

A NEWSLETTER PRODUCED ON BEHALF OF COMMUNITY GROUPS IN
COLLINGTREE PARISH

COLLINGTREE NEWS

July 2015

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Collingtree village & parish*

www.justcollingtree.co.uk

Every Little Helps !



Local residents from four parishes combined in a Sunday morning walk on public footpaths, to highlight opposition to industrial development on 430 acres of farmland next to Junction 15. The planning application by the Developer Roxhill and Courteenhall Estates had included a 2.67 million sq ft Distribution Warehouse for Howdens, from which a fleet of diesel HGV's would have supplied 650 depots throughout UK.

Although the application (made last December) had not yet been to the South Northants DC Planning Committee, opposition had grown with over 500 objections registered on the SNC website and with strong opposition from the surrounding parish councils of Collingtree, Milton Malsor, Blisworth and Roade. The main concerns were over added traffic and pollution, loss of open countryside and conflict with planning policy.

The date set for the footpath demo was 7th June and on the 4th June, Howdens announced that they would be staying at Brackmills and on an additional site at Raunds. Therefore, the application was withdrawn. Despite the withdrawal, the planned walk went ahead with around 170 residents of the four parishes gathering on a stretch of the footpath overlooking the proposed site with a

strong turnout from Collingtree. The fear is still that even though this particular application has been withdrawn, the developers will try again once the dust settles. The Protest Walk was a reminder that local people are entitled to be involved and have a voice.

The developers had argued that even though the proposed site was outside the strategic plan for the area, it should be allowed because of promised improvements to Junction 15. This was discounted by SNC Officers who said that new slip roads and more signals, would not actually increase junction capacity. It had also been argued that this was the only site that would suit Howdens needs and that jobs would be lost to the County if they did not get it. This proved to be a bluff but it was still believed by some local politicians who should have known better.

With so many green field sites under threat of development (when brown field land is available) this example of 'People Power' shows that it is always worthwhile for communities to work together, put clear logical objections to the planners and not give in.

To misquote the great 18th century campaigner Edmund Burke: *All it takes for developers to win - is for local people to do nothing.*

ST COLUMBA'S + COLLINGTREE

Minister

Rev. Mike Burton 862284

Church warden

John Green 763468

PCC Secretary

Chris Wright

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



Services for July

Sunday 5th July

10am Morning Prayer

Sunday 12th July

9am Holy Communion

Sunday 19th July

10am Morning Prayer

Sunday 26th July

10.30am Family Service.

Church Flowers Rota

- 4th July Cheruth Brown (Altar) Kath McCallum (Memorial)
- 11th & 18th July Gill Whiting (Altar) Ruth Marris (Memorial)
- 25th July & 1st August Agnes Barfoot (Altar) Jan Birch (Memorial)



Motorway Speed Limits - The Collingtree connection

Work continues on the M1 motorway between Junctions 15 & 16 to replace central barriers and prepare for the so-called 'Smart Motorway system with overhead gantries for controlling lane speeds. Speed hadn't really been a problem when motorways were first opened because most cars in the 1960s could barely reach seventy miles an hour - let alone maintain this speed for any distance without blowing the engine, but by mid-decade they were starting to get faster.

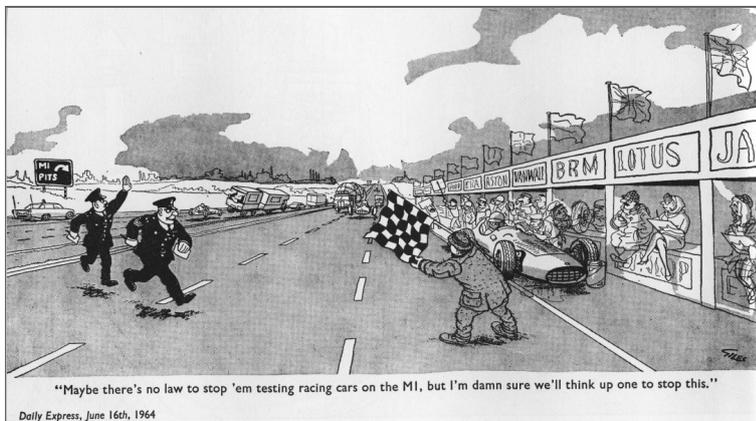
It is hard to imagine now but some car designers and racing drivers began using the M1 motorway to conduct speed trials and early one morning in June 1964 a young man called Jack Sears drove an AC Cobra Coupé at 185 miles an hour in a test drive on the northern carriage-way of the motorway through Northamptonshire.

As the grandson of J G Sears the founder of the Shoemaking empire, Jack Sears knew this stretch of the M1 very well. The Sears family were the last occupants of 'The Grange' the big house built by brewery boss Pickering Phipps. The press picked the story up and it became big news and even appeared in cartoons by the legendary 'Giles' of the Daily Express.

Soon there was a crusade for a speed limit.

The history of the speed limit is interesting. The first speed limit was a ten miles per hour limit introduced by the Locomotive Act, or Red Flag Act, of 1861 but in 1865, a revised Locomotive Act reduced the speed limit still further to four miles per hour in the country and two miles per hour in towns. This is slower than average walking speed and defeated the object of automotive power. The Act additionally

required a man with a red flag or a lantern to walk sixty yards ahead of each vehicle, effectively enforcing a walking pace, and warning horse drawn traffic of the approach of a self-propelled machine. In 1896 a new Locomotive Act increased of the limit to a mind-blowing fourteen miles per hour. This has been commemorated each year since 1927 by the London to Brighton Veteran Car Run.



The motorway speed limit of seventy miles per hour was made permanent in 1970. There are currently plans to review the limit and there is speculation that it will be raised to 80mph. In France and Italy the maximum speed is 81mph while in Ireland, Spain, Portugal and Belgium it is 75mph. Parts of the German autobahn network have no speed limit at all. The coming of the motorway changed Collingtree for ever but in a small way, the Collingtree connection shaped the speed of its traffic.

VILLAGE ASSOCIATIONS & SOCIAL GROUPS

Allotments Association

There are all sorts of reasons for growing your own vegetables, fruit and herbs. The economical amongst us save money by growing our own. Others worry about the provenance of their food and, by joining the grow your own movement, ensure they know exactly what has gone into and onto the food they grow. Shop-bought food, organic or not, cannot compete with home grown for freshness and taste.

The taste of sweet corn picked and cooked just minutes later is incomparable. The moment the cob is picked, the sugars start to change to starch and the sweetness is being lost.

Freshly picked new potatoes are a delight to the taste buds, not just a filler on the plate.

Children, who normally treat vegetables as if they were poison on their plate, happily eat sweet yellow Sungold toma-

atoes from the plant and fresh picked peas from the pod.

Why not give it a go? We have a couple of vacant allotments looking for new owners. *If you are interested phone Martin 762700 or Bob 761368.*

Women's Institute

The next meeting will be at Milton Malsor Village Hall on Thursday 9th July at 7.30pm. Alistair Borland will speak on 'Emergency Rider Volunteers' and the competition title is 'On your Bike!'

A reminder that on 15th September we will celebrate the Centenary of the WI movement with a Centenary Tea Party in Milton Village Hall 2.30 until 4.30pm. All are welcome to join us for tea coffee and cake for £1. (Children if accompanied are free) *For further information call Ann Marsh 766060*

Medicine Collection Rota

July

Weeks Commencing:

6th & 13th July

Irene Skinner 768394

20th & 27th July

Gill Berry 765940

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 with this voluntary service, please contact the Co-ordinator: Shirley Flight 764433

SPORTS CLUBS

Pub Skittles

Team practice for next season will start from 7pm on Thursday nights at the Wooden Walls, starting on 16th July. All players from last season will hopefully continue. If you know your 'pins from your cheeses' - if you can get the odd 'Stack' or even a 'Floorer' and you use the village pub—then come along.

Find out more from Tony Jones 07789 912796

Cricket Club

During June the cricket team played 4 Sunday 40 over games, winning 3.

At the start of the month there was a fairly comfortable win against Abington away, a game which saw Andy Wilson return for the team and take 2 wickets for 12 runs off 5 overs. The next two games were tighter, a win against New Bradwell with 2 balls to spare and a win against Eaglets with an over to spare. Against New Bradwell, Tom Pedel top scored with 71 and Terry Rhodes got 50. Against Eaglets Stuart Brown got a match winning 85 runs. In the final game of the month Collingtree lost by 28 runs to Old, despite Terry Rhodes top scoring with 84 runs. In July the team has home games

on 12th and 19th against Horton and Everdon respectively.

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

Tennis Club

Wimbledon Season is upon us! If you are interested in more than strawberries and Pimms and fancy giving tennis a go—please come along on Sunday mornings and join in. Courts are opposite the Hilton Hotel.

Check out our website and Facebook page Collingtreetennis.co.uk

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

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

Parish Council membership Following elections and co-options the membership is: Ted Anderson - Malcolm Brice (Chairman) - Trinni Crake - Karen Hopkins - Tony Stirk - Mark Underwood (Vice Chairman) - Colin Stevenson. The Parish Clerk is Shirley Wong. Minutes of the first meetings are now in the notice - boards.

Golf Course development An appeal against the refusal of the Bovis applications by Northampton Borough Council has been made and will be considered by an inquiry held by planning inspector. Any further representations are required by 3rd July though the start of the inquiry may not be until December.

Howden Proposals M1 junction 15 It should be known by now that Howdens withdrew this application.

Toms Close Negotiations continue between Northampton Partnership Homes (NPH) and the individual owner-occupiers.

Playing Field matters Anti-bird spikes placed across the top of the swing frame to deter birds from messing on the swing seats have been pointlessly damaged. They were working well and so will now have to be replaced at a financial cost to the community - unless those who damaged them offer to pay.

Streetlights Another streetlight has been repaired and as none of the Parish Council owned lights have been switched off to save energy. any 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.

Trees and bushes alongside pavements As the growing season is now well under way, will all residents please 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.

Parish Council contact: Please make all contact with the Parish Clerk (see above)

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Wednesday 8th July at 7.30pm in the Village Room when it is hoped that more information about the Ash Lane traffic calming proposals will be available. Minutes of all meetings are placed in the Parish Council notice boards and email versions can be obtained from the Clerk.

'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 Notices

- Collingtree Primary School is holding its School Fete on Friday 3rd July from 3.30pm until 5.30pm. It will be in the school grounds and everyone is most welcome. A big thank you from the school to all who contributed their Sainsburys vouchers. Over 800 points were collected which will go towards providing PE equipment. The school has just launched its new website which can be found at www.collingtree.northants.sch.uk
- The Collingtree Church Fete will be held this year on Saturday September 5th between 2pm & 5pm and with all the usual attractions. The venue will be the small meadow behind Barn Corner (known as Julia's field) and next to the Bridleway leading to Collingtree Park. Make a note of the date and look out for more details in the August Newsletter.

The Chase



On Thursday 19th June Collingtree had a rare taste of high drama when several unmarked police cars and a helicopter chased a white Ford Focus and two wanted men through rush hour traffic on the M1. Using a tactical plan they lured the driver off Junction 15 and onto the A45, where tyre bursting 'stingers' had been laid in the road. Although all four tyres were punctured the stolen car somehow managed to keep going and turned into Watering Lane just below the Hilton Hotel ramming into the police cars as it did so. The car eventually was halted and one of the men was caught. The other took off over the fields and ran down towards the end of High Street South. From there he crashed through various gardens, in one case jumping over a fence and landing on a BBQ. Eventually, helped by directions from the hovering helicopter, the police team cornered the man hiding behind bushes and for him – the chase was over. For locals who witnessed the event, the police operation was impressive with officers fanning out through village streets to inform and reassure residents. The police often take some flak – but in this case, give credit where credit is due!

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Planning Watchdog

Bovis

The clock is now ticking on the appeal by Bovis against the refusal by NBC to allow its application to build 1000 plus houses on the Hunsbury/Collingtree site. The deadline for further objections was 3rd July although it may be the end of the year before the appeal is heard.

Much of the site is close to the Motorway and the proposals would have allowed mass housing and a Primary School alongside what is already a known problem area for air pollution. This month, as part of its 'Clean Air' campaign, the Sunday Times revealed that two schools in South Yorkshire are to become the first in Britain to be shut because of high levels of air pollution in the area. The newspapers Environment Editor says 'The decision has implications for hundreds of other schools close to main roads and could become a key factor for planners deciding on applications for homes, schools and other facilities near highways'. As this was one of the reasons given by NBC for its refusal, no doubt the Planning Inspectorate will take this into account in considering the appeal.

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