

COLLINGTREE NEWS

DECEMBER 2012

SCRAPBOOK MEMORIES

A recent survey by the location website Rightmove produced a league table of the happiest places to live in Britain. Localities were measured on the following factors: neighbourliness, cost, recreation, amenities, safety, space, contentment, value, investment, decor, well-being and pride.

No such survey has been done for Collingtree but based on a series of detailed Scrapbooks going back sixty years, the village and parish would score highly.

The scrapbooks, largely inspired by members of the Women's Institute, were produced first in 1953 and then in 1965, 1977 and 1982 now are in the keeping of the County Records Office at Wootton Hall Mereway - 01604 362513

They provide a unique record of how people lived, the interests they had, the weather they experienced; the clothes they wore and (if they were lucky) the cars they drove. Collingtree was originally a farming community and the scrapbooks even tell us what crops were grown in which fields.



A painting of St Columba's from the 1965 Scrapbook by Elizabeth Atkins.

Few in Collingtree can now claim to have been born and bred here but as the village and the wider area of Collingtree Park has grown, it is remarkable how many of the folk who move here, choose to stay.

So, if you have ever wondered about who might have lived in your house before you did - and what they looked like - or in the case of newer developments - what was on the land before - the answer might well be in the Village Scrapbooks.

As the population explosion of southern England continues it remains to be seen how long villages like Collingtree can survive.

The Christmas Mummers

An old tradition recorded in the scrapbooks was the Collingtree Mummers which was a group very active around 1899. Every Christmas Day and Boxing Day, members would tour the village enacting the old Christmas drama. Their main calls were always at the two 'big houses' Collingtree Grange and Courteenhall Hall. The cast of characters never changed (usually played by the same people year after year) and included Father Christmas, King Will, Beelzebub, the Doctor and a popular character called 'Big Head'.

Mummers plays go back almost a thousand years and the participants were often called 'guisers' or 'geezers' because they were disguised in elaborate costumes.

Some of the pages from the scrapbooks appear on the Just Collingtree website www.justcollingtree.com and more will be added over time.

A Community Christmas Card



With warmest wishes to all our friends and neighbours for a very happy Christmas and New Year from:

Marjorie & John Blake

Barbara & Malcolm Brice

Wendy, Glenn, Karen & Andrew Deeming

Wilma & Stewart McArthur

Daphne & John Pickup

Pauline & David Price

Lesley & Rod Sellers

Margaret & Peter Sketchley

Marjorie & Fred Tarry

Fay & Andy Tennet

Catherine & Bob Thompson

Jane & Chris Thompson

Virginia & Jim Tyler

Gill & John Whiteside

Shirley & Will Yule

The donations given by those participating in the Community Christmas Card has raised £100 for the Friends of St Columba's.

ST COLUMBA'S +

Christmas Greeting

Collingtree Parochial Church Council (PCC) sends its very warm Greetings to everyone in the Parish for a very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year

* * *

On 12th November 176 children and 14 staff members from Collingtree Primary School attended a special Remembrance Service. (see picture) at St Columba's.

During the Service, the children heard about the meaning and significance of Remembrance from Peter Skinner and Mick Marsh.



Church Wardens

John Green 6 Watering Lane 763468

Peter Skinner 'Lynton' Barn Corner 768394

Deputy Warden

Chris Wright 8 Watering Lane 761930

Services for December

2nd December

6pm Informal Words & Music

9th December

9am Parish Communion

16th December

6pm Nine Lessons & Carols

23rd December

10.30am Christmas Family Service

Church Flowers

December 1st & 8th

Mrs A Marsh (A) Mrs J Clamp (M)

December 22nd - Christmas

As many Flower helpers as possible please at 10am in the Church. Thank you

January 5th & 8th

Mrs J Edmunds (A) Mrs B Jones (M)

SALCEY BENEFICE MINISTER: REVEREND MIKE BURTON 862284

Additional Services

Tuesdays at Roade (not 25th) 9.30 am Holy Communion.

Christmas Eve

3pm Christingle at Roade
11.30 pm Midnight Mass at Collingtree and Hartwell.

Christmas Day

10.30am Parish Communion at Courteenhall & Roade

30th December

10.30am Benefice Communion at Collingtree

	Ashton	Courteenhall	Hartwell	Roade
2nd December	9.30am Morning Prayer	9.15am Parish Communion	10.30am All Age Service	10.30am Light-house
9th December	10.30am Sunday School	10.30am Morning Prayer	10am Morning Praise	10am All Age Service 6.30pm Benefice Youth Group
16th December	10.30am Carol Service		9.15am Parish Communion 6pm Carol Service	10.30am Morning Praise & Sunday School Club
23rd December	8.15am Holy Communion	3pm Carol Service	10am Morning Praise	9.15am Parish Communion 6pm Carol Service

Christmas Events in Collingtree

1st December 'Rock Concert' 7.30pm Village Room. Featuring 'Hair of the Dog' & 'Ash Lane' Tickets 07748 178209

2nd December 'Words & Music' 6pm St Columba's (see adjoining panel)

8th December Coach Trip to London (see back page)

16th December Nine Lessons & Carols - 6pm St Columba's.

19th December - Christingle Services for school children 9.30am & 10.30am. St Columba's.

23rd December Family Carol Service - 10.30am St Columba's



WORDS & MUSIC

At Christmas

St Columba's

6pm Sunday 2nd December

A light hearted hour of music, readings and sing along carols to start the Christmas season with a smile.

Readings range from Dickens to Pam Ayres and music from Mantovani to Bing Crosby.

Just come along. There will be a collection at the close.

VILLAGE ASSOCIATIONS & SOCIAL GROUPS

Allotment Association

Like most of the local area the allotments are thoroughly waterlogged at the moment but fortunately, the land drains well. A small working party managed to trim back the overgrown hedgerow along the access drive. Thanks to John, Graeme, Chris, Rod and Ken for their hard work—and to Derek for disposing of the debris.

Now is the time for anyone who lives in the parish to think about allotment gardening for next year. Plots do become available and are allocated to those on the waiting list.

For details of current plot availability contact Graeme Joll 767277

Milton & Collingtree Women's Institute

The next meeting will be the last of the year and will be a Christmas Social Evening at 7.45pm (note change of time) on Thursday 13th December at Milton Village Hall.

More details from Ann Marsh on 766060

Neighbourhood Watch

The NW Coordinator is Fay Tennet on 765742.

The Safer Communities Team can be contacted on 0300 111 222.

Medicine Collection for November

Weeks commencing:

December 3rd & 10th

Catherine Thompson 761368

December 17th & 24th

Shirley Flight 764433

The Collection Service for medicines from Roade and Blisworth Surgeries has operated on a voluntary Rota basis for many years. Additional volunteers are urgently needed and if you are able to help please contact:

Coordinator: Shirley Flight 764433

SPORTS CLUBS

Cricket Club

Collingtree Cricket Club held its annual award dinner at Greens on 16th November 2012. The event was well supported with over 50 players, family and friends enjoying the evening. The trophies were awarded as follows: *Batting & Sixes* - Dan Harris, *Bowling* - Mark Underwood, *Fielding* - Terry Rhodes, *Most Improved* - Rikash Patel, *Champagne Moment* - Grant Jones, *Clubman of the Year* - Nick Peters,

Ducks - John Bishop and *Big Droppers* - Richard Green. The 2012 season was very successful with only one loss and the team look forward to the new season in 2013. We wish all players and supporters a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Tennis Club

The Club continues to invite new members to enjoy its two floodlit courts and regular coaching sessions.

Details from Geoff Kershaw on 761331 or visit www.collingtreetennis.co.uk

Pub Skittles Team

The Wooden Walls Pub Skittles team continues to do well in the Gayton & District League and after 12 matches it has only lost 3.

To get involved call Darren 766602 or Mark Underwood 07834 518760

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

PARISH CLERK: TESS TAYLOR 07729784653
tessajtaylor@icloud.com

Dog Fouling - More complaints have been received about dog mess on several pavements and Black Walk in particular. There is also a specific problem along Watering Lane and round the corner to the School. New signs have been placed in several areas to try and encourage responsible dog ownership. Several dog bins are provided around the village and the cost of buying them and paying for them to be emptied on a regular basis, costs all residents quite a sum each year. It is very annoying if they are not well used and dog waste on paths used by children and parents walking to school is likely to discourage walking and lead to more car journeys.

No Cold Calling Zone - At its last meeting, as a response to several complaints, the Parish Council agreed to make an order banning Cold Calling in the Parish and erect suitable notices. These are aimed at deterring cold callers but may not totally prevent them. Parishioners should be aware that anyone trying to sell at the door must have an identification that can be checked. Should any caller not appear genuine or become intimidating or threatening, the local Safer Community Team should be contacted on 03000 111 222. Even if you feel safe and secure, please make the call to help safeguard those more vulnerable. Exceptions to the cold calling ban are charitable/community calls, such as

poppy selling, charity bags or carol singing. Trick or Treating is not expected as it is considered as a form of personal begging and can appear threatening to some folk.

Planning Matters - There is no further news about the Park & Ride proposal or any proposed development on the golf course.

Please make any contact with the Parish Council through the Clerk (see above) The next meeting will be on 9th January at 7.30pm in Collingtree Village Room. Minutes of all meetings are placed in the Parish Council notice boards. Email versions from the Clerk.

The Parish Council wishes everyone a Merry Christmas and a good New Year

Parish Notices

Parish News is produced by Collingtree Parochial Church Council, on behalf of community groups within the parish.

The financial support of the Parish Council, and the Women's Institute is gratefully acknowledged. We also appreciate the support of our regular Sponsor Central Foods.

If you have a local community or charity event to promote contact:

Compiler/Editor

Rod Sellers

01604 769407

Email rod.sellers@virgin.net

Visit the only website dedicated to Collingtree Village and Parish

<http://justcollingtree.co.uk>

- The Wooden Walls pub will be open most of Christmas including 11am until 3pm on Christmas Day. Watch out for details of a Carol singing night and a Pipe Band.
- The Art Group continues to meet each Thursday at 10am at the Village Room and recently held a sale of paintings which raised £500 for Sense International. More details from Agnes Barfoot 762389
- The Village Scrapbooks of years gone by (see front page) record the long history of flooding of Wootton Brook. Photographs of the current flooding can be seen on www.justcollingtree.com website. South Northants Council has just given consent for 400 extra houses between Wootton and Hackleton raising concerns about further flood risk upstream of Collingtree.
- Local company Collingtree Coaches now offers an extensive selection of day trips to seaside venues, historic attractions and popular shopping centres. For between £10 - 15 you can enjoy comfortable, luxury travel and a great day out. Visit www.Collingtreecoaches.com or phone 01604 890999.

Christmas Hamper Charity Raffle



Fay and Andy Tennet are once again planning to cycle the 250 miles between London and Paris to raise funds for The Big Issue Foundation.. To help them kick things off, why not try and win this Luxury Hamper full of good things for Christmas. The draw will be on 20th December

Tickets £1 from Fay or Andy, 765742 or from the Wooden Walls pub.

Mount Kenya conquered



Davinder (yes that is her!) and Gurge Phull, want to thank everyone who supported them in their recent attempt to climb the 17,000 ft Mount Kenya.

Through the generous sponsorship of friends and family they have helped raise £10,000 for the work of Sense International Charity.

Classical Spectacular



The trip to the Royal Albert Hall on 25th November was a great success. The trip was organised by the Friends of St Columba's committee and was made possible by the donation of free transport by Collingtree Coaches, who also provided the raffle prizes. The event raised almost £400 for the church fabric fund and hopefully will become an annual event.



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