

# COLLINGTREE NEWS

**May 2015**

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Collingtree village & parish*

[www.justcollingtree.co.uk](http://www.justcollingtree.co.uk)

## Will Election promises save greenfields?

It looks like good news for all those who have campaigned over the years to save communities like Collingtree from the ravages of uncontrolled development. With only days to go before the national and local elections on 7<sup>th</sup> May, all five nationwide political parties have pledged to concentrate new construction on previously built on 'brownfield' land, rather than allow developers to rip through the countryside.

If whatever political combination that eventually takes power keeps to these promises, it will be a reversal of the policies and practices of the last five years.

It should mean that Greenfield proposals for a thousand houses between Hunsbury and Collingtree and the 2.67 million sq ft warehouse on farmland next to Junction 15, (see picture above) could finally be abandoned.

It seems most of the running has been made by UKIP who have gained the approval of the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) with their policies on housebuilding. They have endorsed the plan for a national register of brownfield sites to allow the building of 1 million new homes over the next ten years. The spur to this colossal development project will include the relaxation of planning laws to allow conversion of out of town commercial property to homes, the offer of £10,000 per unit

to clean up contaminated land and putting a statutory duty on local authorities to bring empty homes back into use.

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), brought in by the coalition government, failed to mention prioritising 'brownfield' sites although it is now admitted

that 1.5million houses could be built on them. The Conservative manifesto belatedly promises to 'ensure that brownfield land is used as much as possible' and that '90% of suitable brownfield sites will have planning permission by 2020.

The Liberal Democrats have been less forthcoming but its manifesto also pledges to 'prioritise brownfield sites'.

There is no such specific promise in the Labour manifesto but in response to questioning its party leaders have said 'brownfield sites should be considered first'

The Green Party also say 'they would minimise encroachment onto undeveloped Greenfield sites wherever possible by reusing previously developed sites that have fallen into disuse'.

So, if election promises can be believed, there has been a long overdue outbreak of common sense and some welcome protection for what is left of the English countryside.



## ST COLUMBA'S +

## PCC Annual General Meeting

The 2015 Annual Meeting of the Parochial Church Council was held on 22nd April. It was a significant occasion with thanks to longstanding members who are stepping down and a welcome to new members.

Peter Skinner has stepped down as both Church Warden and Lay Chairman of the PCC after 22 years. Peter has also guided Church affairs through three interregnums (when there was no Rector) and has officiated at countless services and events. He was later presented with one of the symbolic Church keys in recognition of his long service.

Rod Sellers has also stepped down after 18 years as an active PCC member and as initiator of the 'Friends' fundraising group.

Pam Jackson has been Treasurer for both the PCC and the Friends group, as well as a very active organiser and fundraiser, and has also stepped down. Selina Smith, Esther Sooriah and Kerry Godfrey were all welcomed as new members.



## Church Warden

John Green 6 Watering Lane 763468

## Church Flowers Rota

## 2nd &amp; 9th May

Joanna Edmunds (A) Kerry Godfrey (M)

## 16th &amp; 23rd May

Catherine Thompson (A) Gill Berry (M)

## 30th May &amp; 6th June

Selina Smith (A) Pauline Wright (M)

Queries to Joanna Edmunds 761759 or  
Ann Marsh 766060

## Services for May

## 3rd May

11am Morning Praise & Baptism

## 10th May

9am Parish Communion.

## 17th May

10am Morning Praise.

## 24th May

10.30am Family Service.

## Parochial Church Council (PCC)

Rev Mike Burton (Chairman)

Mick Marsh

Ann Marsh

Joanna Edmunds

John Green

Selina Smith

Esther Sooriah

Kerry Godfrey

Chris Wright (Secretary) 761930

## SALCEY BENEFICE SERVICES

MINISTER: REVEREND MIKE BURTON 862284

**Ashton** 3rd May 9.30 am Morning Prayer — 10th May 10.30am Sunday School - 17th May 10.30am All Age Service - 24th May 8.15am Holy Communion.

**Courteenhall** 3rd May 9.15 am Parish Communion — 10th May 10.30am Informal Service.

**Hartwell** 3rd May 10.30am All Age Service — 10th May 10am Morning Praise — 17th May 9.15am Parish Communion - 24th May 10am Morning Praise.

**Road** 3rd May 10.30am Lighthouse — 10th May 10.30am All Age Service 6.30pm Benefice Youth Group - 17th May 10.30am Morning Praise and Sunday School Club - 24th May 9.15am Parish Communion.

**Additional Services:** 14th May 6pm Benefice Communion at Hartwell — 31st May 10.30am Benefice Communion at Hartwell.

## Medicine Collection Rota

## W/C 4th &amp; 11th May

Shirley Flight 764433

## W/C 18th &amp; 25th May

Ann Marsh 766060

For anyone in Collingtree who has difficulty in getting to Road or Blisworth Surgeries, help with collecting prescriptions can be a lifeline. If you can help **contact: Coordinator: Shirley Flight 764433**



## 'Ladies Night'

Friday 22nd May at 7pm

Collingtree

Village Room

£2 on the door.

Prosecco & Canapés

All proceeds to the Church

More details from Esther on  
07788766616

## VILLAGE ASSOCIATIONS & SOCIAL GROUPS

### Collingtree Allotment Association

May marks the end of Spring and it is a month when we can get caught out by mini droughts and heat waves. The biggest threat is to any young plants that have recently been transplanted into the open ground and any freshly emerging seedlings. Be sure to keep all of them well watered and if the young transplants look as if they are flagging give them some shade protection from

the heat of the sun or drying winds. On the other hand May can bring damaging frosts, cold winds with heavy rain or hail, so be prepared! But whatever the weather we all enjoy seeing and eating the fruits of our labours. And don't they taste so much better than anything you can buy.

*For details of plot availability contact Martin Grosse on 762700*

### Milton & Collingtree WI

The next meeting will be on Thursday 14th May at 7.30p.m. in Milton Malsor Village Hall. This meeting is when we discuss 'Resolutions' to be followed by 'JENKS in the USA' and Social Time. The competition is 'Your favourite resolution'

*More details from Ann Marsh 766060*

## SPORTS CLUBS

### Pub Skittles

*To get involved call Mark Underwood 07864 51876*

### Cricket Club

The season has started well with two wins out of three games played. In the opening game, a win against New Bradwell, Chris Pedel, the club captain, took the first wicket of the season and Rob Flight, club President led by example

scoring 51 not out. Poor fielding, 6 dropped catches, resulted in a loss against Braybrooke in the next game. Batting second Collingtree recovered from an early batting collapse to win the next match against Old with 6 overs to spare. Nick Peters scored 46 not out batting from the start to the end of the innings. May starts with three away matches and then there are two home games on 24th against Ratby and 31st against Bugbrooke, both 2pm starts. I

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

### Tennis Club

Collingtree Tennis Club had a fantastic Winter season with the A Team winning Division 2 and gaining promotion to the top flight in Division 1, the B team also won their division and are promoted. The Veterans team put in some great performances over the Winter too.

A huge Congratulations to all who played and Best Wishes for the Summer season.

*More details of events and playing times are on the Club website:*

[www.collingtretennis.co.uk](http://www.collingtretennis.co.uk)

## PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

PARISH CLERK: TESS TAYLOR 07729784653 E: [collingtreeparishcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:collingtreeparishcouncil@gmail.com)

CHAIRMAN: MALCOLM BRICE 01604 764723

**Annual Parish Meeting.** This was held on 22nd April and although not well attended the normal reports were given. The minutes will appear in the Parish Council notice-boards after the 13 May.

**Elections in May 2015.** The number of persons nominated was less than the seven required so there will not be actual polling for the Parish Council in the May election. The persons nominated will form the new Parish Council at its first meeting on 13th May.

### Planning matters

**Golf Course development** The Managing Director of Bovis Homes South Midlands Region has since indicated there will be an appeal.

### Howden Proposals for just south west of M1 junction 15

An agreed statement was sent to South Northants Council (SNC) opposing this application and there has been no further news except that various documents are on the South Northants Council website

ref application number S/2014/2468/EIA. It looks as if the SNC officers are recommending refusal of this application but it is yet to be seen whether the political members will accept this or overturn the recommendation. It is understood that the Highways Agency has yet to file its report.

### Toms Close

Northampton Partnership Homes (NPH) have taken over this matter from the Borough Council as part of the responsibility for Council Housing being passed to them. Two confidential meetings, facilitated by the Parish Council Chairman, have now been held between NPH and the owner-occupiers and progress to allow the owner-occupiers to remain in Collingtree is being made. Another meeting is to be held to try to reach agreement.

**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 any contact with the Parish Council through the Clerk, Tess Taylor, on 07729 784653, or [collingtreeparishcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:collingtreeparishcouncil@gmail.com). The next meeting will be the Annual General Meeting of the new Parish Council on Wednesday 13th May at 7.30 in the Village Room followed by the next normal meeting. Minutes of all meetings are placed in the Parish Council notice-boards and email versions can be gained from the Clerk.



## Parish Notices

'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

Rod Sellers

01604 769407

Email [rod.sellers@sky.com](mailto:rod.sellers@sky.com)

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- Collingtree PCC (Church Council) is still urgently seeking a volunteer to replace its current Treasurer who has retired. The post is essential for the continuation of St Columba's and if you feel you can help please contact Chris Wright on 761930
- Collingtree Village Room is the only public meeting place in the village and is equipped with comfortable seating, a stage, disabled access and a spacious kitchen. To enquire about hiring contact Esther Sooriah on 07788 76616
- The PCC Fish & Chip Supper on 23rd April raised £267. Thank you to all who helped, contributed or simply enjoyed the occasion.
- The Collingtree Art Group meets at 10am every Thursday (during term time) in Collingtree Village Room. If you would like to join call Agnes Barfoot on 762389.
- Watch out for a special event planned for 21st July. Called a 'Schools out for the Summer' party it will run from 3pm till 5pm and feature refreshments, a disco bounce and raptorxotics ( reptiles, lizards, snakes birds etc) Ticket will be £3 per child with all proceeds towards running the Village Room. Contact Esther on 07788 766616 for details.
- The School Equipment Vouchers Scheme operated by Sainsbury's, ends on 5th May. Please pass any further vouchers received to Selina Smith 769439, or leave at the bar of the Wooden Walls.

### Planning Watchdog

*Bovis proposal for 1000 houses on land between Hunsbury and Collingtree.*



A formal appeal to the Secretary of State has not yet been submitted by Bovis, following the refusal of its two applications by Northampton Borough council. Local Parish Councils are working with the Hunsbury and Collingtree Residents Alliance (HCRA) and the Wootton Brook Action Group to provide evidence to support NBC in the event of an appeal.

**Howden's proposal for a 2.67million sq ft Distribution Centre on farmland next to Junction 15.**

This application has not yet been considered by South Northants Council and comments can still be made. In addition to the many traffic and pollution objections, the Strategic Planning Officer at SNC has concluded that the application is 'in conflict with Planning Policies and is therefore 'unacceptable'. The opposition from the surrounding villages has been substantial and plans are being made for a 'Protest Walk' using the Public Footpaths that cross the site. This would involve walkers from Collingtree, Milton Malsor, Blisworth and Roade. Timing will depend on the progress of the application - further details are to follow.

### News from The Wooden Walls of Old England

"Unfortunately Paul, our Chef, has retired to spend more time with his family and there will therefore be a break in our food service, until we can decide on the best way forward. Our bar opening times are Tuesday to Thursday 4pm till 11pm, Friday and Saturday noon till 11pm and Sunday noon till 10.30pm. We look forward to seeing you" **Sue Blackman 01604 760641**

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