

# COLLIER STREET NEWS

July/August 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**

6th and 20th July, 3rd, 17th and 31st August

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

13th and 27th July, 10th and 24th August

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)

We're back and what a bumper edition we have too!

We have many of the usual articles; Jacqui Bakes, words from the reverend, school report (it's good to see some of the children back at school) and Woodpeckers. Well done to the team who managed to clear a huge pile of leaves and branches .



Thank you to Nancy and Ned Newsom and Isobel Kiely for telling us what they have been doing during lockdown, you have been very busy. Thanks also to Annette Sealey who has done a great job baking and donating to many key workers.

We hope you have all managed to keep safe and that those of you who have been self isolating have taken advantage of the many wonderful volunteers in the village who have offered to help.

Hopefully life is gradually getting back to "normal". We'll be back in September.

### **Stay Alert, Stay Safe!**

#### **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**

#### **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 PET OF THE MONTH - MISCHIEVIOUS WOODY**



#### **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

### JULY/AUGUST 2020

#### CHURCH ROTA FOR JULY/AUGUST 2020

##### Tea & Coffee :

5th and 12th July—Mrs Guillum-Scott

19th and 26th July—Mrs Ashworth

2nd and 9th August—Mrs Head

16th and 23rd August—Mrs Doctor

30th August—Mrs Guillum-Scott

##### Brass Cleaning and Altar Flowers

July—Mrs Doctor, August—Mrs Ashworth

#### **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. Mary's, Yalding Green**

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

# CHURCHES OPEN FOR PRIVATE WORSHIP ONLY

#### **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>

## The Curate writes...

It is wonderful to be able to return to church and village life after twelve weeks working from home. I have missed the Yalding, Laddingford and Collier Street flock very much. This is the longest period I have been at home since maternity leave in 2001. Twin teenagers are certainly easier to manage than two babies, although there are parallels! Then as now, to leave the house has required careful planning; it has been nearly impossible to keep up with the demand for groceries and laundry and the constant handwashing has made my skin sore! I am aware that I have lived through these months with much to be thankful for. In particular, the slower pace of life has helped me to see and feel many things differently.

**Firstly, the value of community.** As an extrovert, I am energised by other people. In the early weeks of the lockdown the lack of social contact was painful. I felt rather isolated and unsure how to do the jobs my vocation requires of me. I missed church, my contact with local children through the schools and the joys of adult conversation. I had to find creative solutions to connect with others using traditional methods and learning several new tricks, most notably the joys of video conferencing. However, time away from others has given me more time to think, contemplate and pray. This chance to look inwards to my own thoughts and upwards towards God has been a real gift. As more normal contact returns and I can see more people in the flesh, I hope that I will feel a greater appreciation for any times we can share.

**Secondly, the blessing of good neighbours.** With my Mum in the middle of chemotherapy, not being allowed able to see my parents has felt particularly difficult. They are very private people who were embarrassed to accept help from strangers. Fortunately, the residents of their local village reached out to them, calling by to ensure their inclusion in socially distanced activities and assisting with shopping and prescription deliveries. I know that the church and parish councils have coordinated similar programmes in the Yalding, Laddingford, and Collier Street area and that many of you have benefited from these schemes. I am encouraged that this crisis has brought so many people together who once did not know each another. We have perhaps found new ways to love our neighbours as Jesus commanded.

**Thirdly, reasons to be thankful.** As the pandemic has evolved, the NHS and care sectors have rightly been praised and thanked by us all. I have also come to appreciate a range of roles in a new way: delivery drivers, refuse collectors, bus drivers and those in retail roles for example. Those often-anonymous figures who work in challenging conditions. Many of us have showed our appreciation for key workers by displaying messages with rainbows. This symbol of hope is borrowed from the Old Testament. At the end of the Great Flood in Genesis 9, God marks his new covenant with his people with a rainbow. When this Corona season has passed, I hope we might more readily notice and thank those who serve others remembering how much we have a duty to care for one another.

**Lastly, the joy of feeling connected.** As I have walked my dog, I have been comforted by watching the River Medway in Tonbridge each day. That the water I see reaches the parish a day or so later has helped me to feel connected to you. It has helped me to focus as I have prayed for you. The flowing waters have acted as a physical symbol of my prayers being carried downstream towards you. We have lived through a quarter year in lockdown. When I left the village on 23<sup>rd</sup> March the trees were barely budding, and the daffodils still abundant. As Spring has been and gone and midsummer is now upon us, the extra time I have spent outdoors has helped me to value the beauty of God's creation. Birdsong, clearer skies, and a sense that we all live under that same sky has helped me connect to a bigger picture and be less focussed on my own immediate concerns.

As we all emerge into our so-called "new normal," I pray that we will all continue to enjoy a slightly slower pace with renewed optimism. In Philippians 4, St Paul writes: "**brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable--if anything is excellent or praiseworthy--think about such things**" Over the weeks of lockdown, the greatest of all blessings has been the time and space to think more as St Paul suggests.

Wishing you every blessing and God's continuing protection,

Rev'd Lisa



## Woodpeckers- 'Back at the churchyard'

After a few weekends, when the Woodpeckers were not able to go to St Margaret's Churchyard and graveyard, the relaxation in social distancing rules gave some the opportunity to get there on June 6<sup>th</sup> and start on the list of jobs that have built up. Stephane has been keeping the worst of the Spring growth under control by going along with his own mower so it was good for



him to have a few helping hands; he was particularly grateful to Mitch from Cuxton Metals for lending the Woodpeckers one of his open back trucks for the morning. The load was taken in the truck to Stephane's land for disposal.

Over the past year or so the trimmings and leaves have been heaped up in the corner of the churchyard and a pile of branches and logs still needed clearing from the area by the front wall so this was the focus of the session. It really was a tough task for the 9 volunteers but they pressed on and were able to get the job done while maintaining the required distance apart. Well done to Stephane, Derek, Vicky, Brian, Margaret, Jo, Rob, Jacki and Roger.



Each volunteer took their own tools to be extra careful and everyone took their own cups and drinks so they could have their usual tea break and Pam had made her usual lovely cakes for them.

Hopefully the Covid 19 situation will continue to improve and even more Woodpeckers will be able to join the team for the next session on the first Saturday of July.

Please come along if you wish to join in. The sessions run from 10am - 12noon.

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

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

**JUNE 2020**

**I have received many offers of help from our customers to resolve the issue of our possible closure next year. Hopefully Post Office Ltd and the Gov't will get together and work to keep us..., and some 500 other branches, in business. I will keep you informed of developments as they happen.**

**The Post Office Horizon Scandal.** You may be aware that Post Office Ltd (POL) lost a court case last December where it was proved that, despite numerous denials, the Post Office's Horizon computer system was very much less robust than it should have been, leading to some 900 Sub Postmasters being prosecuted for theft and false accounting when many thousands of pounds vanished from their accounts. POL knew that Horizon was not safe, yet continued to prosecute Postmasters leading to imprisonment, suicide, financial ruin and reputational loss for many. Yalding Post Office has been similarly affected, thankfully only in minor ways...with only small sums going missing. To see what we are talking about look up **Nick Wallis Post Office.**

**The Coronavirus emergency.** I fully intend to remain open as normal until such time as any of our household fall victim to the disease or the Gov't decrees otherwise. All normal services are available. We are operating a strict entry system into the shop. Only one customer (or more if members of the same household) allowed in the shop at any one time. Please queue responsibly outside following Gov't guidelines. **PLEASE STAY SAFE.**

**Bakery.** Due to restrictions on movement we are increasing our daily bakery order from Coxheath bakery. Please place orders with us before 5.00pm the day before and we will do our utmost to fulfil them. The Coxheath Bakery is no longer making items for Mondays. We have added to our range from another source...Croissants and Danish Pastries available on Mondays, Thursdays and Saturdays.

**Vulnerable persons cash withdrawals.** We are happy to allow 3<sup>rd</sup> parties to undertake financial transactions for vulnerable or isolating people. We require a confirmation letter from the customer and ID from the 3<sup>rd</sup> party.

New stamps sets this month are the **Coronation Street, Roman Britain and Supergroup Queen** collections. Other Philately products in stock or can be ordered on request.

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

**Foreign Currencies.** We still have a stock of Euros and US Dollars...no demand at the moment of course. POL have informed us that credit on Travel Money Cards can be encashed at all branches in UK currency.

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.

Bakery items fresh every day, cold drinks, Helen's fantastic biscuits, Annette's gluten free selection, unique greetings cards by local artists, Yalding honey, Joan's jams, Bit Spicy curry mixes, hand-made fabric items, stationery, Yalding mugs, fresh eggs from local chickens, Loddington Farm fruit juices, Oakapple Farm fresh produce.....All in stock now.

**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)



# SCHOOL REPORT

On Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2020 all schools in the UK were closed to the majority of pupils due to the coronavirus pandemic. This of course included St. Margaret's Collier Street Primary School and so began for our school community a different way of educating and nurturing the young people within our care. The staff at the school ensured work was emailed regularly and was styled in a way that the children could still access the curriculum within their homes. Our teachers also made sure they were available over email to support the children and their parents in completing the work. For many of the children at our school this style of education will have to continue into the future, however this has not been the case for all.



For some children school was not closed. To ensure that our country could continue to function under new lockdown regulations, for those children whose parents come under the key workers classification school remained open for St. Margaret's Collier Street, Hunton and Yalding Primary Schools this meant joining together on a weekly rota between buildings that contained 'bubbles' of children from each school. The children completed their school work as normal, but there were many other activities the staff at

St. Margaret's Collier Street School organised to ensure the positive mental well-being of these children remained high in this unprecedented situation. Along with the rainbow the children painted that has been hung from the front of the school during lockdown, they also did lots of baking, made clay pots, constructed an Easter garden and produced lots of Easter cards to be delivered to people in the community.



Ramona (year 2) has written the following piece to show what her experience was like coming into school during this time.

*'Dear Diary,*

*I've been having a blast at school. Every day I play football. I think it doesn't matter who wins or loses all that matters is that you have fun. Listen to your team mates. English is my favourite because it takes me to a whole new world. At Hunton there was a big playground. There was also lots of grass. We had to keep away from the other schools but there was lots of room for us all to play. Yalding was also good. We did Joe Wickes every day and also we would run 1 mile, but I would do extra!*





From Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June the government decided that schools should try and make it so that reception, year 1 and year 6 would have the option to return to school. This new change has come with rules and restrictions that have to be met to ensure everyone's safety. In the photo opposite you can see the Discovery class teachers with their metre ruler sticks considering how they can separate desks in preparation for the year 6 returning.



During this time of change the new guidelines state we have to remain in smaller 'bubbles' of no more than 15 children. It was suggested by a member of staff that we give the children more self-identity and ownership of what they were called. The idea of a 'Kingdom' became a popular alternative. The names of each of the kingdoms was then voted in by each group. Names include: 'The Rainbow Kingdom', 'The Orchard Dahlia Kingdom', 'The Animal Kingdom', 'The Apple Kingdom', 'The Creativity Kingdom.' and for the year 6 group they have called their bubble, 'The Kingdom of Nowhere', after being taken in by the magic of their new class book 'The Nowhere Emporium.'



From watching and talking to the children since their return, there is no doubt at how pleased they are to be able to begin returning to school.



*'We love coming back to school everyday and we like playing on the vehicles.'* Letty and Olivia (Reception )

*'I love being back at school because we get to learn lots of new things and I missed my teachers.'* Joshua (Year 1)

*'The best thing is having support from our teachers.'* Harriet (Year 6)

*'I have made new friends within the class that I hadn't before.'* William (Year 6)

*'When I heard that schools were closing I was really upset. I felt I hadn't fully had my time as a year 6. School really is a highlight to my day. Coming back felt so good. I have missed my friends so much and everything that comes with them.'* Clara and Hermione (year 6)



## A Busy Lockdown for Nancy and Ned



Nancy Newsom has been busy filling the plant stall outside her Jarmon's Lane home to raise money for the Yalding Food Bank.

*"Hi, my name is Nancy and I'm 12. For the past 6 years, I have been selling plants, vegetables and flowers from a stall outside my house in aid of charity. I have been able to support many different charities including Beanstalk, The Donkey Sanctuary, Children in Need, Ocean Cleanup, Medway Hedgehog Rescue and The Retreat Animal Rescue.*

*This year, I thought it would be good to support charities that are helping people who are badly affected by Coronavirus, so I chose Yalding Church food bank and The Bridge Trust, which supports the homeless. Every year, I try to raise more than I have previously. This year has been a great success so far and I have raised £430, which is already £170 more than last year! This means that I have been able to donate £100 to Yalding Church food bank already and have also given £100 to Buttercups Goats Sanctuary in Boughton Monchelsea, which came very close to having to close because of the pandemic. Everything else I raise will go to The Bridge Trust.*

*If you'd like to visit the stall, it's on Jarmons Lane, Collier Street. You can buy any of the plants by donation. Visit my Facebook page 'Nancy's Charity Plant Stall' for updates and information about what's on the stall. Thank you."*

Well done to Nancy, she has been growing and selling her plants for a few years now and many people and animals have benefitted as a result.

Her brother Ned (8 years old) has also been busy finding out about people of the world for part of his home schooling work. His mum, Rebecca, has sent in this photo of the Mayan mask which he made. It is the kind of mask a Mayan chief would wear to an important ceremony. It looks very bright and colourful.....and a little bit scary! Your mask looks very well-made Ned, well done to you too.

Great templates for Mayan masks can be found on the internet; they can be coloured in like this one or used as templates to make your own masks.



[www.supercoloring.com](http://www.supercoloring.com)

## The Oaks of Ashmead

When this present plague is over it will be good to have a plan for thereafter. This world is the only one that we have and we need to care for it rather than exploit it.

Several years ago we became the owners of Ashmead Orchard, not so much because we needed six acres of apple orchard, well festooned with brambles, but because we were well aware of encircling builders. It was much inhabited by rabbits, foxes and by the passing roe deer and also the many birds who made their homes among the towering brambles. The large pond in the corner is home to ducks, moorhens and variety of fish. Kingfishers are seen there.

Stefan is a countryman born and bred and a keen observer of bird life, well accustomed to life among the old hollow trees, gained while tree pruning and also from his childhood trips with his father.. His extensive list contains many who nest there.

### Stefans list:

The Bull Finch and Green Finch  
The Green Woodpecker and the Lesser spotted woodpecker  
Blue Tits, Great Tits, and Long Tailed Tits  
Stock Doves and Wood pigeons  
Starlings, Little Owls and Magpie  
Missel Thrush and Song thrush  
Sparrow Hawks hunting rabbits, Common Buzzards and also a Kestrel seen just the once

Eventually, with much help from the Orchard group, a large portion was cleared. But brambles inevitably return and so it is with Ashmead. It has needed very regular maintenance and that has not been possible recently.

Since few people in Kent are in need of apples, I have been searching for an inspiration for Ashmeads future for a long time. At last I came to the conclusion, that as the Apple trees fell, it could be returned to the woodland that it originally was. The name Ashmead gives a clue- Ash trees growing on swampy land. To that end all fallen apple trees are being replaced by oak trees and the plan is to add a few Ash trees at the next planting, since Claygate is their natural and preferred home. This will now be next winter. The introduction of natural tree species should stimulate Ashmeads natural insect population and add diversity to the food chain. The birds will not be disturbed by the new trees as 'their' trees will be left until the trees come down.

it is only a beginning but it is necessary to begin somewhere and prevarication helps nothing. So this is Claygates contribution to re-wilding and the return of all the wild-life that used to call it home

Grateful thanks to all those who are helping an idea to become a reality

Stephane who plants the trees and will later mow. Tom who is attacking the brambles with gusto and great effect. Stefan who prunes, digs holes for the new trees and observes the birds and also Dan and Ben who keep a general eye on Ashmead .

Cynthia Stanford

**COLLIER STREET PARISH COUNCIL HAVE A NEW WEBSITE:**

**<https://collierstreetparishcouncil.co.uk>**

## TREES FOR YALDING SCHOOL

On Friday, 13<sup>th</sup> March 2020, approximately 12 volunteers turned up at Yalding School armed with spades to plant 100 trees. Little did we know at the time, that this would be one of the last meetings of a group of people for quite some time.

The sun was shining as we got to work digging around the perimeter of the playground planting 20 of each tree to make a hedge for future children to enjoy. There were 20 of Elder, Spindle, Cherry, Rowan and Hazel.

We were extremely lucky with foresight to have managed to plant right around the edge which will hopefully in the future shield the children playing from the road and the new development. As circumstances would change the way we live a week from that date, we are very grateful that these trees had the opportunity to be planted and grow.

I want to thank [www.TreeAppeal.com](http://www.TreeAppeal.com) who supply schools with free trees and also the staff for allowing us access to plant and for the lovely cup of tea mid plant! All saplings are doing well and will serve as a reminder of better times.



## JENNIFER'S TREE

Jennifer Raikes has been a big part of The Garden Society in Yalding for the past 50 years and has decided to stand down. As a big thankyou for all her hard work, the Society met on Friday, 13<sup>th</sup> March to plant a special tree.

They purchased a Golden Acer which can be seen in the front garden of Yalding School and we hope it will bring joy to everyone passing by for years to come.

Well done Jennifer and now we are in the grip of the worst of times, it will stand as a beacon of happier times.



Registered Charity No. 298202

***Have you been impressed by the level of community action during the pandemic?***

***Would you like to be involved and make a difference after lockdown?***

***Then Paddock Wood & District Lions need you!***



**Who are the Lions?**

Lions International is one of the largest international organisations serving communities all over the world. Paddock Wood & District Lions cover Paddock Wood and all the surrounding villages including Collier Street.

**Who joins Lions?**

It could be you! We are men and women from all walks of life who enjoy helping others and meeting up socially.

**What do we do?**

Our motto is "We Serve" and that's what we try to do. We raise funds through a range of activities including the Paddock Wood Carnival, East Peckham Fun Run, the Duck Race and not forgetting the Christmas Sleigh which brings joy and goodwill to the whole community.

We then use the funds to support charities, local community groups and deserving individuals.

**How much time will it take?**

We meet once a month usually in a local hostelry but the time and commitment that you give to Lions depends on your own personal circumstances.

**Want to know more?**

For more information, please see our website: [www.paddockwoodlions.co.uk](http://www.paddockwoodlions.co.uk) or Facebook: [www.facebook.com/pwlions](https://www.facebook.com/pwlions) then contact us on 0345 833 9564 or [membership@paddockwoodlions.co.uk](mailto:membership@paddockwoodlions.co.uk)

**THERE ARE A NUMBER OF KIND RESIDENTS IN THE VILLAGE WHO HAVE OFFERED TO HELP ANYONE WHO IS SELF-ISOLATING OR NEEDS HELP DURING THIS CRISIS**

**IF YOU WOULD LIKE SOMEONE TO COLLECT SHOPPING, MEDICINE OR TO WALK YOUR DOG PLEASE CONTACT EITHER:**

**DAVID GOFF: 01892 730512**

**BARBARA GRANDI: 01892 730376**

**MARGARET ASHWORTH: 01892 730323**

**AND THEY WILL PUT YOU IN TOUCH WITH SOMEONE WHO CAN HELP**

**PLEASE DO ASK FOR HELP!**

## TIME TO APPLY FOR THE YALDING EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION HIGHER EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIPS

The Yalding Educational Foundation has existed for many years and its purpose is to encourage the education of the children and young people of our local community. This objective is achieved by firstly sponsoring Spoken English Competitions in the primary schools of **YALDING, LADDINGFORD** and **COLLIER STREET**, each year (although, sadly this year Covid 19 has prevented this from happening). Secondly by providing funding, when funds allow, for each school to take the older pupils on a 'cultural or educational experience'.

Thirdly, **SCHOLARSHIPS** are provided to assist in the **HIGHER EDUCATION** of former pupils of these local primary schools. The scholarships are available for several years of a University or College course. To qualify, students must have attended one of the three above mentioned primary schools for a minimum of two years. If you qualify please take the time to apply.

**APPLICATIONS** in respect of the academic year 2020/21 are now invited by **LETTER** only to the Clerk to the Foundation, Gary Atkins at Hawthorns, Laddingford, ME18 6BP. Applicants should state which primary school they attended and when, brief details of the University or College course they will follow, and their home and term time address.

**Applications must be signed by the applicant.** If an email address is included, applicants will receive an acknowledgement on receipt of their application and a date by which the trustees will be assessing applications so that awards can be paid. To qualify, **ALL APPLICATIONS SHOULD BE SUBMITTED BY OCTOBER 31<sup>st</sup> 2020** (this is later than normal to take into account any problems that may be caused by the Covid 19 outbreak).



20th June 2020



This weekend should have seen St. Margaret's School host its Pet Show - a summer fair that has been the biggest event on the village calendar for decades. The current circumstances have meant that it had to be cancelled for 2020 but its loss did remind me that the school has been at the centre of Collier Street for 160 years. It has survived two world wars and seen in two new centuries. Most importantly it has nurtured so many generations of our children.

This year St. Margaret's faced possibly the greatest challenge of all in re-opening a school beset not only by a global pandemic but also by seemingly countless pieces of advice and information in a fast-changing environment along with the need to safeguard the health of its pupils.

I have seen first-hand what it has taken to get our school ready in the current environment. I think I speak for many in wanting to express my admiration for all the staff who have planned and worked so hard to help children at home for the past three months and especially to allow us to re-open and provide some normality for at least some of our children.

So, to all those at school from all of us in Collier Street, this is a heartfelt and respectful Thank You for everything you've done in such strange times so you can continue to nurture the latest generation of our children.

Gareth J. Waterman,  
Chair of Governors,  
St. Margaret's School.

# *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:*

# **CURRENTLY SUSPENDED**

*July 08*

*Sep 09*

*Nov 11*

*Aug 12*

*Oct 14*

*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.*

# Jacqui Bakes

## Blueberry, Raspberry & Almond Loaf

I hope you are all safe & well. I have been baking a lot over the last few weeks whilst in lockdown & this is a family favourite, a lovely moist, light loaf. Delicious eaten on its own with a cuppa or served with extra berries & thick double cream.

### Ingredients

125g butter  
200g golden caster sugar  
2 large eggs, beaten  
100g greek yogurt  
150g plain flour  
75g ground almonds  
1 tsp baking powder  
60g raspberries  
60g blueberries  
2 tbsp flaked almonds  
1 1/2 tbsp demerara sugar



### Method

Preheat oven to 180 degrees. Grease & line a 900g loaf tin.

Beat sugar & butter until pale & fluffy, slowly beat in the eggs.

Fold in the yogurt, ground almonds, flour & baking powder.

Scoop half of the mixture into the loaf tin, dot with 1/2 the blueberries & raspberries. Add the remaining cake mixture.

Scatter the remaining berries & flaked almonds. Sprinkle with demerara sugar.

Bake for 1 hour or until a skewer comes out clean when inserted, if the cake is browning to quickly cover with foil or baking paper after 45 mins of baking.

Enjoy!



## Helping your pet adjust after 'Lockdown'

As more and more people are able to return to work there is concern from the RSPCA about the impact on pets that may need help to readjust to being left at home alone again.

*Sarah Tapsell, one of the RSPCA's regional clinical animal behaviourists, said:*

*"You may have changed your routine with your dog if you have been home more. Times for feeding, playing, walking and attention may all be slightly different. Your dog may be getting more or less of these things than before depending on the changes in your schedule.*



*Changes in routine are something a dog can adapt to, but it's important to think ahead and begin to make gradual changes before you change your routine again when you go back to work. Otherwise, when things change again suddenly, it may come as a shock to your dog, even if they handled it well before Covid-19. Even the most resilient of dogs can get worried sometimes.*

*Remember that your dog is a social animal, it's important that you aren't leaving your dog for too long during the day, or longer than they can cope with. Any dog left too long will struggle, with or without good advice to help them to cope."*

### Top tips for preparing your dog

Gradually change the timings of your dog's routine to the way they will eventually be to prevent frustration and anxiety. If the time you feed or walk your dog has changed due to lockdown then slowly start to change it back to how it was before.

Consider the amount of walks, location and times that are part of your dog's normal routine. Gradually adjust your walks to match this. Begin to gradually decrease the amount of attention you give your dog and increase the time they spend on their own.

This may include not playing with your dog every time they ask or not stroking them every time they nudge you. Don't completely ignore your dog but give them something better to do like lying on a comfy bed or a tasty chew.

Give them a routine as close as possible to the one they'll experience when restrictions are lifted. Encourage them to rest in their own bed or keep them in a separate room while you do something else.

Give your dog clear signals about when they can be involved in interactions and when they need to occupy themselves. Chew toys or interactive toys your dog can use without you can help you to do this.

Try to keep interaction time for when your routine is back to normal, for example in the evenings after dinner.

You may also want to start leaving the house without them to gradually get used to this part of their routine again.

### Top tips for preparing your cat

Any changes in routine should be introduced gradually

Ensure your cat has hiding places and elevated resting places which help relieve stress for cats by offering them a safe place to hide

Ensure you aren't over handling your cat to try and comfort them. Being picked up or followed around can add to their stress if this is not their choice

Gradually adjust your routine to what it will be when you return to work i.e. feeding times and frequency, play times

Help prevent boredom whilst you are at work by providing puzzle feeders, toys and scratching posts - this is especially important for indoor cats

Your life may become a lot busier after lockdown but it's important to ensure you still spend quality time with your cat every day

## ANNETTE'S DELICIOUS SWEET TREATS LOCKDOWN DONATIONS

So what do you do when you love baking, all planned celebration cakes understandably cancelled and are being shielded?

You bake with so much love to say THANK YOU to the key workers and local vulnerable. Fortunately having my 5\* Food Hygiene Rating and ability to individually wrap and heat seal portions in cellophane I have been allowed to donate to multiple medical workers in hospital, medical centre and ambulance settings along with other key workers such as bin men, our post man and vets. The local elderly and vulnerable haven't been forgotten either



A selection of goodies for SECAMB on 22/3

The photos show some of the boxes of gluten free goodies I have been donating and the responses I have had. I sent some to SECAMB, the Ambulance service, in March and May; and some to Pembury Hospital in April after which I received a lovely letter of thanks from Miles Scott, the Chief Executive.



*"Just what you need at 1am, 7hours through our shift so far and needing a treat. Yummy flapjack it was delicious."*

I also gave some to Marden Medical Centre, Putlands Veterinary Surgery and Bell Equine.

There are many workers who have carried on providing other essential services throughout the pandemic and left some out for the postman and the bin men.

Margaret Ashworth gave me the names of some villagers who lived alone or were vulnerable and might welcome a treat. Brian and Vicki kindly delivered them for me and I received lovely calls and letters thanking me in response.



A selection for Pembury Hospital



Treats for local villagers

Margaret's Birthday was mid lockdown so I made her a round shortbread cake because she loves shortbread.



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## Thoughts on Lockdown from Isobel Kiely aged 6 ¾

### Wildlife in our Garden

Whilst we have been at home we have been spending lots of time watching the different wildlife in our garden.

Wildlife in our garden starts with the kingfisher. When the electric blue bird swoops down, the shaded green leafed branch wiggles because of how he drops so quickly!

But, he is not the only bird. There is also Harry the Heron! His wings beat against the wind when he flies down low. Our job is to keep him away from the ducklings and baby moorhens!



The heron walking in the water near the Duck House.

This month we have been encouraging the ducks to nest so on our pond we built a new duck platform and a duck house which they are already using lots! The moorhens have taken lots of twigs and sticks into the house so we are hoping to see their babies soon! It is VERY exciting!!

What I miss about school?

Playing with my friends on the playground and talking to them about their pets.

What is home schooling like?

Sad because my friends aren't there to help me when I'm stuck on work.

Isobel Kiely. Age 6 3/4

### **Parish Update.**

I hope you are all well and are coping with the difficult times as a result of the Coronavirus. There is no doubt it has changed many things in every one's lives but as we all know life goes on.

The Parish Council has been active during lockdown on a number of issues in and around the parish.

Fly tipping has been a problem with numerous amounts of rubbish being dumped on the roads and in the hedges and ditches. There have been tyres, cookers, clothes, asbestos, wood, garden furniture and other household items. All incidents have been reported and thanks to a prompt response from MBC all rubbish has been cleared. Tips are now open if you book in advance and so let us hope things improve going forward.

During lock down the amount of traffic movements has fallen and it was rather pleasant to be able to sit in the garden without the constant background noise.

However, the levels are increasing and the PC has had a number of comments about the movements in Longend Lane. We were going to do a traffic survey in Longend and Sheephurst Lanes pre lockdown but this was put on hold for obvious reasons. The need to gather the evidence to take to KCC Highways is important. The hope is these surveys will be done in the autumn.

We are grateful to the residents who have provided pictures of lorries in Longend Lane and these are being passed on as appropriate.

We are also grateful to residents who are providing to assistance walking to school along the B2162 in the mornings. The use of the speed camera is having an affect on slowing the traffic.

There has been mud on the road in Green Lane as a result of the change in agricultural use to lettuce farming. The grower has been sweeping the road on a regular basis and has put out signage saying mud on the road. KCC have also been out to visit and put out more signs. The situation is being monitored.

The new junction at Jarmons Lane and B2162 has been done in recent weeks. The layout has changed and a number of comments have been made about concerns related to safety. The PC have written to KCC Highways on the matter expressing our concerns. Highways have been out to look and we are awaiting a report on our concerns.

It is important to bear in mind that the PC can not take action on a number of issues that are raised in and around the village and can only report them and ask the relevant agencies to take the appropriate action. However, we can put pressure on them to make changes and over the past few year's things have improved in certain areas and we will continue to fight our corner to improve our village. The PC share your frustration over issues but are a small cog in a big wheel.

Be rest assured we will continue to work with the agencies for improvements but it can be a slow process.

The PC had to cancel a couple of meetings including the Annual meeting but held a Full Council meeting in June on Zoom and will hold another one in July. There is no meeting in August and let us hope we may get back to some sort of normality in September.

The PC now has a new updated website which is up and running. The Clerk continues to put useful information which is circulate to the council. During the outbreak there has been a steady stream of articles. The website is a good source of information.

The PC have been contacted about a number of issues related to planning applications along the Benover Road in relation to the arrival of caravans and new roadways being created. The Clerk is in contact with the appropriate department at MBC raising the concerns raised.

I understand there are a couple of houses that have not had their Property Level flood protection completed as a result of lockdown. If you are one of them or have questions about the work that has been done please contact the EA direct.

The PC are more than happy to receive comments and suggestions from residents on issues and details of the Clerk and individual councillors can be found in the magazine.

Finally, thanks to those who volunteered to help out during lockdown it was very much appreciated. We are aware that not many have been called into action but I think that only goes to prove what a good community we have in Collier Street that people are helping family, friends and neighbours and there is at present no need for our volunteers to leap into action. We will keep the list open and if people need help you will be contacted.

I would like to thank all my fellow councillors and the Clerk for all their support and help during these unusual times and hope you all stay safe and life will return to some sort of normality will return in the near future.

Stay safe, David Goff, Chair CSPC.

## USEFUL CONTACT DETAILS

### CHURCH

Reverend Paul Kish 01622 814182  
Church Warden

Rachel West 01622 872278

### Sec to P.C.C.

Vicky George 01892 730239

### R.C Priest

Father Victor McLean 01580 211267

### KENT MESSENGER VILLAGE COLUMN

Jenny Scott jscott@callflow.uk 01892 459041

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### HELPING HANDS

Margaret Ashworth 01892 730323  
(Age concern representative)

### SCHOOL

Headteacher Paul Ryan 01892 730264

#### Chairman of Governors

Gareth Waterman TBC

### Friends of Collier Street School

Chair Person: Harriet Breslin

email [info@focss.org.uk](mailto:info@focss.org.uk)

### WOMANS INSTITUTE

Yalding President: Doreen Stanford 01622 813384

### Doctors Yalding Surgery

Dr Scott 01622 814380

### Marden Medical Centre

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PCSO Nicola Morris 07870163411

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### NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Barbara Grandi 01892 730376

### Paddock Wood Citizens Advice Bureau

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### COLLIER STREET PARISH COUNCIL

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## **NOTES**

### **UNDER THE CORONAVIRUS ACT [2020] A VIRTUAL ZOOM MEETING OF COLLIER STREET PARISH COUNCIL**

took place on Monday 8th June 202 commencing at 6.00pm

The meeting link was published in the public domain and displayed on the parish noticeboard.

**In attendance:** Cllr David Goff [Chairman]; Cllr Simon Hill [Vice Chairman]; Cllr Steve Barham;  
Cllr Deborah Papas; Cllr Andrew Papas; Cllr Steve Sandys; Cllr Dave Sealey; County Cllr Eric Hotson;  
Parish Clerk Alan Crocker.

**Apologies** PCSO Nicola Morris – emailed report received

Declarations of Interest None declared

### **PLANNING**

The section of the meeting was chaired by Cllr Dave Sealey Chair of the Planning and Development Committee.

**20/500778** - Erection of Switching Station - Land South of Sheephurst Lane

[https://pa.midkent.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?  
activeTab=details&keyVal=Q5US2TTYJOG00](https://pa.midkent.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=details&keyVal=Q5US2TTYJOG00)

Continued objection from the EA. Details of objection copied to all members for consideration, their objection can be viewed on the MBC planning portal by clicking the link above.

We still await the promised report answering the issues raised by both the parish council and the EA. A call, unable to be taken during the meeting, was received from the agents. Subsequently they are promising that this report will be received shortly and that the planning officer responsible for determining the application has agreed a further extension. The Committee will revisit this application when in receipt of the report.

Bridge House, Collier Street, Tonbridge, Kent, TN12 9SD

Change of use of land to residential. Erection of front canopy to existing porch, single story side extension, insertion of 2 no. new first floor side windows and extension to existing side dormer.

Further issues are under consideration prior to the parish council's formal comments being uploaded to the MBC planning portal.

06.20.04

### **POLICE REPORT**

Parish Council Monthly Update

#### **Crimes of Note**

5-6th May Burglary – Claygate – Stables broken into and horse equipment stolen.

#### **No anti – social behaviour and other incidents of note**

#### **Items of good work.**

Local arrests regarding horse tack thefts – enquiries still ongoing.

#### **Updates of previous reported issues**

PCSO Nicola Morris spoke to MBC – Enforcement who are attending sites along the Benover Road.

## **Minutes of the Full Council Meeting on 9th March 2020.**

The meeting approved the minutes confirming that they were an accurate recording to the said meeting.

**Questions from members of the Public.** No members of the public joined the meeting.

### **Correspondence and Action Points**

**Defibrillator Update** The meeting agreed that Cllr Goff will progress the possible siting of the defibrillator with the Rev Paul Kish. The finance is in place.

**Play Area** – Installation of new play equipment will be delayed owing to the manufacturing issues directly attributable to the Covid 19 pandemic. Funding is held by the parish council. MBC are aware that we will not meet the target date for installation as detailed in the original agreement. Installation is expected by mid-September.

**Marden Minors FC.** The Clerk has supplied an outline agreement together with specimen risk assessment. Subject to some minor amendments The Clerk will respond to MMFC confirming the agreement commencing 2nd June 2020. The Parish Council look forward to a rewarding association in this new shared experience.

**Social Media** DG opened the debate seeking views on this platform. There are currently 51 users. The platform allows parties to participate in interactive discussions and share information in a public forum. However there have been recent incidents of users posting what could be considered as personal and offensive material, a total departure from its intended use. After a lengthy debate it was agreed unanimously that provided users adhere to the terms and conditions set out the app should continue.

Cllr Deborah Papas will reissues the terms of 'The Group' with the addition of reasonable timings for the post to be up-loaded. Departure from these terms and conditions will result in immediate expulsion from the group.

**Speedwatch** To assist the safe escorting of children returning to school and in the event of an unsuccessful attempt to recruit a crossing Patrol warden Cllr Hill has loaned the speed watch equipment to two residents, wearing high visibility jackets. The objective to slow traffic on the B2162 on the approach to St Margaret's School. The initiative worked well.

### **Progress on New Website build**

The new website has been launched and can be viewed at: <https://collierstreetparishcouncil.co.uk>

### **Traffic Surveys, Sheephurst Lane, Longend Lane**

In view of the Covid 19 pandemic and the number of people working from home it was decided that these surveys would be delayed.

**Coronavirus Update** Margaret Ashworth reports that most of the vulnerable within the parish are being supported well. No volunteers have been called on to assist.

**Flood Committee Report** 'Watertight' have currently stopped working. There are three more flood resilience schemes yet to be installed.

The removal of the tree from the river need to be chased and DG agreed to follow this up.

The Internal Drainage Board is to meet in the parish in some 2/3 weeks' time to discuss local issues.

**Recreation Field Report** Works on the field gate and fencing issues on the recreation field have been completed.

The grass cutting in on schedule

The play equipment has been taped off although some had been removed. The new tapes have not as yet been disturbed.

**Highways** DG reports that KCC have started to fill-in the holes at the edge of the carriageways on both Green Lane and the B2162.

The Clerk was tasked with writing to the KCC Highways Coordinator with particular relevance to the dangerous junction of Jarmon's Lane and the B2162 that has now been made permanent. The parish council urges KCC to carryout in a timely manner a significant survey of both traffic movements and sight lines at this location. As part of this survey the parish council suggests that proper signage be installed warnings motorists of this newly created dangerous T junction. Public feelings are running high on this junction which is hazardous to negotiate and sight lines so poor. The situation is further aggregated by the lack of directional signs and lorries not familiar with the area using the junction to turnaround in. Please let's not wait for a serious accident before action is taken.

## **FINANCE Accounts Reconciliation & Finance Reports YEAR END 19-20 COMPLETION OF AGAR**

**STEP 1**The accounting statement [Section 2] has been prepared and signed by the RFO. Copies have been sent in advance of the meeting to all members.

**STEP 2 STEP 2.1 The Annual Audit Report** was received by members and noted.

The members received and approved the audit report and the recommendations have already been implemented.

**STEP 2.2 The Annual Governance Statement [Section 1] for approval** With respect to the Accounting Statements for the year ended 31 March 2020 that:

Each of the factors [1-8] on the Governance Statement was read aloud and confirmed by a show of hands agreement to each the governance factors as stated thereon.

**STEP 2.3 The Accounting Statement [Section 2] for approval.** Following a question on the variance in the assets shown 18-19 to 19-20 The Accounting Statement was approved by members.

**STEP 3** Following approval the Chairman and Clerk of the meeting to sign the Annual Governance Statement and the Chairman should sign the Accounting Statement

As this was a virtual meeting The Clerk was able to wet sign the Accounting Statement and the Chairman will be sent the appropriate section for wet signature.

**STEP 4** The RFO sets the commencement date for the exercise of public rights

The RFO set the confirmation of the dates of the period for the exercise of public rights as 1st September 2020 to 12th October 2020.

**BANK RECONCILIATION – April 2020** Members approved the bank reconciliation.

**RECONCILIATION STATEMENT – April 202** Copies were sent in advance of the meeting. The reconciliation was agreed and the statement will be wet signed when social distancing is relaxed.

**RECORD OF PAYMENTS & RECEIPTS – April 2020** Payments and receipts were agreed by members including the standing order/direct debit/corporate cards payments as per the report.

**BUDGET REPORT** Members approved the monthly budget report.

**APPROVAL FOR SPENDS** Members unanimously agreed the spends.

**Borough Councillor's Report** County Councillor Eric Hotson opened his report by seeking questions from the attending Councillors as to any feedback they required on any issues that are controlled at County level.

The meeting discussed the new Village Hall and Councillor Hotson agreed to consider a small contribution from his members grant for the current year. Next year brings elections and there could be changes to elected Councillors. He was pleased that a Highways Plan was in force in the parish detailing future strategy. He briefed the meeting that upcoming Zoom Cabinet and Planning Committee meetings were scheduled. The KCC budget is some 120m 'short' this year owing to the Covid 19 epidemic. £60m has been promised by government to help with the shortfall.

DG thanked him for his support with the new village signage negotiated via KCC Highways.

**Village Hall** Cllr Hill briefed the meeting on the progress of the Village Hall Project. Progress has been made by the surveyor. The E/A and flood surveys have been completed. The overall cost based on two differing structures and specification have now to be decided. A ball park figure is known. There are issues with the actual siting of the proposed replacement dwellings that need further discussion.

**ENFORCEMENT ISSUES** There is ongoing action on several sites in the parish. The Clerk was tasked with liaising with the Enforcement Team at Maidstone Borough Council

**Matters for Discussion at the Next Meeting** Paper to be produced on the regulations concerning the projects for consideration under the **Community Infrastructure Levy Income**. Once the regulations have been published a public consultation will be held to establish resident's priorities.

**Date of Next Meeting** Next Zoom virtual meeting of the full parish council will take place on Monday 13th July 2020 commencing at 18.00hrs. A link to this meeting will be published in the public domain via the website and the noticeboard.

**Notes Prepared by |ALAN CROCKER| Clerk to Collier Street Parish Council**

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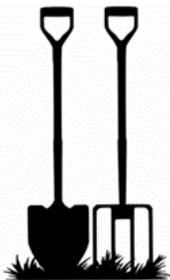
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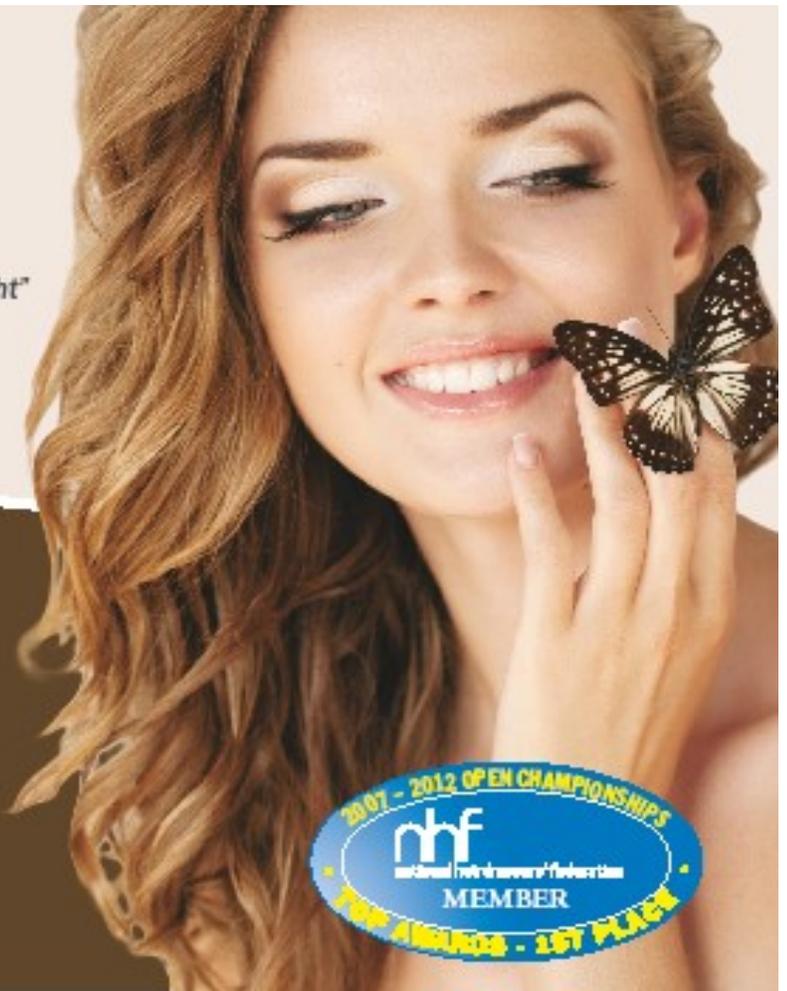
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