

# COLLINGTREE NEWS

**July 2014**

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

[www.justcollingtree.co.uk](http://www.justcollingtree.co.uk)

## Goodbye Toms Close ?

For the 16 tenants and owner-occupiers of Toms Close in Collingtree, these are testing times.

Northampton Borough Council want to clear the whole of the area because they have decided that the cost of repairing the council owned houses, is prohibitive although this is disputed. Some residents have been persuaded to move, some have no choice and some will try and stay.

Between 1945 and 1955 around 26,000 of the largely concrete 'Airey' houses were built in Britain and for many Collingtree families, Toms Close provided their first home after WW2. The road is named after the name of the old field on which it stands.

If NBC eventually do manage to clear the site it will mean that 1.031 hectares of building land is likely to be sold on to a developer. Quite how the already restricted Watering Lane will cope with at least twice the number of houses and the resultant cars - remains to be seen.

Collingtree like most villages has seen many changes, but it is unusual for a whole street and its community to disappear almost overnight.

## Planners told 'brownfield first'

In what seems to be a sudden U- turn by Chancellor George Osborne and Communities Secretary Eric Pickles, the Government has issued even stronger guidelines to planning authorities.

They say they will force councils to recycle 'at least 90% of suitable brownfield (previously used) sites' and will offer funding to make polluted sites more attractive to developers. This should be good news for those opposing the building of thousands of houses on greenfield sites like the farmland and open space between East Hunsbury. And Collingtree - the so called 'Sustainable Urban Extension' (SUE 5)

Government Minister Eric Pickles himself points out that 'it makes sense to have new homes in existing urban areas, where people have easy access to the jobs, shops, transport and services on offer'. Hopefully the Independent Planning Inspector will take all

this into account when he completes his report on Northampton's planning strategy in September.

## County Council urged to 'come clean' on Park & Ride

Northamptonshire County Council (NCC) is under growing pressure to explain its plans (if any) for the agricultural land between Watering Lane and the motorway. Residents, allotment holders and users of the Hilton Hotel have complained that the once cultivated fields have become weed infested and overgrown. NCC had claimed that Silverstone had approached them asking to use the site for a Park & Ride on Race Days. Silverstone have said that they did not initiate the proposal.

Now, local County Councillor Phil Larratt, has asked for a top level meeting of all those involved. He has written to NCC officers and Silverstone Race track pointing out that despite numerous meetings and E-mails regarding this matter, nobody is informing the community or its councillor as to what is happening regarding this land. Silverstone have said "we have registered our interest but have no immediate plans to use the site".

An NCC officer states, "I gave Silverstone a last chance to state their intentions before looking for another agricultural tenant. They have confirmed their commitment to the site and have promised to expedite the legal formalities". These statements were made in January / February, six months ago, and nothing has moved forward. There have been approaches to NCC from farmers wanting to take on the land for agricultural purposes but they have been denied the opportunity of doing so. All that has happened is that the land has fallen into dereliction.

## New life in old boxes.

The iconic 'K6' red Telephone Box in the High Street has been repainted by the 'Friends of St Columba' committee and a new Information Panel about the village has been installed inside.

The Box was purchased by the Parish Council in 2011 for £1 when BT finally took them out of service. It has been retained as a valued feature of the Village Conservation Area

## ST COLUMBA'S +

### Friends of St Columba's

The 'Friends' were set up in 2011 to raise funds for the maintenance and repair of this 900 year old building at the centre of the village. The committee members are as follows:

Richard Evans	705583
John Green	763468
Martin Grosse	762700
Pam Jackson	674999
Mick Marsh	766060
Rod Sellers	769407
Peter Skinner	768394
Selina Smith	769439
Andy Tennet	765742
Catherine Thompson	761368

Details of some of the forthcoming fundraising events are on page 4 of this Newsletter.



### Church Wardens

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

### Deputy Warden

Chris Wright 8 Watering Lane 761930

## Services for July

### 6th July

6pm Evening Prayer (CW)

### 13th July

9am Parish Communion (M)

### 20th July

10 am Morning Praise (CW)

### 27th July

10 30 am Family Service (M)

*CW = Church Warden led*

*M = Minister led*

### Collingtree Church Flowers

#### 28th June—5th July

Mrs P Gosling (A) Mrs P Wright (M)

#### 12th July - 19th July

Mrs J Edmunds (A) Mrs J Clamp (M)

#### 26th July - 2nd August

Mrs C Brown (A) Mrs E Anderson (M)

## SALCEY BENEFICE SERVICES MINISTER: REVEREND MIKE BURTON 862284

**Ashton** 6th July 9.30am Morning Prayer—13th July 10.30 am Sunday School—20th July 10.30 am All Age Service  
27th July 8.15am Holy Communion

**Courteenhall** 6th July 9.15 Communion—13th July 10.30am Morning Prayer—27th July 10.30 am Informal Service

**Hartwell** 6th July 10.30am All Age Service—13th July 10am Morning Praise—20th July 9.15 Communion  
27th July 10am Morning Praise

**Road** 6th July 10.30am Lighthouse—13th July 10.30am All Age Service 6.30 Benefice Youth Group  
20th July 10.30am Morning Praise & Sunday School Club—27th July 9.15 Parish Communion

## Collingtree Connections - Gentleman Jack Sears

Jack Sears epitomised the great era of motorsport when British values still applied and sports men and women conducted themselves with courtesy and grace. Throughout his racing days he was always referred to by his nickname 'Gentleman Jack'

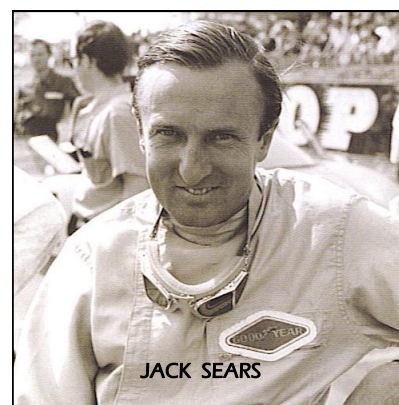
Jack (born in 1930) is the grandson of J G Sears founder of the shoemaking empire and former owner of 'The Grange' (now demolished) in Collingtree. His father Stanley who was brought up in Collingtree was a great car enthusiast in the early days of Rolls Royce.. Jack was born into a great period of British motorsport. He raced and rallied, mainly as an amateur, with other drivers like Jim Clark, Graham

Hill, Mike Hawthorn, Tommy Sopwith and Colin Chapman. He drove, with great success, cars such as Austin-Healey, Ford Galaxy, Aston Martin and Jaguar. Before speed limits were in place he once reached 185 mph on the M1 in Northamptonshire while testing an AC Cobra.

After a bad accident in at Silverstone in 1965, he retired from racing and became very successful in motorsport management - as well as continuing as a farmer.

The Sears tradition in motorsport has been carried on by Jack's son David who also had a successful racing career and went on to run and manage

racing teams. His teams won 16 championships in 26 years and produced more than 20 Formula One drivers including Juan Pablo Montoya and Mark Webber.



## VILLAGE ASSOCIATIONS & SOCIAL GROUPS

### Collingtree Allotment Association

The Association has added its voice to those complaining about the overgrown condition of the NCC land on Watering Lane. Some of the fields surrounding the allotments have now had the weeds cut down to ground level.

The Annual Summer Buffet for members will be held at the allotments on Sunday 27th July. Tickets from Rob Brodie 762270

*For details of plot availability, contact Graeme Joll 767277*

### Milton & Collingtree Women's Institute

The next meeting is on July 10th in Milton Malsor Village Hall at 7.30pm. The Speaker is Angela Cooksley and the subject is 'The origins of Festivals and the food eaten then' The Competition is " Food ,Glorious Food"

*There will be no meeting during August as we recharge our batteries.*

*More details from Ann Marsh 766060*

### Medicine Collection Rota

#### W/C 30th June

Helen Pearce 07590 037090

#### W/C 7th & 14th July

Wilma McArthur 764734

#### W/C 21st July

Gill Whiting 677851

#### W/C 28th July

Catherine Thompson 761368

**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***

## SPORTS CLUBS

### Collingtree Cricket Club

June has not been so favourable to the cricket team with all three Sunday matches played to date having been lost by Collingtree. At the start of the month having to find new opposition at the last minute we played a team from Stony Stratford who complete with their Australian opener reached the target set by Collingtree with 25 overs to spare. The other losses were to Shenley Church End and Eaglets. A mid week game was held against St Crispins which was drawn.

Fixtures for July are on a Sunday are - 6th July- New Malden - Away 13th July - Old - Away, 20th July - Great Houghton

@Home - Away 27th July - Knossington - Away; All Sunday games start at 2pm. There are also two mid week game on 2nd July against Blisworth at Home, 6pm start and on 17th July against Farthingstone away.

*For more details contact Karen Hopkins 07787786094 or Mark Underwood 0786451876*

### Pub Skittles

*To get involved call Mark Underwood 07864 51876*

### Tennis Club

Play continues through the summer, with club sessions on Wednesday and Friday evenings, and Sunday mornings.

New members are welcome, both social and competitive, and plenty of court time is available for family use.

Individual coaching is also available.

The men's A team is now playing in Division 1 against the top players in the county, while the B and C teams provide competitive play in the lower divisions.

More information on the Club website

[www.collingtreetennis.co.uk](http://www.collingtreetennis.co.uk)

## PARISH COUNCIL NEWS PARISH CLERK: TESS TAYLOR 07729784653 E: collingtreetparishcouncil@gmail.com

**Parish Council Minutes** The Parish Council AGM and the normal May meeting took place on 7th May and these minutes are currently in the notice-boards until the date of the next meeting on 16th July

**Annual Parish/Public Meeting** The minutes of this meeting will be placed in the notice-boards from 17th July for part of the summer.

**Ash Lane Traffic Calming** The aim is the creation of a 20mph limit along Ash Lane which will mean that all roads off the crossroads will also be covered by the 20mph limit. A scheme is being designed by the highway engineers and this was again discussed at the meeting on 7th May. As the Police like humps so that the schemes are self-policing, the Police Commissioner and Police have been asked if there can be agreement to a scheme with no humps but an addi-

tional flashing speed indicator sign nearer the crossroads. So far no reply has been received.

**Police contact** For information the number for the police for non-urgent matters is 03000 111 222 and the email address for the local police team is:

*SCTHunsburyNeneValley@northants.police.uk*

### Planning Matters

**Golf Course Development** The latest information about the Bovis Planning Application is that it is due to be considered by Northampton Borough Planning Department in September

**Silverstone Park & Ride** No further information but Cllr Phil Larratt is trying to arrange a new meeting with the interested parties

**Toms Close** Residents asked the parish Council to make further contact to gain

more information/action and this has been done. Those interested might look at this website:

*<http://northamptondefendcouncilhousing.wordpress.com/2014/03/29/council-to-compulsory-purchase-homes/#comments>*

**Street Doctor contact** Most local potholes have been reported and are awaiting repairs. If you have any further concerns please let the Parish council know or you can report defects direct on 0300 126 1000 or by email via the Northampton County Council website *<http://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk> and choosing the Street Doctor section.*

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

**Next Meeting 16th July 7.30pm Collingtree Village Room**

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

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Parish News is printed by Sharpe Media  
T: 024 7645 8833 E: [studio@sharpe-media.co.uk](mailto:studio@sharpe-media.co.uk)

Collingtree C of E Primary School

### **School Fete**

Friday 4th July 3.35pm

*Please join us in the School Garden for an afternoon of fun, entertainment - and not forgetting some delicious treats*

For more details call the School Office: 761469



**Steak Tuesdays** – dinner for 2 – 8oz sirloin, hand cut chips, homemade onion rings, mushroom and vine tomatoes with a pint or glass of wine £30

**Fish and Chip Wednesdays** – dinner for 2 Fish and chips, peas, homemade tartar sauce with a pint or glass of wine £20. At any other time, free bottle of house wine with a two course meal for 2 – booking advisable 01604 760641

## *The Friends of St Columba's present:*

**Saturday 6th September**

(starting 3pm)

**Village BBQ**

*Food, fun, live music, children's entertainer, chitty , Chitty Bang Bang, car rides. All in the Garden of the Wooden Walls pub ( with the kind support of Sue Blackman & the team)*

**Tickets £6 (under 11's £3 - under 2's free)**

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**Saturday 13th September**

(Starting 7.30pm)

**'Pack up your troubles'**

*A programme of songs and music from the WW1 period including favourites from the great days of Music Hall. Performed by The Watling Singers with audience participation invited. Concert performed in St Columba's Church and includes wine and refreshments in the Village Room after the Concert.*

**Tickets £7.50**

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**Saturday 4th October**

To mark the Centenary of the outbreak of the First World War in 1914.

**Trip to the National Memorial Arboretum**

**'Everyone should visit at least once'**

Lichfield, Staffordshire

Coach kindly donated by Collingtree Coaches

**Tickets £10**

For information on all tickets call 769407 or any member of the 'Friends' committee listed on page 2 of this Newsletter

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