

COLLINGTREE NEWS

March 2016

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

www.justcollingtree.co.uk

And finally...

This will be the last edition of 'Collingtree News'.

It began in this format in July 2010. For many years there had been a single sheet newsletter covering the joint benefice of Collingtree, Milton Malsor and Courteenhall and when church boundaries changed, it was followed briefly by another single sheet just covering Collingtree. Since the first issue of **Collingtree News** there have been 68 editions with over 31,000 copies delivered to the 450 households in the parish, including Collingtree Park. The aim has been to promote the various voluntary groups and activities in the parish, particularly the Church (including the Village Room), the Pub, the local School and the Parish Council. All these make up the distinctive identity of Collingtree. Editorially, the focus has been on the history of the village and also highlighting the various planning and development proposals that might impact on the local community.

But times have changed. For most people 'what's on' information and news of events is better and more quickly communicated through Facebook and other social media networks, rather than by a monthly newsletter. Also, there are now many more online sources for monitoring planning proposals.

This is the time to give thanks to all those who have helped keep **Collingtree News** going over the last six years. To all those who have provided monthly updates on activities and events. To the deliverers Ann Marsh, Irene Skinner, Tom Ball, Shirley Yule, Pauline Wright, Glen Deeming, Jan Birch, Linda Croft & Jean Markie. To Ann & Mick Marsh for proof reading, usually at short notice, and helping to keep errors and omissions to a minimum. Thanks also to Eric Williamson and Sharpe Media for printing the Newsletter at a very low cost.

Collingtree News has been self financing with the print cost being covered by donations from the WI and the Parish Council and especially the much appreciated sponsorship from local firm Central Foods based at Maple Court.

The Editor

Rod Sellers 01604 769407 rod.sellers@sky.com

Time for a fresh start ?

Web sites and social media do not suit everyone and there is still a need for a printed information sheet delivered throughout the parish. If you are interested in producing a replacement for 'Collingtree News' contact any member of Collingtree Parochial Church Council (PCC) to find out more. See list of PCC members on Page 2.

ST COLUMBA'S + COLLINGTREE

Minister

Rev. Mike Burton

Church Warden

John Green 763468

PCC Secretary

Chris Wright 761930

PCC Committee

Ann & Mick Marsh (766060)

Joanna Edmunds (761759)

Esther Sooriah (07788 766616)

Selina Smith (769349)

Kerri Godfrey (530652)

**Flower Rota****Saturday 26th March 10am.**

As many flower ladies as possible to decorate the Church for Easter

Services for March**Sunday 6th March**

10.30am Mothering Sunday

Sunday 13th March

9am Holy Communion

Sunday 20th March

10am Morning Prayer

Sunday 27th March Easter Day

10.30am Family Service

Friday 25th March Good Friday.

The Church will be open for private prayer 12noon until 3pm

Friends and Neighbours

'Good neighbours can be hit and miss. Sometimes you hit it just right and get neighbours who become great friends. Other times you are out of luck and get nightmare neighbours. Why are some neighbours so bad ? It's not really that difficult. All you have to do is be polite, don't play loud music late at night, and don't block the front of their house. Once there was a lot of neighbourliness in our country. Families lived near each other for generations. Now it's different. New families come and go and never really get to know each other. Everyone keeps their distance. So let's make an effort, get to know our neighbours better. Start by joining the 'Friends of St Columba Church'. **The 'Coffee and Cake' mornings at the Church have been highly successful and exceeded expectations. They promise to become a regular fixture and are held between 10.30am and 12 noon every third Saturday of the month.**

*Peter Skinner 768394***Village Traffic**

The speed of traffic through Collingtree Village, continues to alarm residents along Watering Lane and Ash Lane and anyone, especially children using the High Street to get to School. Successive Parish Councils have lobbied County Highways to come up with a speed reduction plan and preferably an effective 20 mph limit. As long ago as 2002 it was agreed in principle to install a mini roundabout at the crossroads giving priority to High Street traffic but the plan stalled through lack of funding. What would help in the short term would be to push the Ash Lane speed limit signs further back towards Milton Malsor and to replace the white centre lines on the blind corner. On Watering Lane, most drivers would like to see an end to the 'Russian roulette' at the top of the hill. Any further development at Tom's Close will only add to the problems.

Government policy is now to encourage 20mph limits in residential areas. A national campaign group '20 Plenty for Us' argues that all that is needed are signs at the entry and exit points and small repeater signs on lamp posts or road markings - humps and bumps are not necessary. This would be a simple solution with no costly engineering works to disrupt and deface the village. Hopefully the Parish Council will soon be able to get some action from County Highways.

Try something new in 2016 !**Grow your own fruit & vegetables at Collingtree Allotments**

There is something special about designing and creating your own allotment space, planting seeds, nurturing the plants through the season and then reaping the rewards of a successful harvest.

Why not give it a try ?



*Fresh air - Meet new people - Different plot sizes available
Make jams & chutneys - Fill your freezer with home-grown food
Save money - Fun for children too.*

An allotment rental costs just £20 per YEAR (plus initial returnable deposit)

Are you interested ? - If so contact Martin on 762700 or Bob on 761368 for more information.

VILLAGE ASSOCIATIONS, SOCIAL GROUPS & SPORTS CLUBS

Allotments Association

Plots of varying sizes are now available.

Contact Martin 762700 or Bob 761368

Milton Malsor & Collingtree WI

On March 10th in Milton Malsor Village Hall; Derek Blunt will speak on 'Northamptonshire Squires - past 7& present' The competition is 'A Northamptonshire Character' Please make a note: 14th April - we are holding a Special Open Evening. Robert Manton will speak on 'Byegones' a collection of rural craft tools and artefacts. Usual time and place. Entrance £4, includes refreshments. - bring a friend (or your Husband!)

For further information call Ann Marsh 766060

Collingtree Art Group

A special Lunch will be held at the Village Room on April 23rd at 12.30pm to celebrate the Queen's Birthday. There

will be a three course meal and also a Painting Exhibition. Tickets are £10 and available together with more details , from Agnes Barfoot on 762389.

Pub Skittles

The skittles team continue to do the village proud and have won all of their games since the last report - it looks like we will have our best season so far, we should finish 2nd or 3rd in the league and are in the semi-final of the pairs competition. Mr Mojo - Mark Underwood is our top performer followed closely by Oscar Simmonds - maybe there is something in the water down Spinney Drive. Wooden Walls have always been number one for hospitality and always will be

Cricket Club

The AGM of the cricket club was held at the beginning of February. The officers

of the club were elected as follows; Chairman - John Bishop, Treasurer - Grant Jones, Secretary - Karen Hopkins, Captain - Chris Pedel, Vice Captain / Mid

week Captain - Grant Jones. Rob Flight will continue as Club President.

Winter Nets continue on Wednesdays at the County Ground from 8pm - 9pm. The season will start on 17th April with a home game against Braybooke.

Karen Hopkins 07787786094.

Medicine Collection Rota for March

Week starting 29th February & 7th March

Irene Skinner
768394

Week starting 14th & 21st March

Gill Berry
765948

In the absence of a Parish Newsletter for future months please contact Shirley Flight on 764433 for details of interim rota arrangements.

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

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

CHAIRMAN: MALCOLM BRICE 01604 764723

Parish Council By the end of April there may be a vacancy on the Parish Council for someone living in the North Ward, that is Collingtree Park . Anyone interested should contact the Clerk.

Parish Newsletter After years of collating and writing this, Rod Sellers had decided this will be his last one although the Just Collingtree website will continue. Is there anyone who is prepared to take on this helpful piece of community service. If so, please contact the Parish Clerk. Meanwhile, many thanks to Rod for the years of organisation he has dedicated to this.

Planning. A proposal has been made to site a road-rail interchange on land between the Northampton loop line at Milton Malsor and the land to the west of the Milton Malsor to Blisworth Road behind where Young's Nursery was. This is at an early stage and the Planning Inspectorate wished to receive initial comment s by 10th January. The Parish Council duly sent its comments but was later advised, like Roade Parish Council, that the Inspectorate did not want these comments because the land is not in the parish. Our MP, Andrea Leadsom, has been asked to check into this as planning comments are normally requested from adjacent parties. However, the comments will go to the developer. It is understood that Andrea has been meeting with relevant parties.

Bovis Appeal It has been indicated that no decision may be issued until August. That on the Hardingstone Appeal, which was held in September, has yet to be issued although the original target date was December.

Local Parish Council Meeting An informal meeting has recently been held between a number of local Parish Councils to explore the best ways for Parish Councils to tackle difficult and contentious planning applications,

This meeting was attended by the Chairman and it was agreed to work together over applications such as the above and as part of the preparation in the next year for the Local Plan for Northampton. A meeting is to be scheduled with someone from the Borough Council but that may be later in the year.

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. The trees to the west of the tennis courts have now been cut back as their height was affecting light to neighbouring houses and some were dangerously overhanging. one property The cost is being shared between the Parish Council and the Tennis Club.

Streetlights Faulty lights should be notified to the Parish Council Clerk or Chairman. It is possible for parishioners to report incidents or faulty street lights themselves if they so 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. If residents have problems over this, please contact the Clerk.

Parish Council contact Please make any contact with the Parish Council through the Clerk, Shirley Wong, (see above)

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Wednesday 9th March, 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 with thanks to Rod Sellers..

In 2007 Collingtree was one of a handful of parishes to hold a Parish Poll on whether there should be a Referendum on membership of the EU. The overwhelming majority said that we should. Now we know that this will now happen on 23rd June. The last time the public had a say was 40 years ago when the question was about a simple 'trading agreement'. At the time the Chronicle & Echo ran an opinion survey in local villages, including Collingtree, and there was a strong majority for staying in the 'Common Market'. Now the EU has its own parliament, anthem, flag, currency and foreign policy. The question this time will be about 'who rules Britain'.

Five out of seven of the County's MP's (including Collingtree MP Andrea Leadsom) have said they will campaign to leave the EU which many feel is stuck in the past and with its many looming problems has become something of a 'sinking ship'.

Planning Watchdog

As this will be the last despatch under the 'Collingtree News' banner, here is a brief overview of the major proposals affecting Collingtree.



Bovis has appealed the refusal of its two applications to build 1000 plus houses on greenfields between Hunsbury and Collingtree. Following an Inquiry, the Planning Inspector will report to the Secretary of State and a decision is expected in August. Meanwhile, a similar decision on 1000 houses in Hardingstone, which was due last December, has been delayed.

Proposals for the massive warehouse complex on land next to Collingtree on the south side of the M1 were withdrawn following a public outcry and Howden's pulled out as the occupier. There are still rumours that the developer Roxhill and the landowner are working on further proposals.

The proposals from Ashfield Land to establish a DIRFT style Rail Interchange between Milton Malsor & Blisworth has run into fierce objections from residents and politicians and the Dept of Transport has queried the accuracy of the site investigations. Local MP Andrea Leadsom has described the proposal as speculative rather than strategic.

What may prove to be a 'brake' on the number of large scale developments around Junction 15 and A45 is the growing concern over levels of air pollution from the traffic generated.

Parish Notices

- *A meeting was held on 10th February regarding the possibility of the Village gaining ownership/responsibility of the Ornamental Lake near the Nursing Home. The Golf club have indicated that it would be a minimum of two months before any decisions are made. The Working Group will continue to gather information and anyone who would like to join the group can email collingtree-lake@gmail.com. Thanks to all who attended the meeting.*
- *On Friday 20th May, the 'Friends of Collingtree School' will hold a fundraising Summer Ball at the Marriott Hotel. There will be a three course meal and a Disco. Tickets from Selina Smith 769439*
- *On Friday April 15th there will be a 'Quiz & Chips' evening (7 for 7.30pm) at Milton Village Hall to raise funds for the MM & Collingtree Scout Group. Tickets only £10 includes a Fish & Chip Supper and a welcome drink. Contact Selina Smith 769349*
- *Lent Lunches continue at 4 Barn Mews every Tuesday (between 12.30 & 2pm) until 22nd March. Drop in and enjoy soup, a roll, cheese and an apple - all for £1 or a donation with proceeds going to the 'Forever Angels' baby and toddler Home in Mwanza, Tanzania. More details from Joanna Edmunds on 761759*

The Wooden Walls of Old England

Mothering Sunday at the Walls - 6th March 2016; treat Mum to a traditional Sunday lunch, 3 courses for £20 per person, including a glass of bubbly for Mum! Booking essential on 01604 760 641

As from Tuesday 8th March we will be offering our popular Early Bird Menu - 2 courses £12 from 6.00pm until 7.00pm Tuesday to Friday inclusive and Saturday lunchtime 12 until 2.30 - booking advisable. 01604 760641

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