

COLLINGTREE NEWS

MAY 2014

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Collingtree village & parish*

www.justcollingtree.co.uk

Speed Limits - Twenty is Plenty

There have been many attempts over the years to establish a 20mph limit right through the village and as the traffic between Milton Malsor and the A45 increases, the need becomes greater. The problem has always been the cost and complexity of the signage measures demanded by local authorities. Now that government policy is to encourage 20mph in residential areas many parishes are pushing for simpler and cheaper traffic calming schemes. A campaign by a charity group 20splentyforus.co.uk argues that all that is needed are 20mph signs at the entry and exit points to the village and small repeater signs on lamp posts and possibly road markings – humps and bumps are not a requirement. This would be a low cost solution with no costly engineering works to disrupt and deface the village. Hopefully the Parish Council will be able to pursue this with the County Council.

Parking Mad

It is difficult to work out exactly, what Northamptonshire County Council (NCC) are planning to do with the fields they own alongside Watering Lane. After stating that they were seeking a new agricultural tenant (there are several farmers who wish to cultivate it) it emerges that they are still trying to persuade Silverstone to rent it as a Park and Ride on Race Days. How the traffic access would be managed, has not been explained. Silverstone has told local MP Andrea Leadsom, that they are not the instigators on this. The local County Councillor and Collingtree Parish Council are being kept in the dark and meanwhile, the fields are becoming derelict and weed infested - much to the annoyance of adjoining allotment gardeners and local residents.

Collingtree/East Hunsbury Expansion Plan

There has been no further news following the Public Examination hearings in March into the Expansion Plan

that would allocate 1000 houses on the farmland between East Hunsbury and Collingtree. The Inspector's report is expected in the Summer. Similarly, there has been no further word on the Bovis planning applications on the same site. There has been however increasing opposition nationally to the number of housing developments planned on Greenfield sites and more calls from bodies like the National Trust, to make more use of vacant brownfield land in urban centres.

Toms Close

There is still uncertainty over the long term intentions of the Borough Council regarding Toms Close. Occupiers of the houses – some public some private – have been told that the cost of necessary improvements is prohibitive and that the site must be cleared. Communication with residents by NBC has been patchy. The high estimated cost of bringing the houses up to the governments 'decent homes standard' has been questioned. The assumption is that NBC will eventually dispose of the site to a developer. Until a planning application for development of the site showing number of houses proposed and therefore the traffic to be generated, is submitted, the impact on the village will not be known.

Watch your step

Irresponsible owners, who allow their dogs to foul public walkways, are worse than a nuisance. The latest reported 'blackspot' is the pavement on Windingbrook Lane (close to the entrance to the Nursing Home) which according to residents, is fouled almost daily. Offenders should be aware that if identified, they face a possible fine of £1000, payable by them – not their dog.

Special Delivery

This Newsletter is delivered every month to the 450 households within the parish. Grateful thanks to the volunteers who walk the streets, climb the steps and wrestle with the letterboxes to make sure it is received on time.

ST COLUMBA'S + Village Room Supervision

The PCC is responsible for the management of the Village Room which was bequeathed to the village by the Phipps family in 1896. We have relied on a succession of public spirited volunteers to supervise the bookings made and manage the operational costs (Heat, light & water) Most of the users of the Room are now on a long term regular basis and arrange their own access—therefore the main priority is recording bookings, receiving payment and keeping account. **If you feel you might help please contact either of the Church Wardens (contact details in the adjoining column).**



Church Wardens

John Green 6 Watering Lane 763468

Peter Skinner 'Lynton' Barn Corner 768394

Deputy Warden

Chris Wright 8 Watering Lane 761930

Services for May

4th May

6pm Evening Prayer (CW)

11th May

9am Parish Communion (M)

18th May

10 am Morning Praise (CW)

25th May

10 am Family Service (CW)

CW = Church Warden led

M = Minister led

Collingtree Church Flowers

3rd—10th May

Mrs C Thompson (A) Mrs K Godfrey (M)

17th May—24th May

Mrs G Berry (A) Mrs B Jones (M)

31st May—7th June

Mrs G Whiting (A) Mrs J Birch (M)

SALCEY BENEFICE SERVICES MINISTER: REVEREND MIKE BURTON 862284

Ashton 4th May 9.30am Morning Prayer—11th May 10.30 am Sunday School—18th May 10.30 am All Age Service

Courteenhall 4th May 9.15 Communion—11th May 10.30am Morning Prayer—25th May 10.30 am Informal Service

Hartwell 4th May 10.30am All Age Service—11th May 10am Morning Praise—18th May 9.15 Communion
25th May 10am Morning Praise

Road 4th May 10.30am Lighthouse—11th May 10.30am All Age Service 6.30 Benefice Youth Group—
18th May 10.30 am Morning Praise & Sunday School Club—25th May 9.15 Communion—29th May 6.30 pm Benefice Communion .

Christians Awake!

A debate has suddenly erupted among politicians as to whether Britain is still a 'Christian' country. The issue should surely be beyond doubt.

The UK has been Christian for more than a thousand years. Its monarchy, Parliament, morality, law and education; its flag, national anthem, most of its literature art and architecture; its health care, most charities, public holidays and festivals, the structure of its week and its place names - all these are Christian in origin and are valued by most people, whatever their belief - or lack of belief.

The English parish church is the enduring and timeless mirror of our local history. It is where generations have been baptised, married and buried. They have seen famine, pestilence, plague and war.

They bear witness to the fashions, intolerances, the achievements and occasional failures of the Christian faith. They are, even in these irreverent times, part of the heartbeat of local communities.

But this priceless Christian heritage is under threat from militant atheists, Muslim extremists, trendy comedians and a widespread apathy in the population at large. It is not cool anymore to speak up for Christian principles and core values. It is just taken for granted that they will always be there.

One of those values is an acceptance of, and tolerance towards other faiths and beliefs. If this disappears the vacuum is likely to be filled by something far more authoritarian and intolerant.

The symbol of this Christian heritage in Collingtree is St Columba's Church. For 900 years it has kept the flame alive - but the flame is beginning to flicker.

The efforts of the Friends fundraising group are vital in maintaining the fabric of the building - but more is needed.

It is not enough to walk by and admire the ancient stonework or just visit to sing carols at Christmas; a church needs to be in regular use by its community (meetings, concerts, arts and drama as well as services) and ways must be found to, make it relevant once again for the many as well as for the devout few.

VILLAGE ASSOCIATIONS & SOCIAL GROUPS

Collingtree Allotment Association

Home grown food always tastes better and growing it yourself helps to keep you fit. Collingtree allotments are just off Watering Lane and membership is open to keen gardeners who are residents of Collingtree Parish.

For details of plot availability, contact Graeme Joll 767277

Milton & Collingtree Women's Institute

The next meeting is on Thursday 8th May at 7.30pm in Milton Malsor Village Hall. The subject is 'Resolutions' followed by Social Time. Please bring personal handicrafts for display—plus a 'childhood' photo for a quiz.

Members are asked to bring a plate of tasty nibbles to share. Also this evening, payment is due for the trip to Birmingham.

More details from Ann Marsh 766060

Medicine Collection

W/C 5th May

Ted Anderson 763264

W/C 12th & 19th May

Jane Thompson 761968

W/C 26th May

Shirley Flight 764433

Anyone who has difficulty in picking up their prescriptions from Roade or Blisworth Surgeries can call volunteers on the above Rota.

If you would like to help with collections, please contact: Coordinator: Shirley Flight 764433

SPORTS CLUBS

Collingtree Cricket Club

Collingtree had a winning and sunny start to the season reaching the target of 121 set by Braybooke with 14 overs to spare. Several debutants had a good game with Gary Ray getting the opening wicket of the season, Ashley Smith also taking a wicket and Andy Deeming top scoring with 26 runs. During May the Sunday fixtures are

4th - Knossington - Home

11th St Crispins & Reylands - Home

18th Great Houghton - Away

25th Old - Home

There is also a mid week game away at Castle Ashby on 22nd May starting at 6pm. If the weather permits nets are held on the playing fields on a Wednesday at 6.30pm

For further details please contact Karen Hopkins on kahopkins66@yahoo.co.uk or Mark Underwood on 0783451876

Pub Skittles

A fantastic end to the season with the team winning all its fixtures in April and pushing to finish 3rd in the league.

The playing record for the season was played 28 won 21 tied 3 lost 4- a real team effort. Special mention though to

Kevin Hardisty Dave Rose and Dave Wykes for their improvement on last year.

Mark Underwood won the internal averages for the 3rd consecutive year but also lost only 2 individual games throughout the season.

Best of luck to all our teams in the 4 a side completion this week and Glenn Bass/Kevin Hardisty in the pairs and Oscar Simmonds in the individual in the next few weeks.

To get involved call Mark Underwood 07834 51876

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

The Annual Parish Meeting open to all parish electors was held at the Village Room on 23rd April. Issues of concern included uncertainty over NBC proposals for Toms Close, NCC plans for the fields on Watering Lane and traffic speeds through the village. Minutes of the meeting will be placed in notice boards and copies can be obtained from the Clerk (see above).

Parish Councils are the most local tier of local governance and in Collingtree the PC has direct responsibility for services such as some street lighting and the management of the playing field.

It must also be consulted on a range of planning and high-way proposals that affect the parish and is able to raise money through a local tax (precept) for projects that benefit its residents.

Following a review in 2010, changes were made to the boundaries between the Nene Valley and East Hunsbury wards to equalise the number of electors. As a result the Collingtree Parish is divided between the two wards with the 'Collingtree North' (Collingtree Park) section coming under East Hunsbury ward and 'Collingtree South' (the original Village) remaining in Nene Valley ward. There continues to be 7 members of the

Parish Council, with 3 from the north and 4 from the south.

Conservation Area

The centre of the old village was designated as a Conservation Area in 1978. The intention is to preserve the history and character of the High Street and adjoining areas, the 10 listed buildings and the unique layout of boundary walls and the use of local stone. Conservation Area status, gives the local authority the power to control changes to windows and other external features.

The next meeting of the Parish Council 7th May at 7.30pm in 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.

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Parish Notices

The 'Lent Lunches' organised by Joanna Edmunds have raised £775 for the 'Forever Angels' baby and toddler home in Mwanza, Tanzania. Joanna wants to thank everyone who helped with this great achievement which included £130 raised by Collingtree School.

Pupils at Collingtree Primary School have come up with a nifty way of raising funds to help provide additional play-ground equipment. They are asking for donations of used printer cartridges which they can send for recycling in return for cash. If you can help with any used cartridges please pass them to Andie Sapsford at the School Office 01604 761469.



Steak Tuesdays, 8oz sirloin with hand cut chips, onion rings, mushroom and vine tomatoes, and a pint, glass of wine or soft drink for 2 - £30

Fish and Chip Wednesdays, hand beer battered fresh cod, hand cut chips and peas, and a pint, glass of wine or soft drink for 2 - £20

New Summer garden menu and take always also available – please ask for details

Beer Festival with 15 real ales, 3 ciders and 2 perrys – Bank holiday weekend Saturday, Sunday and Monday 24th, 25th and 26th May

Tom Betts Band playing Saturday evening 24th May and Rob Horne and the New York Jazz Trio Sunday evening 25th

Quiz night Sunday 18th May – booking essential, £5 teams of 4 with cash prizes

Contact Sue and the Team: 01604 760641

European Parliamentary Elections



The Election of Members of the European Parliament takes place on 22nd May. Usually there is a lack of interest and a low turnout. This year with some political parties wanting more integration with the EU, some wanting less and some wanting none at all – the election has become a Referendum on membership, in all but name.

The last time the public had a say was nearly 40 years ago when the question was about whether to stay in a simple trading agreement, the 'Common Market'.

In 1971 the Chronicle and Echo held an opinion survey in various villages, including Collingtree. At that time there was a strong majority in the village for being in the 'Common Market'.

Since then the EU has become a very different structure with its own parliament, anthem, flag, currency, space programme and foreign policy.

How people now feel about the EU will differ but hopefully everyone will all make an effort to vote. A full list of candidates is on: www.aboutmyvote.co.uk/gb_elections_may_2014.

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