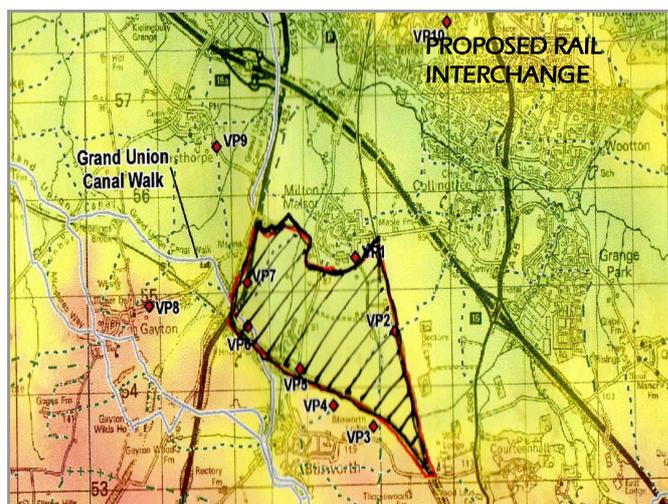
For details see following link:

<http://infrastructure.planningportal.gov.uk/document/3569186>

Parish Notices

- Northamptonshire Police have now recruited over 500 Special Constables and have the largest ratio of Specials to regular officers in the country. The aim is to have a Parish Special Constable in every village. Anyone who is interested in this community based role and would like to know more can call 01604 888113 or visit: SpecialsRecruitment@northants.pnn.police.uk
- A Community Facebook site set up by Emma Parker contains an amazing collection of both old and recent photos of Collingtree as well as film clips of the village taken in the 50's and 60's. It enables villagers past and present to share their memories and add further photos. To access visit :

<https://www.facebook.com/Cvpon/>



Medicine Collection for January

Week starting 4th & 11th January - Margaret Joll 767277

Week starting 18th & 25th January - Ann Marsh 766060

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

FILM SHOW - MILTON MALSOR VILLAGE HALL

'Philomena'

Starring Judy Dench and Steve Coogan

Friday 8th January 2016

Doors open 7pm Film starts 7.30pm Tickets £5

Refreshments and Bar available—for details call 858418

**CENTRAL
FOODS**



WE ARE HIRING !

We have several vacancies at our offices in Collingtree, covering Sales Order processing, Stock Control, Food Specification Management and Credit Control.

Flexible hours, from full time to Part-time/Job share. If you're interested please email us in the first instance. enquiries@centralfoods.co.uk

www.centralfoods.co.uk