Collingbourne Ducis - Everleigh - Collingbourne Kingston



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THE COURIER

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COLLINGBOURNE KINGSTON PARISH COUNCIL

Richard Semple, Chairman, writes:



I hope that all those who attended our

Coronation Party enjoyed the event. It was a great day that not only provided an opportunity to celebrate the crowning of our new King but also a chance to get together as a community. My sincere thanks go to the Parish Council and the Village Hall Committee for their hard work in making it so successful and particularly to Councillor Baz Gardner



who was at the heart of making it all happen. A big thank you also to Steve Clements who, once again, very ably provided the bar, signs and candyfloss.

I am pleased to report that, after considerable research undertaken by our Parish Clerk, we are now in a position to upgrade our play park adjacent to the Village Hall. This will include refurbishing the existing equipment as well as the installation of a new trampoline and a zip line. The construction will be

undertaken through the summer so please be prepared for short periods when the park is out of use whilst the work is carried out.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on the 12th July, at 6.30 pm, in the Ruth Fisher Room, Collingbourne Kingston Village Hall. Please come along if you would like to add your views to our discussion. Furthermore, if you would like to participate even more actively in the running of the Parish, we still have a vacancy on the Parish Council and are looking for a volunteer to fill it. Please do get in touch with the Parish Clerk clerk@collingebournkingston.org.uk or come along to our next meeting if you are interested.

Towards the end of May a new temporary tenant moved into the Barleycorn. Obviously there has been much concern in the village about

the fate of the Barleycorn following its abrupt closure. We all need to support the new tenant if we are to retain our sole village amenity.

THE VIEW FROM EVERLEIGH

Denis Bottomley (01264 852731) writes:

We have made further progress on our Everleigh Enhancement plans. Two additional planters have been deployed; one at the junction of the A342/Marlborough



Road and the other in The Street outside Hightrees. We now have a total of eight planters in the village and plans for Spring planting are in place. This year we also intend to replace the damaged picnic bench in the playground and install a new all-weather bench in Everleigh Centre to replace the wooden bench by the Manor fence.

Our village celebration of the King's Coronation took place on Saturday 6th May at the playground/Jubilee field, starting at 5 pm. Turnout was good, with about fifty villagers braving the damp conditions. Spirits were lifted by complimentary sparkling wine on arrival to toast our new King, courtesy of the Ducis Beerfest Committee whose donation was greatly appreciated.

The event included a barbeque and games/activities such as rounders, volleyball and golf pitch and putt. Raffle prizes were generously donated by one of our villagers and contributed towards funding for the event; the raffle was well organised by Cllr Lucinda Wheeler-Mallows. Festivities culminated with the lighting of a superb bonfire beacon at 8.30 pm, thanks to Cllr Henry Waight. Congratulations also go to Cllr Andy Earle for his efforts to set up street flags and to decorate the event area. Finally, we are grateful to the many volunteers who helped set up and take down such a memorable occasion. This event was a real village effort and highly successful.

On Sunday morning,16th July, we intend to walk the parish boundary to commemorate the ancient ceremony of Beating the Bounds of Everleigh Parish. The plan is to conduct a leisurely eight mile plus hike around most of our scenic parish boundary, starting at 9.30 am and finishing at about 1 pm. Further details will follow in the next edition of the Courier.

The Collingbourne Ducis St Andrew's Church Fete takes place this year on Saturday 2nd September from 12 noon until 5 pm in the Ducis Village Hall and on the recreation ground. Everleigh has been invited to participate in fun games activities with Ducis and Kingston folk at this fete. More details will follow in due course.

Communication and transparency are two key principles guiding our Parish Council operations. We promulgate information on village events, meetings, planning, property, infrastructure, Wilts Council notices and financial matters. We do so by a variety of traditional means: village noticeboards; letter drop; the Courier; and the outstanding Everleigh web site: www.everleigh.org by courtesy of the web master, Simon Curr. Simon has constructed a wealth of local news and information including Parish Council material. Please check this web site regularly, particularly for short notice announcements from Wilts Council on such matters as road closures and waste collection.

Finally, the next Parish Council meeting will take place on Tuesday 27th June at 7 pm at Collingbourne Ducis Village Hall. Everyone is welcome to attend. The minutes of our last meeting are available on village noticeboards and the Everleigh web site at **www.everleigh.org**

COLLINGBOURNE DUCIS PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman John Wood writes:

On 6 May Collingbourne Ducis celebrated the Coronation of King Charles III. Lead by Cllr David Dennis the event was held and hosted by kind permission of Dave and Sue Buddin at the Tipple Inn. Despite the weather, over 200 people from the village enjoyed afternoon tea prepared by Sue, assisted by Kelly Knowlson, Nikki Lyons, Ali Small and Amanda Dennis, which was accompanied by Prosecco kindly donated by the Beer Fest committee. The weather was held at bay by marquees provided by Beer Fest and Chris Gordon and erected with the additional help of Baz, Joe, Dave Bud, and JJ Gordon. The event was heralded as a great way of bringing the village together and everyone who attended enjoyed the teas, face painting, balloon sculptures and live music which went on late into the evening. A big thanks to The Tipple Inn for hosting and David for organising the event, ably assisted by Cllrs Pete Knowlson and Stephen Lyons who both willingly gave up

The Council met on 18th May at the Village Hall, and thanks to the meticulous preparation of the Parish Clerk Phillip Gill the Annual Parish Meeting ran smoothly. The full Council meeting included the election of the Chair and Deputy Chair and I am pleased to announce John Wood and Stephen Lyons were both re-elected. There was one new member co-opted on to the council; welcome to Adrian Green. Elections were held for the committee leads, details of which can be found on the Collingbourne Ducis website.

their time to help David make the celebration such a great success.

All the various committee leads provided reports on progress in their respective areas which were well received, captured in the minutes and will be posted on the website. Grass cutting and general maintenance was discussed, and it was agreed that Cllrs Stephen Lyons and Thomas Earle would meet with the contractors Idverde to clarify the position

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07554446502 oliviaboydall@gmail.com and agree a way forward. The Village Steward tasking request form has gone live on the village website, please feel free to propose tasks for the Steward using the proforma.

Cllr Knowlson discussed an outline proposal for the permanent replacement of the shelter on the recreation ground. Whilst the project is at a very early scoping phase, it was agreed in principle that the structure needed to be open and covered. We expect to hear more on this proposal at the next meeting in July.

On the Speed Watch front the team have maintained a roadside presence which continues to influence the speed of vehicles through the village. The Speed Watch team are still looking for willing volunteers to swell the ranks, share the load and provide more coverage throughout the coming months. If you would like to participate, please contact the Parish Council Clerk for details.

Our next Parish Council Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 4th July at 7.00 pm at Collingbourne Ducis Village Hall. Parish Council Meetings are open events, which members of the public are more than welcome to attend. If any parishioners wish to get involved in any of the activities, including Speed Watch or just want to contact with the Parish Council, do feel free to email the Parish Clerk, Mr Phil Gill, parishclerk@collingbourne-ducis.com.

COLLINGBOURNE SCHOOL REPORT

Headteacher Harriet Phillips writes:

Governance

We have welcomed two new members to our governing body. Alan Mitchell and Rebecca Arnold both live in the local are and we are looking forward to working with them. We have said Goodbye to Catherine Hartley as Chair of Governors and welcomed Nicky Bamford to the role.

Bikeability

This week our Year 6 children have taken part in their Bikeability training. During this two day training course you may have seen the children around the village. They have learnt all about bike maintenance and how to take good care of their bikes as well as learning how to ride bikes safely on the road.

Walk safe

Next week you may see the children out and about again with the Walk safe team learning all about staying safe whilst walking near roads.

SATs

May is a busy time in Primary schools with the Year 6 and Year 2 children taking their National Assessments (SATs). The Year 6 children enjoyed coming to school for a special Year 6 SATs breakfast throughout the week and took the week in their stride. Thank you to Jane Crook, Barry Reid and Nicky

Bamford who came in to school to support during the week.

Rec

The children continue to enjoy using the Rec for a variety of activities, most recently to run a mile for the 'crowning of our new King', we managed to plan a very convincing crown shaped route.

Communitea

During Mental Health Week we

1.11 mi 9:27 /mi 10m 32s 3 4

Congrats! You just set your 2nd fastest time in the 1 mile!

Achievements

ran our first Communitea event. It was so popular we have made it a regular thing. The first event gave villagers an opportunity to be shown around school by one of our Year 6 ambassadors and then enjoy a chat and a piece of cake with them. The second Communitea was held just before Easter and our Fox class sang some Easter songs and

showed off their wonderful Easter bonnets in a parade. Our next Communitea is next Friday at 10.30 am. All are welcome!

CD VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE

Fundraising team write:

Thank you to everyone for your incredible support of the Community Café so far.



We had another great month in May and were able to provide more delicious cakes and hot drinks. The Milkshakes also proved to be a very popular choice. We were fortunate to have a variety of children's books available from the book exchange team, which went down well with our younger visitors. The Beerfest have very kindly granted us some money to go towards a new coffee machine (we hope to have this in place soon!) and the film place have also offered to purchase some banners to help us advertise around Ducis. In June, weather permitting, we may even have some alfresco seating, so there is plenty of space for all our visitors, inside and outside.

On Saturday 10th June, from 10 am to 4 pm, we have our very first Arts & Craft Fair! There will be a variety of local artists and makers who are all looking forward to sharing their work with you. This is the perfect opportunity for us to support local & small businesses and buy original, skilfully made items. The café will also be open for refreshments throughout the day. As I write table bookings are coming in, but there may still be some availability so, if you or someone you know might be interested in selling at this event, please email us on:

ducisvillagehall@gmail.com and we will send you details and a form to complete.

We look forward to welcoming you all back, in June!

COLLINGBOURNE DUCIS VILLAGE HALL DRAW - WINNERS IN MAY

Humphrey Sheppard Announces the Winners:

£50 Wendy Roper 28

£25 Wendy Roper 106

£10 Marion Bailey 149

£5 Dan Doherty 199

Congratulations to all the winners.

We had another successful morning at the Community Cafe on Saturday 6th May with lovely bakes and good coffee and lots of chat and activities. We also managed to sell another half dozen or more tickets for this draw. Our next target is to reach 250 tickets sold at which point we will be introducing a fifth monthly prize of £15. So, all you who have one ticket start thinking about having a second or even third ticket. My contact details are below.

For those of you who still pay for your tickets in cash or cheque the new Draw Financial year commences on 1st July. I will be trying to contact you to collect your 2023 / 2024 payment or give me a call or an email and let's set you up for a standing order. If you want any information on the draw, please call Humphrey Sheppard on **07791 760 241** or e-mail on **dvhdraw@gmail.com**

The draw is open to anyone (over the age of 18) who wishes to take part. If you previously had tickets but have not been contacted by anyone please get in touch with me.

Our LINK Coordinator's Number is CD 850807 Please try to give them at least 48 hours' notice to find a volunteer



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COLLINGBOURNE CRICKET CLUB

sure she won't be the last this year!

David Malley, Chairman, writes:

The cricket season is well and truly underway with all of our sides now having a few games under their belts. Our Sunday friendly side, our women's team 'The Sapphires' and the midweek evening side have all kicked-off their campaigns. The two senior leagues sides are battling away in their respective divisions too, with the 1st XI maintaining their winning streak from the 2022 season and the young players in the 2nd XI starting to adjust nicely to competitive senior cricket. And whilst we're on that subject, a big congratulations to Martha Folkes, who became the first woman to play a senior league match for the club in over twenty years... and I'm pretty

As usual, a full list of fixtures for all teams can be found on our website, so please take a look and come and give us your support – or even get involved on the pitch. We welcome any individuals looking to get into cricket regardless of age, sex and ability... we would love to see you! We've even started a new softball team for 2023. Aimed at both men and women over fifty or those with reduced mobility through injury, illness or disability, this fun, shortened version of the game should give an opportunity to those that want to enjoy cricket, but are unable to play our other longer forms of the game.

So, if you're interested, then please get in touch. Alternatively, you're more than welcome to just turn up at one of our training sessions and join in. These have already started up at the Collingbourne Ducis Recreation Ground, with Thursday evenings at 6 pm for all hardball teams, and Friday evenings from 6 pm for our softball teams. We welcome any new players looking to have a game of cricket this season

Our Community Support Officers can be contacted on 101

and our range of teams should ensure there's a level suitable for anybody wishing to join in.

In other news, the club would like to thank the organisers of Collingbourne Beerfest for grant money that has helped pay for new kit for our Over 50s programme, as well as new first aid kits to serve all sections of the club. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

A little bad news now. Unfortunately, the club has had a number of issues with vandalism in recent months. Damage to our storage container, the covers, and to the score shed have resulted in the club having to make repairs that have so far exceeded £500. A not insignificant sum of money for a village cricket club. If anyone has any information as to who the culprits are, then please do let us know.

That's all for this month! If you want to get in touch with us, please feel free to email **info@collingbournecricketclub.co.uk** or visit our website **www.collingbournecricketclub.co.uk**. You can also keep up to date with all the latest happenings at the club by following us on Facebook.

COLLINGBOURNE BELLRINGERS

Helen Groves writes:

Did you hear us "Ring for the King"? As you will have no doubt heard on the news in the last few months nationally there are more church bells than there are bellringers and locally we are no different. In order to cover as many of the local towers as possible Mike, our Tower Captain, arranged for our team of ringers to ring at Everleigh, Collingbourne Ducis, Collingbourne Kingston, East Grafton and Shalbourne all on Saturday 6th May in the afternoon. In total we had twelve ringers representing seven different Churches to enable us to ring and chime the bells at these five Churches.

A special "shout out" should go to Jo from Aughton. Jo started learning to ring in December 2022 after seeing a call out for ringers to "Ring for the King". Jo has been really committed and achieved her goal by

"Ringing for the King" at Collingbourne Ducis, Collingbourne Kingston and chiming the bells at East Grafton. As a local team of bellringers we are all really proud of Jo.

You don't need to be super strong or super clever to learn to ring. It is more about rhythm and control than strength and unlike the cartoons of monks you may have come across, we don't swing from the ceiling!

Our local team of bellringers is made up of Mike, Gill and Jo from Aughton, myself from Collingbourne Kingston and Jenny from Collingbourne Ducis. We are augmented on a regular basis by Phil and June from Wootton Rivers, Ian from Shalbourne, Debbie from Tidworth and Amanda from Pewsey – without them we wouldn't have enough ringers to practise/ring for weddings etc. We have recently been joined by two new learners from Collingbourne Ducis: Sarah and Luke; and a new learner from Shalbourne, Angie.

We are a social, friendly bunch of people ranging in age from our twenties to our eighties. We often visit the pub after practice for a drink and a chat, go on outings to other towers and have an annual meal. If you would like to learn to ring or you just want to find out more, please get in touch with me. Helen Groves hgroves99@sky.com 07808 929436 or visit the website sdgr.org.uk

COLLINGBOURNE KINGSTON VILLAGE HALL QUIZ

Chris Patrick (07855 783975) writes:

The next Collingbourne Kingston Village Hall Quiz is on Thursday 15th June, at 7 pm. Teams of about four (we are quite flexible),



refreshments available at half time and finish at 9.30 pm. All welcome; teams, singles, etc.

COLLINGBOURNE KINGSTON WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Sandra Fisher (01264 850363) writes:

The May meeting was held on Thursday 9th May in Collingbourne Kingston Village Hall. In the



absence of the President the meeting was chaired by Karen Preece who reminded members about forthcoming events. She then discussed the Resolution for this year's AGM which is "Clean rivers for people and wildlife". The meeting was in favour and this result will be passed to our delegate. Karen then introduced Kady Chatman, the speaker for the evening. Kady is from the Saxon Group of Riding for the Disabled based in Bradford-on-Avon. It is one of 487 such groups of the national charity that uses horses to change the lives of people of all ages who are living with life limiting conditions; physical, mental and emotional. The Saxon Group have six wonderful horses which they use currently on Mondays only, the rest of the week they work in the riding stables where the charity is based and help to earn their keep. To illustrate her talk Kady showed the meeting slides of a few of the people who have been helped by their horses, not just by riding but also by learning to care for the animals. An interview with a young man, diagnosed with a terminal illness in his mid-teens was, like the rest of the stories, heartrending, but the change in him once he was riding and winning competitions was uplifting. He said he had learned to focus on the good and not the bad. Saxon is staffed by volunteers but like most charities, funding is always a problem. They raise money through such things as Having Tea with a Pony and Adopt a Pony. They recently bought a hoist, to help to get some of the riders onto the back of the horse when necessary, which cost £7,000. Kady is a wonderfully fluent speaker who is passionate about Riding for the Disabled, and she was warmly thanked.

After tea and cake the raffle was drawn. Next Meeting: Thursday 8th June at 7.30 pm.



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Speaker: Sarah Delves on 'The History of Handbags'.

Hostess: S Dale-Prince

Raffle Prize: L Nichols

Tea Hostesses: H Ball and S Fisher

Visitors are always welcomed to meetings on the second Thursday of the month at 7.30 pm in Collingbourne Kingston Village Hall, a donation of £4 is suggested.

COLLINGBOURNES AND EVERLEIGH GARDENING CLUB

Patti Marsh, Secretary, (01264 850319) writes:

Plant Sale: Thank you very much to all who came to the Plant Sale whether you were helping, buying or just socialising. It's a busy morning but always a pleasure for those of us taking part.



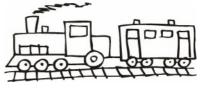
Visit to Hestercombe: Our coach trip to Hestercombe Garden on Thursday 29th June is the next event for the club. The coach will leave Pewsey at 8.45 am, Collingbourne Ducis at 9 am and depart from Hestercombe at 4 pm. The cost is £31 and if you would like to join us please give our chairman, Jane Crook, a ring on 01264 850436 and if there are still seats available you are welcome to join us.

We shall hold our annual Gardener's Lunch in July and evening meetings resume in September. In the meantime, happy gardening and if you would like any information about the club – or have a gardening problem – give either Jane or me a ring and if we can't help you we will find someone who can!

BURBAGE AND DISTRICT MODEL RAILWAY CLUB (BDMRC)

Sonny Hamid writes:

The month of May provides many opportunities to keep the Club busy throughout most of the month. Our first major task was to organise and set up a



stand at the Coronation celebrations in the Village Hall at the kind invitation of the organisers of the celebrations. We chose to display our current Project, the recreation of the Savernake High Level Station as it appeared in the mid-1960's. The setup involved preparing a display panel with photographs of some original railway structures that are still standing and a few old photos of the original railway layout. In addition to the photographs we also displayed some of our miniature recreations of the structures, including the signal box, bridge and station building as it was in the 1960s just prior to the line being axed by Dr Beeching. We are pleased to say that our display was well received and at times we had up to four separate visitor groups discussing the layout with our representatives. We even managed to recruit yet another Member to our Club!

At the formal session later in the month, we continued our construction work on the layout including putting finishing touches to the Durley Road Bridge while another team commenced installing the electrical wiring on to the underside of the layout. We are pleased to announce that our Club has been invited to set up a display at the forthcoming History Exhibition at Great Bedwyn. Hope to see you there.

The Club's display at the Burbage Coronation Celebrations event, which was of the North end of the layout, showed the bridge on the Durley Road and the ramp descending to the station.

Our next session will be Monday, 19th June commencing at 7 pm when we return to continue work on our large layout project. We can arrange

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availability of working layouts and demonstration of modelling techniques at local village fairs and other community gatherings. Organisers are invited to contact us regarding their requirements.

The Club welcomes new members and any donations and gifts of unwanted model railway items. So, if you would like to try your hand at this hobby or have some equipment you

are not using, please feel free to call Sonny on 01672 811 933.

LOCAL WALKS - OLD RAILWAY LINE

Kim Foster suggests a local walk to enjoy:

2.6 Miles - circular walk approx. 60 minutes

Start Point: St Marys Church, Collingbourne Kingston

Cross over the Brunton Road and walk along the footpath with the horses on your right and main road on your left. At the metal railings, turn right then immediately left into Cuckoo Pen Close.

At the end of the road, cross over and fork right passing Cornerway House on your left. Pass The Well House on your right and then turn right. Follow this lane to the end then turn left onto the old disused railway line (you need to climb through between two chains). This is a permissive footpath even though it does say no public right of way. The old railway line opens up into a wide grass verge with trees on both sides. This can take you all of the way to Burbage but, for this walk, follow the grass track for about half a mile or so until you come to a faded green and white sign on the right-hand side that says 'please keep to the footpath and keep dogs under close control'. Turn right here through the trees where the path soon opens up again.

Continue straight, following the bridleway with open fields on the right and a hedge on your left. Continue to the end. At the end of the hedge, turn right onto the byway (left takes you to East Grafton) and follow the byway up the hill. As you near the top of the hill, beware that cows may

be crossing from the dairy so please keep dogs on leads. If the red gates are closed across the byway, use the two pedestrian gates to cross. Carry on straight through the farm passing cottages on your right and follow the lane down into Brunton village. Continue on the lane all the way through Brunton and out the other side, down the hill, past the Village Hall and back to the Church where you started.

ULTIMATE FISH AND CHIPS

Simon Gilford writes:

We love fish and chips, but the whole deep-fat fryer faff is a real pain and, let's be honest, it makes the whole house smell for days and as we live in a thatched house, I'm always a bit wary. So, this recipe is really very easy, healthy and doesn't involve me burning myself! It also includes homemade tartare sauce and crushed peas (I've never been one for the mushy version) – yum.

INGREDIENTS (FOR 2 PEOPLE):

450g potatoes

1 small bunch of flat-leaf parsley

15g of capers (if you don't have any, I recommend buying some for the fish pie recipe I will do

another time)

2 pieces of cod (or any white fish)

10g unsalted butter

1 lemon

25g panko breadcrumbs

4 tbsp mayonnaise

1 garlic clove

120g peas

1tbsp vegetable oil (for the breadcrumbs)

8g plain flour

METHOD:

Preheat your oven to 220°C. Fill and boil your kettle. Pour a good glug of oil into a baking tray (to completely cover the bottom) and pop into your oven to heat. Chop the potatoes lengthways into 1cm slices, then chop into 1cm wide chips (no need to peel). Pour the boiling water into a large saucepan on high heat with 1/2 tsp salt. Add the potatoes to the boiling water and cook until the edges have softened when you poke them with a knife, 5-6 mins. Meanwhile, zest and halve the lemon. Finely chop the parsley (stalks and all) and put half in a medium bowl with the lemon zest, breadcrumbs and oil for the breadcrumbs. Season with salt and pepper, mix together then set aside. Once the potatoes are ready, drain them in a colander and pop them back into the pan. Season with salt and sprinkle on the flour. Give your pan a shake to fluff up the potatoes. Take your hot baking tray out of the oven, then carefully transfer your potatoes into it in a single layer, turning in the oil. Roast on the top shelf of your oven until golden, 25-30 mins. Turn halfway through.

While the chips cook, finely chop the capers. Pop into a small bowl with the remaining parsley and three-quarters of the mayo. Mix together, then season to taste with salt, pepper and lemon juice. Chop any remaining lemon into wedges.

Lay the fish (skinned or skinless, your choice) onto a baking tray lined with baking paper. Spread the remaining mayo over the top and sides of the fish. Spoon the breadcrumb mixture over the mayo, pressing it down with the spoon. Drizzle with oil, then set aside. When the chips are halfway through cooking, pop the fish on the middle shelf of the

oven to bake until golden, 10-15 mins. The fish is cooked when opaque in the middle. While everything cooks, peel and grate the garlic (or use a garlic press). You can add a few chopped mint leaves if you fancy. When 5 mins of cooking time remain, melt the butter in a large frying pan on medium-high heat. Add the garlic and peas, then stir-fry for 2-3 mins. Season with salt and pepper, then take off the heat. Gently crush the peas with the back of a fork, then stir through the mint (if you are using it) and a squeeze of lemon juice.

SERVING:

When everything is ready, serve up your fish and chips with the crushed peas alongside. Finish with a dollop of tartare sauce for dipping and lemon wedges for squeezing over. Serve and enjoy!

HOME-START

Dawn Wilson, Scheme Administrator writes:

Home-Start North Wiltshire is celebrating 35 years supporting local families. Home-Start UK is celebrating 50 years! Last year your local Home-Start supported 107 families across North Wiltshire. We are committed to promoting the welfare of families who have at least one child under the age of five.

We are an independent charity affiliated to Home-Start UK, the country's leading family support charity. Our volunteers are parents or grandparents with an interest in and experience of young children and family life. They are trained, supported and supervised to Home-Start UK standards.

Our aim is to provide early support to families who are facing the challenges and stresses of family life, including a wide range of difficulties such as isolation, low self-esteem, physical and mental health issues.



We work alongside parents in their homes to help raise their selfconfidence and their ability to cope in an increasingly pressured society. Our emphasis is on parents helping parents. We are desperately in need of volunteers to work with families in the Tidworth and Swindon areas although we do cover much of North Wiltshire. We also provide support via out Toddler Brunch Cafes for mums with toddlers or babies. Could you help a few hours a week? Volunteering is a great way back into work and looks good on your CV. We also have other opportunities supporting our fundraising and community events.

Please call or text **07864 652349** or

hello@homestartnorthwiltshire.org.uk

SAVERNAKE TEAM LETTER

Rev Michael McHugh. Savernake Team Rector, writes:

Artificial Intelligence!

His disciples said, 'Yes, now you are speaking plainly, not in any figure of speech! Now we know that you know all things, and do not need to have anyone question you; by this we believe that you came from God.' (John 16:29-30)

I was stunned the other day by one of the regulars on our Zoom daily prayer, who announced that she had managed to get a precis of her book from an app. Not only did the artificial intelligence manage it, but it did a good job. The A.I. seemed to know all things.

I then got thinking about the media world in which truth and intelligence are being defined by poorly grounded arguments. We are all acquainted with a definition of truth where who shouts longest and most persistently is right.

That aggrieved entitlement, the world of the eternal teenager, secure in knowledge, but lacking depth or breadth. It presents itself as a perverse sense of intelligence. It jumps to conclusions without weighing up fairly the route by which we reach those conclusions. If I don't like what you say you must be wrong. Cultural bullying! Trumpism!

Our world and our culture really needs wisdom. It does not matter which aspect of life we are talking about. That artificial intelligence that produced the precis is only as good as that which monitors and guides it.

Remember Solomon prayed for the gift of wisdom. God gave him riches and power because his first concern was how he should rule, not his own benefit.

May your future decisions be founded in wisdom, Michael

ST ANDREW'S CHURCH, COLLINGBOURNE DUCIS

Churchwarden Tish Leigh (01264 850867) writes: For the first time since 2019 our popular Starters and Pudding Fest will be held at Collingbourne Ducis Village Hall on Friday 9th June starting at 6 pm. Bring your favourite starter and/or a pudding to share



and taste everyone else's! As anyone who has come to this evening in previous years will tell you, this is a culinary feast of an evening – and all for just £6 for adults and £3 for children. There will also be a bar and a raffle. Profits will go to help fund the repair and restoration of the Church bells.

We are looking forward to the annual Church Fête on Saturday 2nd September. Our next meeting for the fête planning committee is on Tuesday 6th June at 7.30 pm in St. Andrew's Church. Please come along if you would like to be involved. We always need an army of helpers to get set up beforehand and to clear away after the fête. Help on stalls

would also be invaluable as would help with the Tri-Village Tournament. If you would like to help on the day, please get in touch with me. If you own a dog and would like to enter the dog show, organised by Becky Oldfield, just come along on the day. There will be classes such as: golden oldie; best puppy; prettiest bitch, most handsome male dog; the dog most like its owner. Entry for all events will be £2. More details of all stalls and events, will be detailed in the July/August Courier.

Finally, remember St Andrew's Church has its own Facebook page where you can keep up to date with events – and comment on them! The link is on our webpage or alternatively in Facebook just search for St. Andrews Church, Collingbourne Ducis.

Our LINK Coordinator's Number is CD 850807 Please try to give them at least 48 hours' notice to find a volunteer

ST ANDREW'S CHURCH, COLLINGBOURNE DUCIS

Services for June 2023

Sunday 4th Evensong at 6 pm

Sunday 11th Holy Communion at 9 am

Sunday 18th Family Service at 11 am

Sunday 25th Holy Communion at 11 am

ST Mary's Church, Collingbourne Kingston

Services for June 2023

Sunday 4th 11 am Morning Worship

Sunday 11th 11 am Holy Communion

Sunday 18th 9 am Holy Communion

Sunday 25th 6 pm Evensong

Cover picture: Avebury, photo taken on a HUAWEI P20 lite, android smartphone.







Useful Contacts

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|--|--|
| Report a Power Cut | ☎105 or 0800 072 72 82 |
| Collingbourne Ducis Parish Council | ■parishclerk@collingbourne-ducis.com |
| Collingbourne Kingston Parish Council | ■clerk@collingbournekingston.org.uk |
| Everleigh Parish Council | ■philip.gill101@ntlworld.com |
| Collingbourne Ducis Village Hall bookings | ☎07776 465177 |
| Collingbourne Kingston Village Hall bookings | 2 07714 740917 |
| Wiltshire County Councillor | ■christopher.williams@wiltshire.gov.ul |
| Member of Parliament | ■ danny.kruger.mp@parliament.uk |
| St Andrew's Church (CD)/St Mary's Church(CK) | 2 01672 550870 |
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