

# COLLIER STREET NEWS

FEBRUARY 2020



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# COLLIER STREET

## PAPER DELIVERY

There is a paper delivery service to the village at around 6am every morning. It is supplied by Jackie's News Limited based in Tenterden, they can be contacted on 01580 763183. Cost of delivery is £3.51 a week.

### **Rubbish, food waste and small electrical items**

3rd and 17th February 2020

### **Recycling, food waste and textiles**

10th and 24th February 2020

Please check [www.maidstone.gov.uk](http://www.maidstone.gov.uk) for more information.

## KENT MESSENGER VILLAGE COLUMN

Are you organising a local charity event or do you have any community news?

If you would like it to appear in the Kent Messenger for free, please contact:

Jenny Scott 01892 459041

Email: [jscott@callflow.uk](mailto:jscott@callflow.uk)

Deadline is 9.00 Monday morning

## **PCSO NICOLA MORRIS**

If you are worried about crime and antisocial behaviour in your area, I am the local Police Community Support Officer for **Collier Street, Laddingford and Yalding**.

If you would like to talk to me, please ring - **Mobile: 07870163411 / Non-emergency: 101**

There is a very successful Neighbourhood Watch Scheme in Collier Street involving 80 residents.

However there are many more households within the Parish who are currently not involved in the scheme. If you would like to be part of the NHW scheme and receive notifications of any suspicious activity or crime then please send your email address to Barbara Grandi at:  
[barbaragrandi@aol.com](mailto:barbaragrandi@aol.com)

## **EDITOR'S NOTE**

Happy 2020! Hope you all had a lovely Christmas.

We have analysed the results of the recent survey regarding the future of the magazine and you can see these on page 14. Thank you to everyone who responded.

The main photo on the front cover was taken by Barbara Grandi whilst walking in Yalding on a frosty morning.

## **DATES FOR CHRISTIAN CALENDAR**

**Shrove Tuesday**—25th February    **Ash Wednesday**—26th February

**Lent** - Wednesday 26th February to Thursday 9th April



### **WE NEED YOUR HELP**

We would love to hear from you with information, ideas or anything you may feel relevant to the magazine and our village.

Maybe a photo taken in the village, or something you would like to share, or write us a letter. Or please send us a picture of your pet for 'cute pet of the month'.

Without your contributions there would not be a magazine, so please send to  
[editorparishmag@mail.com](mailto:editorparishmag@mail.com)

### **FLY TIPPING AND POTHOLES**

Did you know that anyone can report pot holes or fly tipping in the village.

Please go to the Maidstone Borough Council website and click on the "Report It" tab.



### **CUTE PETS OF THE MONTH—**

**PLEASE SEND A PHOTO OF YOUR  
CUTE PET:**

**[editorparishmag@mail.com](mailto:editorparishmag@mail.com)**

### **WHEELCHAIR AVAILABLE**

**FOR BORROWING ON SHORT-TERM BASIS**

**FOLDS FLAT**

**NOT SELF-PROPELLING**

**PHONE SUE 01892 730393**

**(picture not actual chair)**



### **LOCAL BABYSITTERS**

- Lucy Anderson 730244 - Weekdays and weekends
- Rosie Ridd 730816 - During term time Friday and Saturday evenings only
- Edward Simmonds 730306 - Any time in Holidays, own transport
- Victoria Simmonds 730306 - Anytime , own transport
- Nancy Murdoch 730433 - Anytime
- Jonny Bentley - 730252
- Georgie Barham - 730247





## CHURCH INFORMATION

### FEBRUARY 2020

#### CHURCH ROTA FOR FEBRUARY 2020

##### Tea & Coffee :

2nd and 9th February—Mrs Ashworth  
16th and 23rd February— Mrs Head

##### Brass Cleaning and Altar Flowers

Mrs Guillum-Scott

#### **St. Peter & St. Paul, Yalding**

with Junior Church on the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Sundays

Wednesday's	10.00am	Said Communion
1st, 2nd, 3rd Sunday	09.30am	Holy Communion
4th Sunday	09.30am	Breakfast
	10.00am	All Age Worship
5th Sunday	09.30am	Family Communion

#### **St. Margaret's, Collier Street**

Every Sunday	11.00am	Holy Communion
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#### **St. Mary's, Laddingford**

2nd Sunday	09.00am	Morning Worship
4th Sunday	09.00am	Morning Communion

## CHURCH CONTACTS

<b>Churchwardens</b>	Rachel West	01622 872278	<a href="mailto:rachel.west@ymail.com">rachel.west@ymail.com</a>
	Joanna Doctor	01892 730489	<a href="mailto:josoar@aol.com">josoar@aol.com</a>
<b>Parish Secretary</b>	Sue Crompton	01622 814182	<a href="mailto:office@yaldingchurches.co.uk">office@yaldingchurches.co.uk</a>
<b>PCC Secretary</b>	Vicky George		<a href="mailto:brivick@aol.com">brivick@aol.com</a>
<b>Safe Guarding</b>	Sue Crompton	01622 814182	<a href="mailto:office@yaldingchurches.co.uk">office@yaldingchurches.co.uk</a>

## Father Paul's Words

**"Build cities for your families and pens for your flocks, but do what you have promised."**  
**(Numbers 32:24)**

"So, vicar," said my companion, "Now that the Season of Goodwill is over, we enter the Season of Empty Promises!"

He was not, of course, suggesting that you can't trust anyone in the New Year, but referring to all those promises to eat less, exercise more, drink less, work harder, spend less, save more, learn a language, take up a musical instrument, or any of the virtuous intentions that have long since disappeared up January's chimney. Promises born of regret after maudlin introspection or hearty over-indulgence are unlikely to be the stuff of lasting commitment. And so it often proves.

A more considered long-term plan is perhaps more appropriate if we want to achieve any sort of lasting effect, and with Lent on the horizon, beginning with Ash Wednesday on the 26<sup>th</sup> of February, the opportunity is within our grasp to make a rather better fist of things. Lent is the period of discipline, prayer, and self-denial in which Christians recall the time of preparation that Jesus spent in the wilderness at the start of his ministry (see Matthew, chapter 4) and it offers us a chance to make a rather more serious commitment to a changed and improved life rather than simply to a flatter stomach, a commitment to a wider society rather than to a narrower waist. It's not just about struggling with chocolate.

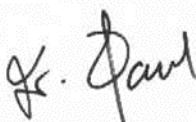
This year, we have decided to follow a theme of "Stewardship" in our Lenten readings, sermons, and study groups, in order to reflect not just a contemporary concern with consumption and climate, but to consider how we make use of all the gifts that we enjoy. We aim to see ourselves as stewards of the world in which we live, charged with the task of caring for it in our own generation, reflecting on how we use what we have, and asking how our decisions affect others and build up our communities in Village, Church, and Family.

Across five weeks, we shall be thinking about how we care for the environment where we live, the animals we share it with, how we make best use of our time, nurturing and sustaining our relationships, and finally the causes we support through how we spend our money. If you play any part in our churches or in our villages, we hope you will also join us in this reflection, whether inside or outside of the church walls, and ultimately arrive at a deeper and more lasting resolution.

Inspired by the preaching of the prophet Jeremiah (29:7), the idea is that our individual welfare is best served by investing in the health and prosperity of the peoples and places of which we are a part rather than simply promoting self-interest at the expense of the neighbours; that in giving more of ourselves, our gifts, and our time, we all benefit together in our shared life instead of grumbling about the things we cannot own.

Now that the so-called season of empty promises is also past, perhaps we can all make some real promises that are both practical and spiritual, generous and rewarding, life-giving and lifelong.

**"He remembers his covenant forever, the promise he made for a thousand generations."**  
**(1 Chronicles 16:15)**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fr. Paul". The signature is fluid and cursive, with "Fr." on the first line and "Paul" on the second line.



# SCHOOL REPORT December 2019

## Whole School Eco Curriculum Challenge!



Over the last year or so our school has had a keener focus on environmental issues; whether that is developing the wildlife area of the field, the launch of Eco Club and encouraging a wide range of recycling, being aware of seasons with Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter walks, discussing environmental issues in the classroom or thinking about the environment in our curriculum. To bring the whole school together thinking about the environment we set a whole school Christmas themed Eco Challenge ...



The children were asked to create a winter themed piece of art work made from recycled materials. It could be anything from 3d junk modelling to a textured painting or collage. The only rule was that it was made using recyclable materials and it was winter themed.



The results were so impressive that the creations were displayed in the hall and families were invited in to see them after school. It was clear that many families had worked together to meet the challenge. The children certainly enjoyed making them and were very proud to share and celebrate their creations. As you can see they used a wide range of recyclable materials and as well as lot of imagination! Hopefully they will be treasured Christmas decorations for years to come.



Wishing you all a very happy and peaceful festive season from the staff and children at St. Margaret's Collier Street CoE Primary School.





## SCHOOL REPORT February 2020

In Pippin and Russet Classes, we have eagerly started our first Science topic for the New Year which is Seasonal Change and Wild Weather. The topic of Weather is making headlines across the world due to the Earth's global temperature warming, meaning that weather patterns and ecosystems are changing more quickly than animal species and human communities can adapt. The effects of the weather are being felt globally especially with the catastrophic fires in Australia, which have been caused by record temperatures and widespread drought. In our own locality, the impact of heavy rain over several days just before Christmas resulted in the River Medway bursting its banks between Maidstone and Yalding. This is a topic our pupils are really excited to learn about and over the term they will be finding out about the changing seasons, seasonal weather changes, daily weather and how the seasons are different around the world.



Our first lesson was an instant hit as we explored how weather forecasters tell us what weather to expect. We then listed typical words and phrases used in weather reports and wrote our own forecasts about the day's weather and recorded them on ipads using weather symbols.

Hello everyone, today's weather report comes from St. Margaret's, Collier Street in Kent in the South East of England. As you can see, the weather today has a gentle breeze, outbreaks of rain and sunny spells. This morning the weather was dry with clear skies and some frost. The sun will be shining in the afternoon with some swishing breezes. After school the weather should be dry and cloudy with a sparkle of frost in the evening. If you are in the playground today, don't forget to put on your gloves and coat. Thank you for listening and now back to the studio.

Teddy (Year 2)

Good afternoon, today's weather forecast comes from St. Margarets, Collier Street in Kent. The weather today is quite sunny with a slow moving breeze and it's quite mild for this time of the year. This morning the weather was very cold with some frost and fog in places. The wind is quite slow moving and will soon be joined by rain coming across from Wales. The sun is not shining in any of the countries across the world except Australia where it's reaching temperatures of 45c! After school the weather should be sunny with the fog moving away leaving clear skies. If you are in the playground today, don't forget to put on a extra jumper, gloves, hat and wellies! Thank you for listening and now back to your school work. Goodbye.

Lyla (Year 2)



What's next? We will look at weather in the playground, at the rain falling and what it sounds like. Make a rainfall gauge and record the results. Explore and find out if there is a link between wind direction and rainfall. Investigate how the wind changes direction during the day and making a wind-sock to measure the direction of the wind in the playground. Finally having fun with shadows by making them jump, chase each other and play shadow tag.



## Woodpeckers- A New Year

The Woodpeckers Church Yard tidying volunteer group will meet for the first session of 2020 at St Margaret's Church on Saturday Feb 1st. There will be quite a lot of general tidying up to do after the recent winds and rain, then decisions will be made about specific projects coming up in 2020.

Last year the Woodpeckers worked hard together to remove many of the ivy covered tree stumps around the graveyard, grass seed was scattered over the bare patches and we hope the new grass will grow well as the Spring months go by. Many hours have been spent removing ivy from the listed wall around

the graveyard in an effort to prevent the ivy from pulling the wall apart. A timber bench was donated by Chris Dicker and this was positioned adjacent to the front wall of the church near the existing one, the Woodpeckers make good use of the bench during their tea breaks during the Saturday volunteer sessions and we expect many more visitors to the church will find the bench useful too. Trees, shrubs and bushes are regularly pruned and trimmed back to make the mowing easier and keep the graveyards tidy. The memorial rosebed is nurtured, flower beds weeded and pathways kept clear.

We welcomed some new members to the Woodpeckers in 2019 and it would be lovely to swell our ranks even more during 2020, many hands really do make light work and we achieve so much without having to do a lot of 'hard labour'. It's a very sociable group and we always manage to have a chat and a laugh while we are there so if you enjoy a couple of hours of fresh air and some very basic gardening please come along.

All helpers are welcome and you don't have to attend the church to join in, the group meets on the first Saturday of each month at 10am and finish by 12 midday and there is always a tea break with the chance to try Pam's lovely home made cakes.

It is a good idea to bring your own gardening tools but there are usually some spare ones you can use if you don't have any.

### The Woodpeckers dates for the 2020 churchyard tidying sessions are:

February 1<sup>st</sup> (if the weather is OK)

March 7<sup>th</sup>

April 4<sup>th</sup>

May 2<sup>nd</sup>

June 6<sup>th</sup>

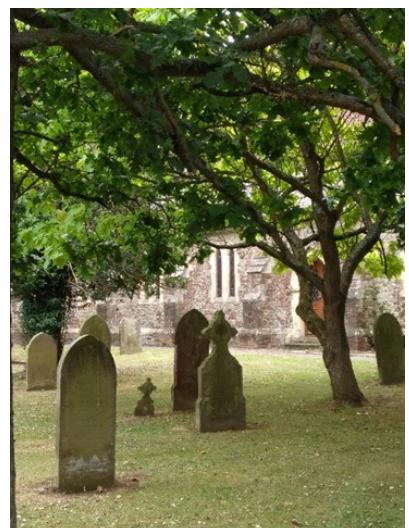
July 4<sup>th</sup>

August 1<sup>st</sup>

September 5<sup>th</sup>

October 3<sup>rd</sup>

November 7<sup>th</sup>



**YALDING POST OFFICE - MOST LOVED POST OFFICE IN KENT 2016 /17/18/19/20**

**OUR PRODUCTS, LOCALLY SOURCED, LOCALLY SOLD**

**FEBRUARY 2020**

**Happy New Year** from June and I here at the Post Office. Many thanks for all the Christmas cards and gifts... we feel most appreciated...thank you.

**Barclays Bank.** The threat from Barclays Bank to not allow cash withdrawals from Post Office branches has been withdrawn. Well done to all those who made their displeasure felt to Barclays.

**Post Office court case.** Some of you will be aware of a recent court case where Post Office Ltd (POL) was found to have acted unlawfully against many of its own Sub Postmasters where some were jailed, and or, lost their entire livelihoods because of a faulty computer system that they (POL) were fully aware of, yet were happy to prosecute innocent people of theft and false accounting. POL have agreed to pay out nearly £60m in compensation to a group of Postmasters and probably much more later to those actually found guilty of theft. Additional to the over £20m spent so far in court costs. Hopefully POL will have learnt its lesson and will now treat its Postmasters with due respect. The saddest aspect of the whole matter is that every penny paid out is taxpayers' money....our money. A rogue management system allowed to be totally unaccountable to either the Government (POL's owner), its workforce and the wider public.

New stamps sets this month are the **Video Gaming** collections. Other Philately products in stock or can be ordered on request. We keep Euros and US Dollars in stock. We can order any world currency for next day collection - please order before 1.00pm. Payment can be made by cash or card, but we will need to see your Passport or Driving Licence if you pay by card.

**Another useful money idea for your holiday / business abroad is the Post Office Travel Money Card. (TMC)** Order the card from us....fill it with up to 12 of the popular currencies at a special offer exchange rate...and off you go. You can replenish the money on it with smart phone technology too from the comfort of your holiday location. We have been issued with the new multi-currency TMCs and can issue them from our branch on demand.

All kinds of Post Office savings, insurance and investments, telephone and Broadband services available. Post Office Classic Travel Insurance arranged at the counter.

Your Post Office offers free cash withdrawals with most debit cards, pay bills, top up gas and electricity cards and keys, pay in cheques and cash to most banks using your debit card. We do Health Lottery, phone Top-Ups, Fishing licences and Moneygram. And, of course...we sell stamps and send parcels and letters all over the world.

**The Post Office Gift Card is an ideal gift for that person hard to buy for....These can be used at pretty much every major retailer in the UK. See us for details.**

Our opening hours are 0900 - 1300...1400 – 1730.

Early closing on Wednesdays and Saturdays (12.30pm Saturdays)

Many thanks for your wonderful support for Kent's Most Loved Post Office.... Telephone...01622 814327

Look us up on our Facebook page and website. [www.yaldingpostoffice.weebly.co.uk](http://www.yaldingpostoffice.weebly.co.uk)

## **Report on Flood of December 2019.**

The flood that occurred prior to Christmas was a little different to the ones in 2000 and 2013/14.

The problem this time was the large amount of rain that had fallen in the previous weeks had led to high water table levels and flooded ground and run off from the fields. Two properties were flooded in the parish mainly due to run off issues from either the road and or adjacent fields.

The river did come out of bank as well which led to problems in Green Lane and Haviker Street.

For the first time the parish implemented the road closure procedures which did work to some extent but needs more refining to be more effective. Driver awareness of driving through flood water is the biggest challenge faced by residents when 4x4 and large lorries drive through the water at high speed.

There have been reports that some of the barriers installed as part of the Property Level Protection scheme did not function to perhaps the required standard. These are being looked into by the EA and we are awaiting the report. If you had or have any issues on the barriers you may have had installed please contact the EA direct.

The Parish Council would like to thank all the flood wardens and other residents who helped during the few days we were under flood water. Those who put out the road closed signs or tried to slow down traffic and helped with other tasks your time was much appreciated. Thanks to all those who have sent in pictures which are most helpful when working with the agencies to prove the facts.

The Parish Council will be looking at all the issues related to the flood event and will look to improve things going forward. If you have any comments please do get in touch with ideas or thoughts how things might improve.

Perhaps the issue that needs the most amount of thought is how best to communicate information prior and during a flood. There are lots of ways this could be done but we need the most effective and quickest way to do this task.

There are also thanks to the EA and MBC for the sandbags and the communication which helped us to mainly stay unaffected and keep people informed either by the flood wardens or the neighbourhood email communication network.

By the time you read this there will have been a full debrief with the agencies including Collier Street and Yalding Parish Council. The lessons learnt and ways to improve will be discussed and there will be an update in the magazine next month.

It may well be that we perhaps got away without more properties flooding this time as the rain relented but it just goes to show that we all need to be ready and prepared as extreme weather conditions are affecting communities across the world more frequently.

As Chair of the Parish Council I would like to thank you all for your efforts during the flooding before Christmas. The Council will continue to find solutions and work with the agencies to help keep everyone protected. It is important that if you can help or have views please get in touch.

Thank you and stay safe. David Goff Chairman CSPC.

Enjoy a day out at Kenward Place...



## Boot Fairs

Kenward Place will be hosting Boot Fairs on the first Sunday a month, every month throughout 2020!



**March 1st  
April 5th  
11am - 3pm**

## Crafty Coffee Break

February 11th  
10:30am - 12pm



Make your loved ones Valentines Day with a handmade card! **Spaces cost £15** including a hot drink and cake!

To find out more information about these events, or to book your tickets visit our website [kenwardplace.co.uk](http://kenwardplace.co.uk), give us a ring on 01622 814187 or email [reception@kenwardtrust.org.uk](mailto:reception@kenwardtrust.org.uk)

Registered charity no. 1146481. Registered in England no. 7931728



**Air Ambulance  
Kent Surrey Sussex**

# Keep us flying high



Would you like to know more about Air Ambulance Kent Surrey Sussex or maybe even get involved?

- Learn about how the charity works, innovates and saves lives with one of our informative talks. Book one of our volunteer speakers to visit your group for free and find out more about our life saving work.
- Volunteer for one or more of our varied roles and help us go above and beyond.

If you would like to find out more please get in touch - we would love to hear from you.



[aakss.org.uk](http://aakss.org.uk)



[hello@aakss.org.uk](mailto:hello@aakss.org.uk)



01634 471 900

## ANNUAL VILLAGE

### CLEAN-UP

Spring is just around the corner so it is time for the annual village litter pick.

Please save the date—

Saturday 14th March

Phone Margaret Ashworth

for more information

and to volunteer

01892 730323



# Making it easier to get in touch

In an **EMERGENCY** only call



when life is in  
immediate danger  
or when a  
crime is in progress

## 101 ONLINE

The easy way to report crime

- Report a crime, incident or non-injury collision in minutes
- Receive your confirmation email and reference number immediately

Front counters



You can report issues to one our front counters.

To find your nearest one visit our website.

[www.kent.police.uk/contact](http://www.kent.police.uk/contact)

Crimestoppers

Call  
**0800 555 111**  
100% anonymous, free, 24/7



- They are not the police
- Nobody will know you have helped us
- They pay cash rewards of up to £1,000

[www.crimestoppers-uk.org](http://www.crimestoppers-uk.org)

Hate crime reporting hubs

Visit one of our reporting hub drop-in surgeries based in Medway.

You don't need an appointment (in most cases) and will be given advice and support by a trained team member.



[www.kent.police.uk/hatecrime](http://www.kent.police.uk/hatecrime)

## ActionFraud

Report Fraud & Internet Crime



**Report 24/7**  
[actionfraud.police.uk](http://actionfraud.police.uk)

**0300 123 2040**  
Mon-Fri 8am-8pm  
Sat & Sun 9am-5pm

Ask the Police

No need to phone.  
Get an instant answer online.



[www.askthe.police.uk](http://www.askthe.police.uk)

True Vision



Visit the True Vision website to find out more about hate crime, what to do if you are a victim and to make a report online.

[www.report-it.org.uk/home](http://www.report-it.org.uk/home)

Country Eye – rural crime app



Snap a photo of the suspicious behaviour, Incident or concern.



Receive updates and alerts on the incident you submit.



Tell us where you are or use your phone's built in GPS location.

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

Nuisance and environmental issues

Contact your local council for:

Noise complaints

Abandoned vehicles

Fly tipping

[www.gov.uk/find-your-local-council](http://www.gov.uk/find-your-local-council)

## 101

Call **101** to report crime and other concerns that do not require an emergency response

For example:

- property damaged
- suspect drug use or dealing or:
- give information about crime
- have a general enquiry



Contact the Police and Crime Commissioner Matthew Scott

- Write to OPCC, Kent Police HQ, Sutton Road, Maidstone, ME15 9BX
- Call on 01622 677055
- Email [contactyourpcc@pcc.kent.police.uk](mailto:contactyourpcc@pcc.kent.police.uk)
- Twitter @PCCKENT
- Visit the website [www.kent-pcc.gov.uk](http://www.kent-pcc.gov.uk)





## Collier Street What's App Group



The Parish Council corresponds with you, the parishioners, with information usually through the Collier Street News. For urgent and important news or requests for same back to the Council, this is usually carried out by email.

The Councillors have recognised that emails are not always seen immediately or if correspondence is requested back, especially with photographs, then emails are not always the easiest for speed or navigation.

Therefore, a What's App group has been set up to communicate matters of urgency such as flood information, crime or other incidents or beneficial information. If the Councillors request photographs, these can be easily uploaded on this medium, which will aid them and/or Police if necessary for matters that may concern them.

If you would like to be part of this group, please send an SMS / iMessage to Cllr Deborah Papas on 07960 754641 stating "Sign up for CSWA Group" and Deborah will add you to the group.

The Parish Council hope many of the parishioners will join the group to help strengthen the communications amongst all on this modern and versatile App.

### Privacy Statement

Collier Street Parish Council take your privacy very seriously. All group members will have their What's App name and telephone number visible on the information pane which can be viewed by all group members. If you choose to leave your What's App name blank in your settings, then only your number will show. The Parish Council will not share your details with any third parties and will only be used for the purpose of communication within the What's App group. You may leave the group at any time.

### Terms and Conditions

By signing up to the group, you accept these conditions and also understand that the messages are only for urgent and important details only and not for general chit-chat. You also are in agreement to receiving information considered to be of benefit to the group such as community safety and highways bulletins. The Parish Council will not tolerate any rude or inappropriate messages, photographs or videos and reserve the right to remove such material and also the participant from the group.

## COLLIER STREET NEWS SURVEY RESULTS

Thank you to everyone who responded to the survey held at the end of last year. The results are as follows:

51 responses were received – 16% of those surveyed (every property in Collier Street)

**Do you read the magazine? – 96% Yes**

**Do you find it a valuable asset? – 96% Yes**

**Would you like it to continue? – 96% Yes**

**Would you be happy to receive it electronically? – 23% Yes**

**Would you be happy to pay an annual contribution? – 84% Yes**

**Would you be happy to pay a one-off sponsorship? – 27% Yes**

**Would you be happy to receive it bi-monthly? – 49% Yes**

One person said they would be happy not to receive the magazine and one person said they do not read it.

We will discuss these results soon and make decisions about the future of the magazine.

# Collier Street Pop-In Get Together 2020

## St Margaret's Church

Margaret, Barbara, Maureen and Lorna invite you to come along and enjoy: home-made cakes and savouries, friendly company and a raffle.

2 - 4pm Wednesdays:

Feb 12	May 13	Sep 09
Mar 11 Dementia UK	June 10	Oct 14
Apr 08	July 08	Nov 11
	Aug 12	Dec 09

There is a very modest charge for a 'bottomless' hot drink for £1 and an additional £1 for a very generous slice of home baked cake and all profits go to good causes. In 2019 we donated the following: £310 to Dementia UK (thanks to extra promotion by Sheila); £100 to Dandelion Time; £100 to School Gambia; £40 to Hillside Animal Sanctuary; £50 to the 2019 Poppy Appeal; £40 to The Air Ambulance.

Please come along in 2020, all ages welcome.

March 11<sup>th</sup> donations will go to Dementia UK.

# Jacqui Bakes

## Date & Pear Traybake

Delicious with a cuppa on a chilly afternoon.

### Ingredients

225g butter  
3 pears  
200g medjool dates, stoned & chopped  
4 eggs, lightly beaten  
2 tsp vanilla paste  
110g sr flour  
2 tsp ground cinnamon  
1 tbsp baking powder  
120g ground almonds  
150g pecans, toasted  
375g soft cheese  
3 tbsp date nectar or maple syrup

### Method

Preheat oven to 180, grease a 20cm square cake tin.

Peel & core the pears, place half in a food processor with butter & dates, whizz until smooth.

Add the eggs, vanilla, flour, cinnamon, baking powder & ground almonds, pulse until mixture comes together.

Grate the remaining pears & 100g pecans, chopped, mix into batter.

Spoon batter into prepared tin & bake for 55 mins. Leave to cool completely.

Beat together cream cheese & date nectar/maple syrup. Spread over cooled cake, scatter remaining pecans & drizzle with extra nectar/syrup.

ENJOY!



## Collier Street Rambling: 'Spectacular snowdrops'

We all look forward to the coming of Spring but the winter months can bring great beauty despite the gloom. February is a fantastic month for Snowdrops, they are the first signs of life in the garden after the winter months and they carry on flowering until March. With their dazzling white petals and lovely green leaves snowdrops are pretty in the garden but they are spectacular in a woodland setting, in pastures and in orchards.

There are many beautiful species of snowdrops and the common ones are hardy and fairly easy to grow. A common species that spreads quickly is *Galanthus nivalis*, *Galanthus* means 'milk flower'; they like to grow in partial shade in well drained but moist ground where they will really flourish if you add some leaf mould or compost because they must not dry out in the summer months. They do particularly well under trees or amongst shrubs and are not at all 'happy' in pots or containers.

If you have bought clumps of snowdrops plant them about 6 inches apart and the soil level should be where the stalk changes from white to green, in holes about 4 inches deep; they will soon fill the gaps between the clumps. In my garden I just lift them in clumps when they have finished flowering and their leaves have gone yellow and I plant them elsewhere to spread them through the flower bed.



These little plants are extremely hardy surviving the frosts and snow really well. However they are poisonous to people, dogs, and cats because the bulbs, stems and leaves contain phenanthridine alkaloids, the bulbs have the highest concentration of the toxin. If eaten they can cause symptoms of poisoning such as stomach pains, sickness, a drop in blood pressure and heart rate or seizures. It's best to wear gloves when handling them and don't let pets or children eat them; some people can develop a skin irritation from handling them without protection.

Snowdrops are native to Europe and the Middle East and, although they have been considered a British wild

flower, they may have been brought to the British Isles by the Romans but could also have been introduced from Europe around the early sixteenth century.

They are a popular subject for art and literature: Walter de la Mare wrote a poem called *The Snowdrop*, and Hans Christian Anderson wrote a short story about them, while Tchaikovsky wrote a piano piece about April subnamed snowdrop (as Spring occurs later in Russia). "Snowdrops" was the nickname that the British gave during the Second World War to the US military police stationed in the UK because they wore a white helmet, gloves, and gaiters. Bees love them because they are a source of nectar at a time of year when it's scarce. If you are planning to buy some snowdrops for your garden they should be purchased and planted between February and March but do be careful because there is a folklore that says you should not take a single snowdrop indoors because it will bring bad luck and this is why it has been known as the 'death flower'!

**NOTES****COLLIER STREET PARISH COUNCIL**

Monday 13th January 2020 Orchard Room,, St Margaret's School, Collier Street

In attendance Cllr Simon Hill [Vice Chair]; Cllr Deborah Papas; Cllr Andrew Papas; Cllr Dave Sealey; Clerk Alan Crocker.

Apologies      Cllr David Goff [Chair]; Cllr Steve Barham; Cllr Steve Sandys.

Declarations of Interest None declared

01.20.03

**PLANNING Lead Cllr Dave Sealey**

The Councillors discussed the 13 planning applications and agreed their comments. These can be viewed on the planning portal on the MBC website.

**POLICE REPORT**

PCSO Nicola Morris has notified the Parish Clerk that there have been no crimes to report in the parish since the last meeting.

**Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The meeting unanimously agreed that the minutes represented an accurate recording of the said meeting. Cllr Simon Hill in the chair signed the appropriate minutes.

**Questions from members of the Public.      Public adjournment.**

To suspend meeting for any public statements for up to 15 minutes in total. Individual items should not be longer than 5 minutes. Members of the public are encouraged to attend Council meetings and raise any pertinent issues at this point.

No members of the public attended.

**Correspondence and Action Points****Defibrillator Costings for discussion – Watertight donation**

The Clerk briefed the meeting on the costs for the installation of a defibrillator in the parish. The package will include training for up to 50 residents. These costs will be supplemented by a grant from London Hearts, the potential supplier, together with grants from the Maidstone Borough Councillors Members Grant allocation and a contribution from Watertight. We need to discuss a location as the recommendation from London Hearts is that the unlocked cabinet should be heated. The heating costs should run at no more than £8.00 per annum. The initial suggestion was that it located on a wall at the school. We will take this suggestion forward.

**Proposed VE Day Celebrations      Lead Cllr Deborah Papas**

Cllr Deborah Papas has spoken with the organisers of the upcoming 'Collier Street Picnic' and they felt that combining the two functions in May was perhaps not the best time for a picnic. Cllr D Papas is therefore to make enquiries with the British Legion to supply silhouettes for display in the parish [site to be decided] a wreath laid, followed by perhaps tea and a finger buffet for those who would like to attend. Cllr Papas will feedback to the next meeting.

**Collier Street named as a Strategically Important Play Area. Grants for improvements.**

The Clerk was tasked with obtaining estimates for new play equipment up to the value of £10,000.00 in order that the parish could obtain a grant. A negotiable contribution would have to be made by the parish council.

**COMMUNICATION WITH PARISHIONERS Lead Cllr Deborah Papas****Setting Up - What's App group.**

After discussion it was agreed that Cllr Deborah Papas would prepare the draft of an article to appear in the next Village News with the objective of setting up a 'What's App' in order that important information could be quickly cascaded to residents focusing on flooding and community safety issues along with important updates on the actions of the PC and a constructive two way communication between the parish council and our residents.

**Litter Picking**

Our insurers have approved the requested risk assessment for this task. **Cllr Andrew Papas** has agreed to take the matter forward and will liaise with the group. It is absolutely essential that group is briefed on the contents of the assessment and the equipment necessary is used/worn. Also the terms and limitation of cover provided by the parish council's insurers. We have been offered the loan of the necessary equipment from another parish. The Clerk will coordinate the loan of the equipment when needed.

## **Longend Lane**

The meeting considered a letter from a resident of Longend Lane concerning the amount of traffic using this narrow Lane. The meeting agreed to obtain quotations for a traffic survey to be carried out in order to identify the number and type of vehicles using the Lane and the speed of the vehicles. This would be required to support any action that we ask of KCC Highways.

## **Recreation Field Report**

We have covered the possible grant under. We now need to meet the deadline for application.

The parish council will consider the planting of trees alongside of the field, in liaison with Maidstone Lions.

## **Highways Lead Cllr David Goff**

New Church and Village Car Park signs have been installed by KCC following our regular meetings with the KCC Highways liaison officer.

New roundels [speed limit signs painted on the road] are currently being installed.

DG is endeavouring to arrange a meeting with KCC with reference to the issues of overhanging hedges, bollards and white lines. KCC's current focus being on pot hole issues.

DG met with KCC and the site manager of Dandara who is overseeing the Dandara road schemes with the objective of making them both aware of the concerns over the junction with a view to improvement and upgrade.

Following the flooding MBC carried out roadside sweeping on Haviker Street, part of Green Lane and part of the B2162.

## **CCTV**

Cllr Deborah Papas was tasked with liaising with the school to obtain the necessary media access control number, and with Cllr Hill's IT consultant to enable the parish council to use the full search facilities in identifying offending HGV's and being able to track their usage by a number plate search.

## **FLOOD REPORT      Lead Cllr David Goff**

The Flooding in the parish was different from the previous experiences in 2000 and 2013/14.

The main reason being the rain in previous weeks causing high water tables and run off from fields into ditches that have not been cleared for years.

Two properties were flooded in the parish before the Lesser Teise burst its banks on Friday 20th December.

One property in Claygate was flooded due to a pond in the property overtopping and the owner trying to pump out the water onto already sodden fields and over filled ditches. The MBC team visited this site on Thursday 19th and provided support and sandbags to the owners. The other property in Claygate was flooded due to water run-off from the road and possible blocked drains.

This flood is being investigated by both the IDB and KCC.

There are a number of questions that need to be asked about why this property flooded and has not been affected in previous floods. It appears no other properties were actually affected but came very close. A number of properties had water in gardens, sheds and garages.

The EA are investigating a number of properties in the catchment where it is requested that the flood barriers that had been installed did not totally protect their properties. The EA debrief is scheduled for the 28th January 2020.

## **SANDBAGS**

Over 600 sandbags were delivered to the Recreation Ground and all were taken. Plastic sheeting was also supplied.

We extend our thanks to the EA for this service.

## **FLOOD WARDENS**

A huge thank you to all the wardens who helped out either on the ground or by working with residents in supporting them.

There is a need for more wardens going forward.

## **ROAD CLOSURES**

The parish council undertook its power to close roads in the village.

Green Lane, Sheephurst Lane, Haviker Street and Longend Lane were closed on Friday 20th December for some 24 hours. Despite efforts of wardens and residents to stop drivers using the flooded roads many drivers continued to drive down the roads.

Only one vehicle had to be rescued but given that the roads were closed in the rush hour it was surprising there were not more problems.

The subject of road closures will be discussed at the full debrief meeting to see if lessons can be learned and things improved.

Thank you to those who helped put out the signs and in some cases were subject to abuse from motorists.

## **GENERAL ISSUES**

Need a full debrief with the EA, MBC, KCC and Kent Police and Fire and Rescue.

No flood alerts were issued on the Lesser Teise and Friday 20th December. This issue will be taken up by the EA.

A new system of communication during flood was set up by the EA. Medway Conference Operational Framework. This telecom conference call took place between, EA, Yalding and Collier Street Parish Councils, KCC, Kent Fire and Rescue, MBC on 5 occasions during the event. DG was involved on 4 of those occasions. Missed one as he was sorting out sandbags. The principle was excellent but improvements need to be made to the plan. It was a shame that the plan had not been discussed prior to the first call. The ability to get all the agencies speaking in one place and sharing and updating information was a good improvement.

## **ACTION**

As a parish we need to complete our Parish Flood Plan. DG will discuss with flood wardens.

## **NEXT MEETINGS**

Collier Street Flood Group

Scheduled for 20th January 2020.

Multi-Agency Meeting scheduled for March 9th 2020

## **NATIONAL FLOOD FORUM**

Cllr Goff has now been appointed as a trustee and will take up his post on the 29th January 2020.

The full council wished to express their sincere thanks to Cllr Goff for all his efforts, giving of his own free time, and working tirelessly for the good of others.

## **FINANCE**

### **Accounts Reconciliation**

The meeting approved the reconciliation reports for the months of November & December 2019.

The meeting approved the reconciliation reports and they were signed by Cllr Dave Sealey.

The meeting approved the budget report

### **Discuss and agree the setting of the precept for 2020/2021.**

The meeting discussed and by a majority vote agreed the precept for the upcoming year as £17456 an increase of 6.49% equivalent to an increase of £3.03p.a., for a Band D property in the parish.

### **Borough Councillor's Report** No attendance

### **Village Hall Lead Cllr Simon Hill**

Plans/drawings for the new village hall have been completed and plans for the old site are progressing but are yet to be finalised.

### **Matters for Discussion at the Next Meeting**

It was suggested and agreed that the parish council look at a new division of Councillor responsibility going forward.

Date of Next Meeting Full Council: Monday 10th February 2020 Full Council: Monday 9th March 2020

Notes prepared by **ALAN CROCKER** Clerk to Collier Street Parish Council

## USEFUL CONTACT DETAILS

### CHURCH

		<u>Doctors Yalding Surgery</u>	
Reverend Paul Kish	01622 814182	Dr Scott	01622 814380
Church Warden			
Rachel West	01622 872278	<u>Marden Medical Centre</u>	
<b>Sec to P.C.C.</b>		Drs Streeter, Potter, Morgan, Estall, DeCourcy	
Vicky George	01892 730239	Hallinan & Wilford	01622 831257
<b>R.C Priest</b>			
Father Victor McLean	01580 211267	<u>POLICE</u>	
<b>KENT MESSENGER VILLAGE COLUMN</b>		PCSO Nicola Morris	07870163411
Jenny Scott      jscott@callflow.uk	01892 459041	Non Emergency	101
<b>PARISH MAGAZINE</b>		<u>NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH</u>	
<b>Editor</b>		Barbara Grandi	01892 730376
Jacki Fogg	01892 730869	<b>Paddock Wood Citizens Advice Bureau</b>	
Emma Howard	01892 730245		08701 264856
Tracey Bentley (Advertising)	01892 730252		
Email: <a href="mailto:editorparishmag@mail.com">editorparishmag@mail.com</a>		<u>COLLIER STREET PARISH COUNCIL</u>	
<b>VILLAGE HALL</b>		<b>Clerk to the Council</b>	
Chairman      Simon Hill	01892 732064	Alan Crocker	01580 766249
	Mobile	Email: <a href="mailto:parish.clerk@collierstreetparishcouncil.co.uk">parish.clerk@collierstreetparishcouncil.co.uk</a>	
Vice Chair	Vacant	Dave Sealey	01892 730589
		<b>email</b>	<a href="mailto:davesealey@hotmail.com">davesealey@hotmail.com</a>
<b>HELPING HANDS</b>			
Margaret Ashworth (Age concern representative)	01892 730323	David Goff Chairman	01892 730512
		Email: <a href="mailto:david.goff@collierstreetparishcouncil.co.uk">david.goff@collierstreetparishcouncil.co.uk</a>	
<b>SCHOOL</b>		Steve Sandys	01892 730628
<b>Headteacher</b> Paul Ryan	01892 730264	Email: <a href="mailto:steve.sandys@collierstreetparishcouncil.co.uk">steve.sandys@collierstreetparishcouncil.co.uk</a>	
<b>Chairman of Governors</b>		Steve Barham	01892 730247
Tom Stevens	01892 730264	Email: <a href="mailto:steve.barham@collierstreetparishcouncil.co.uk">steve.barham@collierstreetparishcouncil.co.uk</a>	
<b>Friends of Collier Street School</b>		Steve Fisher	01892 732263
Chair Person: Alaric Turner		Email: <a href="mailto:steve.fisher@collierstreetparishcouncil.co.uk">steve.fisher@collierstreetparishcouncil.co.uk</a>	
email <a href="mailto:info@focss.org.uk">info@focss.org.uk</a>		Simon Hill, Vice Chair	01892 732064
<b>WOMANS INSTITUTE</b>		Email: <a href="mailto:simon.hill@collierstreetparishcouncil.co.uk">simon.hill@collierstreetparishcouncil.co.uk</a>	
Yalding President: Doreen Stanford	01622 813384		



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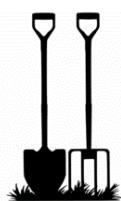


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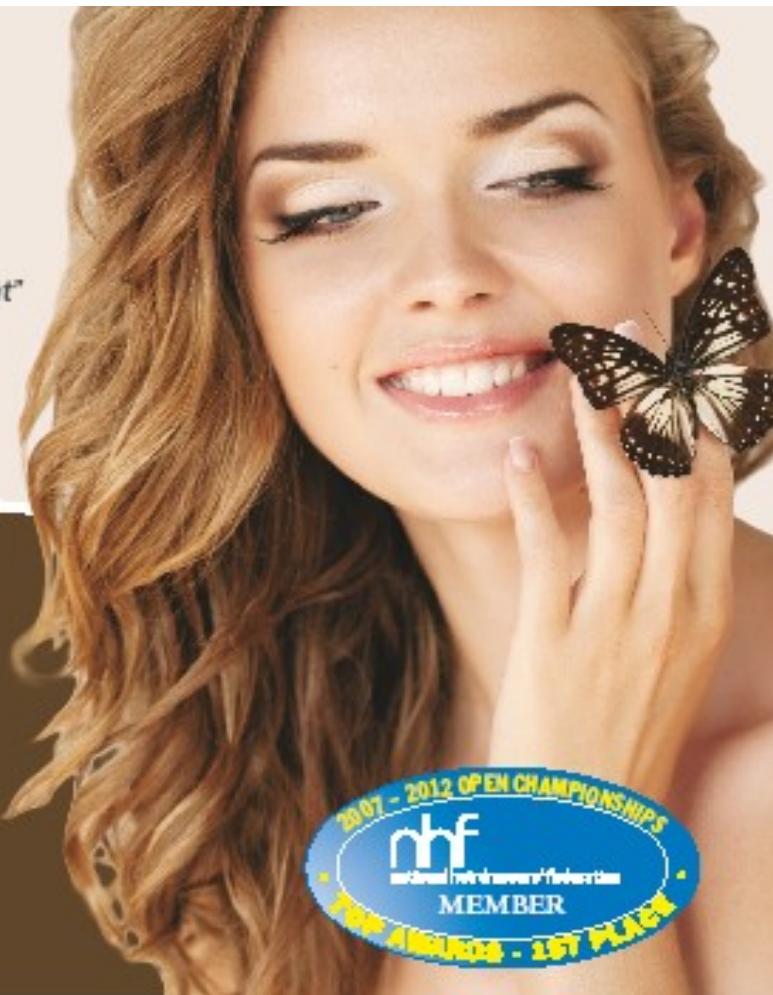
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