

# COLLINGTREE NEWS

**JANUARY 2013**

## A BROOKSIDE STORY

Collingtree Parish has long been defined on its Northern boundary by Wootton Brook. This nine mile, winding river tributary runs from its source near Horton, through Preston Deanery, Quinton and Wootton. After it passes Collingtree it continues through West Hunsbury and joins the River Nene at Upton Mill.

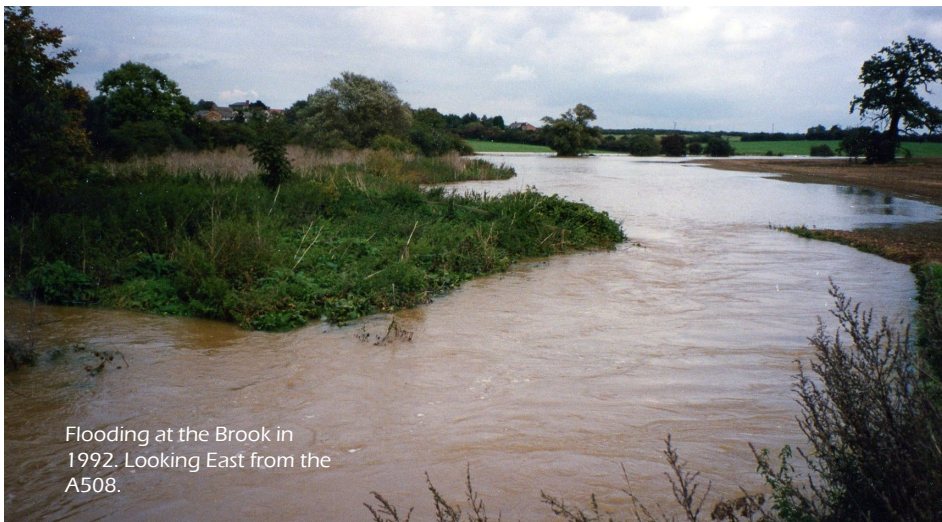
For most of its length it meanders through flat fields although it has been artificially damned in places to create lakes. Over recent years there have been major housing developments on both sides of the Brook. East and West Hunsbury, Collingtree Park and Wootton Fields, have all increased the pressure on the flood plain.

Upstream of Collingtree, planning consent has been given by South Northants Council, for a further 400 houses just south of the Newport Pagnell road, towards Hackleton. According to Biodiversity experts, the Brook floods, somewhere along its length,

every two years and older residents of Collingtree can remember enjoying skating on iced over fields when the Brook flooded in the 1950's. Various flood defences have been installed along the whole length of Wootton Brook and more are proposed. It remains to be seen whether this can ever compensate for the loss of the flood plain.

In the old Collingtree Enclosure Acts, the route of an ancient Bridle Way between the village and Wootton, is clearly marked. The Bridle Way, which is still well used, runs from Barn Corner and, until the 1980's, crossed over the Brook by a wide plank bridge known as 'Callibrig'. The route must have been well used by horse drawn traffic because it was forever being repaired.

A foreman's report of 1736 records that one shilling was paid for mending 'Callibrig' with stones and wooden planks and another two shillings and tuppence was paid to buy bread for the stone gatherers.



Flooding at the Brook in 1992. Looking East from the A508.

### *That was the year that was!*

*Some of the events of 2012 as recorded in the Collingtree News*

- **January.** Plans are revealed for Parliamentary Boundary changes that would move Collingtree back into Northampton South. Unlikely now to happen because of disagreement within the Coalition Government.
- **February.** Parish Council agrees to share funding for a PCSO to cover Collingtree.
- **March.** Sell out Panto 'Jack & the Beanstalk' staged at Village Room.
- **April.** Major repairs completed on Church Tower and Clock.
- **May.** A Parish Survey finds that most respondents opposed to large scale house building within the parish.
- **June.** Village & School celebrate Queen's Golden Jubilee.
- **July.** Re-thatching of Wooden Walls pub completed.
- **August.** A new website [www.justcollingtree.com](http://www.justcollingtree.com) launched.
- **September.** Shock proposal made for Park & Ride on Watering Lane.
- **October.** Local Flu 'Jab Centre' returns to Barn Mews.
- **November.** Coach trip to Albert Hall Concert a roaring success.
- **December.** The traditional Nine Lessons & Carols with a school choir ensured a full house at St Columba's

## 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

## 6th January

6pm Evening Prayer

## 13th January

9am Parish Communion

## 20th January

10am Morning Praise

## 27th January

10.30am Family Service

## Church Flowers

## January 5th - 8th

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

## January 19th - 26th

Mrs A Barfoot (A) Mrs R Marris (M)

February 2nd - 9th

Mrs A Marsh (A) Mrs E Anderson (M)

## SALCEY BENEFICE MINISTER: REVEREND MIKE BURTON 862284

## A Full House for Christmas

*There has seldom been as much activity at St Columba's. During December the pews were full of children and parents for both the 'Carols by Candlelight' and the 'Christingle' services. There was also a strong attendance at all the other Christmas events.*

|              | Ashton                  | Courteenhall             | Hartwell                | Road  |
|--------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|---|
| 6th January  | 9.30am Morning Prayer   | 9.15am Parish Communion  | 10.30am All Age Service | 10.30am Light-house                                 |
| 13th January | 10.30am Sunday School   | 10.30am Morning Prayer   | 10am Morning Praise     | 10am All Age Service<br>6.30pm Benefice Youth Group |
| 20th January | 10.30am All Age Service |                          | 9.15am Parish Communion | 10.30am Morning Praise & Sunday School Club         |
| 27th January | 8.15am Holy Communion   | 10.30am Informal Service | 10am Morning Praise     | 9.15am Parish Communion                             |

## Watcher on the Roof

The theft of lead from church roofs has become such a problem that the Church of England's Insurers are limiting levels of compensation and the number of claims. Last month five Lithuanian men were jailed for raids on 20 churches across three counties which resulted in a £1m repair bill.

St Columba's has in the past had lead stolen from its Porch roof and Milton Malsor church was targeted only recently.

Now, the Church Wardens and Parochial Church Council at St Columba's are looking at installing an alarm system which will use sensors to detect any 'criminal' activity on the roof.

## What did you get for Christmas?

Christmas is essentially a time of giving and the question most often put is 'What did you get?', rather than 'What did you give?'. I recall a story of a family that, because of hard times, could afford very few presents. They decided as a family to write little notes setting out the things they loved and valued about each other.

These notes were then put into each individual's stocking for the receiver to read. What a wonderful idea! It is a gift that can bring surprises as well as tears of joy. Many of us do not realise how much our love and simply being ourselves, can be so much cherished by others. Why not try it next Christmas?

Peter Skinner

## VILLAGE ASSOCIATIONS & SOCIAL GROUPS

### Allotment Association

The Association is contacting all residents of Collingtree Parish to highlight the unique opportunity they have to acquire or at least, put their name down, for an allotment.

In most parts of the country there are long waiting lists for Waiting Lists for plots but for residents of Collingtree, vacancies frequently arise.

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

### Neighbourhood Watch

*The NW Coordinator is Fay Tennet on 765742.*

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

### Milton & Collingtree Women's Institute

The first meeting of 2013 will be on Thursday 10th January at 7.30pm in Milton Malsor Village Hall.

Our Speaker will be Mrs Helen Flint-Hill and her subject will be 'The Work-bridge Centre' - the Competition will be 'An Object of Joy'.

*More details from Ann Marsh on 766060*

### Medicine Collection for January

Weeks commencing:

#### December 31st & January 7th

Jane Thompson 761968

#### January 14th & 21st

Wilma McArthur 764734

#### January 28th & February 4th

Lesley Sellers 769407

*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

For details of fixtures for the new season and practice sessions at the Play-ing Field contact:

*Karen Hopkins kahop-kins66@yahoo.co.uk or call Mark Underwood 07834 518760*

### 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.collingtretennis.co.uk](http://www.collingtretennis.co.uk)*

### Pub Skittles Team

The Wooden Walls Pub Skittles team continues to do well in the Gayton & District League.

*To get involved call Darren 766602 or Mark Underwood 07834 518760*

## PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

PARISH CLERK: TESS TAYLOR 07729784653

[tessajtaylor@icloud.com](mailto:tessajtaylor@icloud.com)

**Highway Matters** Following the heavy rain and some flooding on local roads, the Parish Council has asked Northamptonshire County Council (NCC) for a survey of the drainage issues and this has been completed.

A special drain cleansing operation was carried out on 20th December. If this does not improve the situation, more work may need to be done to rework some of the drainage.

**Minutes of the meeting on 7th November have now been placed in the notice boards**

**Planning Matters** No further news about the Park & Ride proposal on

Watering Lane, or the tidying up of the Lay-by on the A45 near the Collingtree turn. However there have been multi agency discussions about improvements needed generally to the A45 including ideas for increasing the traffic capacity of M1 junction 15.

Plans have still not been submitted for any proposed development on the Golf Course but the Parish Council has combined with Wootton & East Hunsbury Parish Council and Collingtree Park Residents Association to submit a statement of local concerns relating to

planning for the Wootton and Collingtree Sustainable Urban Extension (SUE No5)

**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.**

## 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](mailto:rod.sellers@virgin.net)

Visit the only website dedicated to Collingtree Village and Parish

<http://justcollingtree.co.uk>

- Ann Marsh would like to thank everyone who sent cards, gifts, flowers and plants following her recent operation.
- Philomena Kirkham, who, with her late husband Ian, was the former owner of The Old Rectory (next to the Church) has made a generous gift of £500 to the Friends of St Columba fundraising campaign.
- Collingtree's very own 'Rock Festival' on December 1st in the Village Room, and featuring local band 'Ash Lane' raised another £250 for the 'Friends'. This will enable the 'Friends' to contribute to the installation of an Alarm System for St Columba's (see page 2)
- The Words & Music evening at St Columba's on December 2nd, closed with a collection which raised £110. This was the fourth W & M event and so far they have raised some £500 for general church funds.
- If you are reading this before December 31st, just time to mention that there is a New Year's Eve Quiz at the Wooden Walls starting at 8.30pm. Entry to the quiz is £2 and all proceeds will go towards Fay & Andy's Charity Bike Ride.

### Hamper Raffle raises £280 for Charity Bike Ride



As part of the build up to their Charity Bike Ride to Paris, Fay & Andy Tennet held a Raffle for a Luxury Christmas Hamper. The winning ticket was bought by Chris Wright of Barn Corner and the event raised £280 towards the £3000 Fay & Andy have pledged to raise for the Homeless Charity, Big Issue Foundation.

### Collingtree goes to London



The Christmas Coach trip to London on December 8th, raised over £550 for the Friends of St Columba's.

Local firm Collingtree Coaches donated the coach and driver and the 'Friends' committee organised an 'on board' raffle. Collingtree Coaches has generously offered a further coach in the Spring—so watch out for details.

### Expansion Plan - Timetable

The controversial planning strategy that may pave the way for large scale development all around Northampton - is slowly being finalised.

The Joint Core Strategy (JCS) will set out a framework of urban expansion areas of which one (SUE 5) is on Greenfield land between Collingtree Village and East Hunsbury, alongside Wootton Brook.

In the last round of consultation the highest number of submissions both for & against, were regarding SUE 5 with the majority arguing that the current JCS was 'unsound'.

On January 4th it is expected that the JCS will be sent to the Planning Inspectorate prior to a Public Inquiry to be held in Northampton in the Spring.



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