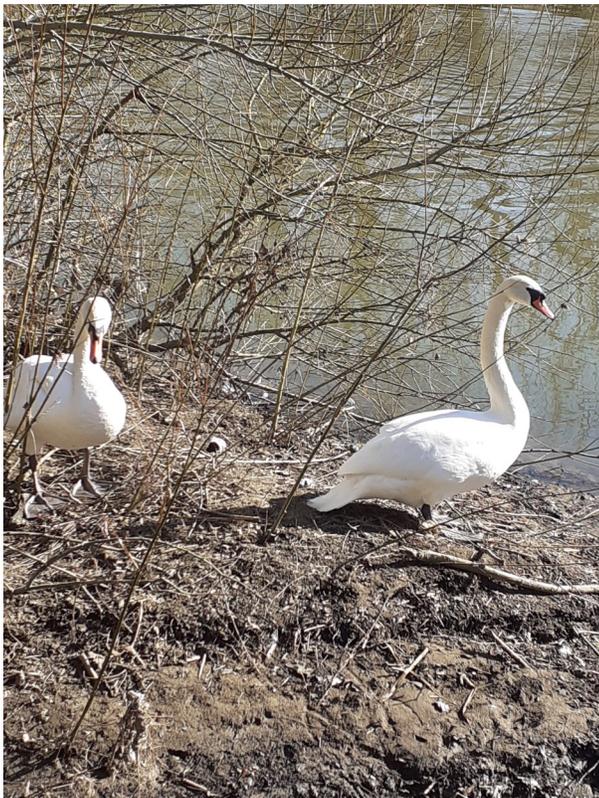


COLLIER STREET NEWS

April 2021



THIS ISSUE:

School Report

Ramblings

Parish Council Notes

Whitehart Update

Jacqui Bakes

Words from Father Paul

Roadmap out of lockdown

Thank you from Margaret

Speedwatch

Post Office Newsletter

Paddock Wood Lions Spring Giveaway

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

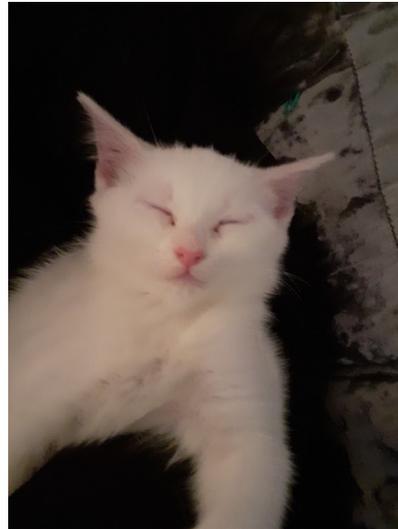
Monday 12th and 26th April 2021

Recycling, food waste and textiles

Monday 5th and 17th 2021

www.maidstone.gov.uk

CUTE PET OF THE MONTH - 10 week old Mable



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 over 100 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

Editors Note:

We are so pleased to announce that the future of the magazine is now secure. Darryl Chappell, having recently moved into the village, has taken on the printing at a greatly reduced rate. Thank you to him and his company, Managed Technology, we are very grateful. Thank you also to everyone who has made a voluntary contribution, it is good to know that you appreciate what we do and want the magazine to remain a source of information in the village.



IF YOU NEED HELP, PLEASE CONTACT ONE OF THE FOLLOWING
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!

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.



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

<https://collierstreetparishcouncil.co.uk>

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



Collier Street Ramblings *Stunning Cherry Blossom*



Stunning pink cherry blossom has now become a focal point in my garden as a pretty cherry tree (prunus) soars high above the resplendent daffodils. This early flowering cherry attracts the birds as the buds form and the bees were buzzing contentedly around the blooms as I took the photo, later it will have lovely dark pink/burgundy leaves. Planted in a very sunny spot it was quite a small specimen when we moved here 25 years ago but is now about 25 foot high and probably at its maximum height.

We have some more flowering cherry trees elsewhere in the garden, they have heavily scented white blossom later in spring/early summer and they bear very bitter deep red cherries. I have been told there were quite a few cherry orchards around here and we believe our oast was once surrounded by a very large cherry orchard.

Cherries have been grown for hundreds of years in **England** with commercial production beginning when new varieties were brought to England by Henry VIII's head fruiterer, Richard Harris and planted in a mother orchard at Teynham near Sittingbourne in **Kent** in the 1500's. Osier Farm, pictured in the 1980s, can be seen in the photograph.



Osier Farm, Teynham, site of the first commercial cherry planting in Kent, pictured in the 1980s when the cherry trees were still being cultivated.

Before Tudor times the fruits were sold in medieval markets and there is a famous medieval cookbook, The 'Forme of Cury' published around 1390, that contains two cherry-based recipes. One, 'chyruse', is a bread pudding with cherries and almonds. The second, 'chireseye' – is a blend of crushed cherries, wine, butter, breadcrumbs and sugar.

In the 1300's much of the land in England was owned by the church and the Manor of Teynham was church land that belonged to the Archbishop and Christ Church of Canterbury. It may have been managed and cultivated by monks or by workers employed by the church. Back then the area was described as the '*Cherrie gardein, and Apple orcharde of Kent.*'

However non cultivated wild cherries have been a part of our diet since pre-historic times and it was in Henry V's time that three sweet varieties were introduced to Teynham from Flanders by Richard Harris who also brought over Pippins and pears. In 1533 mother orchards were planted, these were where the original tree varieties that were grown to provide grafts and cuttings for more orchards, a method still used in modern times. (Information from: kentorchards.org.uk)

Trees for Spring blossom

There are many varieties to choose from, some good for small gardens like the Japanese Apricot (*Prunus mume*) which is a shrub often grafted to form a small tree. Early spring varieties like 'Ben Chidore' has pink flowers on dark, bare branches in late winter or early spring. If you like trees with a dark bark you could try the larger *Prunus serrula* which has shiny mahogany bark with simple white spring blossom providing lightly dappled shade - ideal for a smaller garden. The photo shows my early flowering cherry.

If you like weeping cherry trees you could try the elegant Yoshino cherry - *Prunus x yedoensis* 'Shidare-yoshino'.

There is also a winter-flowering cherry (*Prunus subhirtella* 'Autumnalis') that has spidery black branches and tiny confetti-like flowers that appear from November onwards. It's a slow-growing and long-lived.

We have a crab apple tree which has dark red blossom and very dark leaves, I don't know which variety it is but the *Malus* 'Harry Baker' which has large, dark-pink flowers, ruby-red fruits and good autumn colour sounds very similar.

At the end of our rear garden we have a small section of a once much larger apple orchard, there are some coxes and russets. It looks very pretty in May but the blossom never seems to last for long; we keep them pruned fairly low so we can harvest the fruit easily and then we take them to be juiced in autumn.

The following varieties of apple trees have exceptional blossom: Sunset, which has pink blossom and a Cox type apple; Red Falstaff, which has pink blossom and a Braeburn type apple; James Grieve which has pink blossom and an eater/cooker; Golden Delicious, white blossom; and Annie Elizabeth with maroon blossom and baking apples.

Planting

Most trees can be planted throughout the year. You must avoid very hot spells or when the weather is very cold. You need to provide stakes to support new trees to avoid wind damage but remember to check them regularly and loosen the ties as they grow.

If you plant a bare root tree try to do so between November and March but still avoid frozen or waterlogged soil or cold, windy days. Make sure the hole is large enough to spread out the tree root and fill the hole before gently firming it down. Regular watering is then essential.



Pictured: The pretty blossoms of the weeping Texas Redbud Traveller (left) and Crab Apple Rudolph (right).

Barbara Grandi



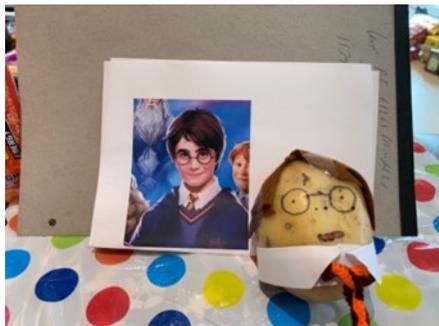
SCHOOL REPORT- World Book Day and Returning to School

This year National World Book Day was on Thursday 4th March. Every year pupils and staff at St Margaret's Primary are very excited to celebrate our love of reading and books. Like other events this year World Book Day looked a little different to previous years; however, remote learning did not stop Collier Street pupils from taking part in various activities about their favourite stories and authors.

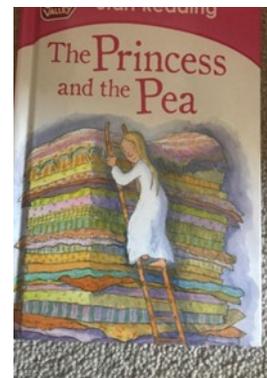
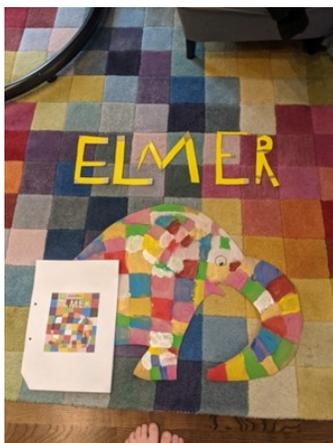
During class Zoom session's children were encouraged to dress up as their favourite book characters. Likewise, staff looking after Key Worker children also got into the spirit of things.



Throughout the week the children were set book themed challenges to complete. One such challenge was creating a story character using a potato or egg. Below you can see a wonderful Harry Potter potato and Rabbit Foo Foo egg.

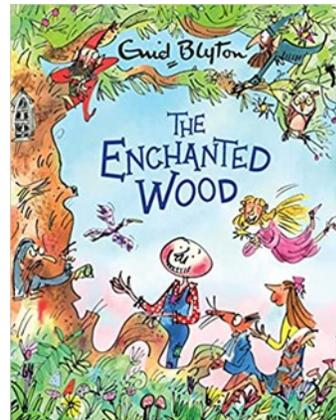


Children displayed great creativity by recreating story front covers either through art work or using themselves as props.





Children designed dioramas of their favorite scenes from stories. The diorama below depicts a scene from "The Enchanted Wood" by Enid Blyton.



Discovery Class continued World Book Day when they returned to school. The class were very excited to find that the author Katherine Rundell, had released a new book especially for World Book Day. This was a prequel to the book that they had shared together in the Autumn term called 'Rooftoppers'. Consequently, World Book Day turned into World Book Week because they dropped all other planned English activities, in order to quickly read through together 'Skysteppers'.

Within both books, 'Rooftoppers and 'Skysteppers', the fictional character, Matteo, is featured. Matteo is a young boy, who for reasons unclear has found himself living on the rooftops of Paris. Through mystery and adventure he finds he is not the only child who has come to live in this way.

Over the week, the children in Discovery class were inspired to take on many writing activities that had been inspired by this story and the wonderful writing techniques that Katherine Rundell had modelled.

The week ended by the children imagining which characters could live on the roof of our very own school!

Returning to school

On the 8th March the school opened its doors again for all pupils. It was uplifting to see the children's smiles as they greeted their friends and teachers after such a long time apart. The children have settled back into the school routine remarkably well and must be commended for their wonderful attitude and conduct.

On the first afternoon back in school to celebrate being together again the school held a special 'domino run' in the playground. After the school's December Santa Dash raising money for Yalding food bank, over 100 cereal boxes had been collected for the local charity and these were used as dominos. The children led an enthusiastic countdown and watched with much excitement as the domino run was completed. The cereal boxes have now been donated to the food bank.



Thank you so much to all the lovely people who came out on Friday and Saturday to clean up the village. What a fantastic job everyone did. After I had finished picking up, I drove round all the roads, it was so wonderful to see clear verges and ditches, you all went to great lengths to make Collier Street look so good. So many enthusiastic helpers and children who all wanted to do their bit for the village.

It was a beautiful morning but at one stage I thought I was on the route of the Tour De France or the Monte Carlo Rally!! So many cyclists and cars passing non-stop, I hope they all enjoyed seeing us clearing the roads and, maybe, reminded them how rubbish accumulates and clogs the waterways.

A big thank you also to Stuart Highwood and Nigel Jenner for collecting all the bags. Apparently this year there were fewer bags, so that is great, but I also think most people are picking up litter most of the year. So, a huge thank you to everyone on behalf of the village.

Margaret Ashworth



AN ODE TO THE LITTER PICKERS

Saturday dawned bright with sun
A wonderful clean by all up was done
Everyone so eager and keen
To make our village lovely and clean
Orange, green and yellow jackets
All out to pick up numerous packets
Loads of bottles and empty tins
Which could all go in our bins
But thanks to all your labours
We all now know more of our neighbours

“Why do you look for the living among the dead?” (Luke 24:5b)

The festival of Easter lies at the heart of the Christian faith. At Christmas we celebrate that God chooses to come among us as one of us in the Incarnation, but the full mystery of why he does that is revealed through the Crucifixion on Good Friday and the Resurrection on Easter Sunday:

Jesus’ sacrifice on the Cross redeems the world, and Love conquers Death. That’s quite a story.

It is a story of sorrow and joy, a story of injustice and satisfaction, a story of trauma and recovery, and we experience it every year, coming out on the other side, renewed and restored, into the light of a new dawn, the beauty and brilliance of Easter Day.

It has been one year now since we first began to undergo the effects and consequences of various restrictive measures under lockdown in a pandemic, and none of us has been untouched by the experience. In our church community our life together has been at best erratic, and we have come to realise through what we have lost or struggled to maintain, in person and online, that there are many different reasons why people seek to make it their spiritual home.

It might be that some people appreciate the opportunity for worship and prayer in quiet contemplation or in exuberant praise. For some it is the chance to ring ancient bells in a mediaeval church tower, and for others it is music and singing, or fellowship within community. Still others have a love and appreciation of ancient buildings, or a shared endeavour in serving others through social action, or a chance to mix within an inter-generational communion. But for all of us who gather in church there is a shared story of hope and redemption, an assurance of forgiveness and a new start, a freedom to be ourselves without judgment, and a common sense of purpose in God’s Love.

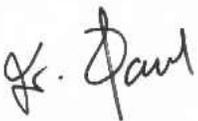
It is tempting, as we pass the anniversary of the beginning of the first lockdown, to look back over the past year with bitterness and recrimination, seeking not so much answers as someone to blame for what we have suffered. Indeed, there has been some of that in the media in recent weeks, and perhaps more to come. But if the life of Jesus is a model for those who follow him, maybe we can set an example that the way forward is to be found in sharing together the work of recovery rather than pointing a divisive finger of guilt at everyone else.

I began this letter with a quotation from one of the angels at the tomb in Luke’s Gospel, suggesting to those who had come to anoint Jesus’ body that they were looking in the wrong place. They were not to dwell in mourning for what might have been, but to be an active part of what was to come.

And we will not find our future as a community by raking over the coals of the past, but by looking forwards to the new life of a fresh start in the glory of the Resurrection. We hope that you will also want to be a part of what we are called to become, and find your spiritual home.

Happy Easter!

“He is not here: he has risen.” (Luke 24:6a)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Paul". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Dr Anthony Fincham has notified us that his mother Dr Elizabeth Fincham, GP in Yalding 1956-1986, died peacefully at her home on 28th February 2021 aged 98. He has asked for this to be shared with the local community. We send the family our thoughts and best wishes.

Yalding Surgery.

THE WHITE HART NEEDS YOU!!!

As some of you are aware the White Hart strip out has been started by L&G Holdings but as yet they do not have permission to demolish the building. We are awaiting a response from MBC legal department around the whole issue of the moratorium period and the planning approval. Under the Asset of Community Value (ACV) regulations 2011, L&G Holdings could be ordered to reinstate everything they have removed. Under Planning Regulations, they are allowed to start the "soft strip". MBC Planning Department have ignored the ACV process. If they admit they made a mistake on the planning approval they may have to compensate L&G Holdings.

FOI requests to MBC are slowly being responded. One major point that they have not answered is if the Planning Department were aware the ACV was up for sale; that the community had registered an interest in purchasing; and that it was in a moratorium period when they approved the development. It is incumbent on the Planning Department to have all the information in front of them when making their decision and failure to do so may be negligent. This failure may trigger a review of the application. Our MP Helen Grant has written to MBC for an explanation. Helen had her celebration party for being elected as our MP in the White Hart so knows the pub well.

We have been advised by Eric Hotson (Our Independent County Councillor) that anyone wanting to support the White Hart should not give up yet, and should lodge complaints about the planning approval to demolish the White Hart, as soon as possible. These complaints should be sent to complaintsandfoi@maidstone.gov.uk and be referenced as the planning number 20/503935 FULL White Hart. Eric has been our greatest ally in pressing MBC for answers and is advising us on the best way to appeal the planning approval.

Below are some of the points that the Planning Officer took from a viability report, which she states were the basis of her approval of the development application. We know these points are untrue or are not proof of the unviability of a community business and did not consider the potential community tea rooms with bar; post office; farm shop etc.

If you have any evidence to refute these as well of any of your own points please remark on them in your complaint. Without the community support the White Hart will be gone forever.

- Shepherd & Neame charging a peppercorn rent to tenants
- Refurbishment costs too high.
- Freehold unviable.
- Obtaining funding not possible
- Adequate marketing time (when the brewery sold it to the current owners) resulted in no interest from anybody else only current owner.
- Substantial local competition.
- Closed since 2016.
- Drive to location only.
- Claygate too small (to sustain a pub).
- Collier Street only 500 residents.
- Trade dropped off over years of brewery ownership.
- Not a detrimental loss to the village.
- Houses would be better looking than a boarded-up pub.

Further, given the ACV status and the previous objections, it is surprising that MBC made the decision without going to committee, and that they made it after the community registered an interest in the pub, preventing our opportunity to save it.

In March, the Chancellor announced that they will be making match-funding up to £250,000 available for communities to buy their village focal points. However, agreeing a price with L&G Holdings might prove difficult. We are awaiting a response from MBC to see if they are supportive of a Compulsory Purchase Order. This will then mean the ACV is priced by an independent Chartered Surveyor to judge what a "fair" purchase price is.

Collier Street Speed Watch

I am delighted to announce that as another lockdown is easing, as of 29th March we can restart the group. Come and join us into community action! I am pleased to be able to support these activities again, thank you for your support.

So, if like us, you are fed up with speeding through our village and have a spare hour or so please contact Sean (email:sean@reddoortraining.co.uk) or call 01892 354 736.



You can register interest by using the link below.

1. Firstly type <https://www.communityspeedwatch.org> into a web browser.
2. Click on the **[Register]** tab.
3. Then to the left, click on **[Join Existing Group]**.
4. Choose **[Kent]** from the pull down and click **[Continue]**.
5. Choose **[YA Maidstone]** from the pull down and click **[Continue]**.
6. Now choose **[Collier Street Speedwatch Group]** from the pull down and click **[Continue]**.
7. Finally complete their details in the registration form and follow the emailed instructions.

We are a fun-loving group who like a laugh whilst getting the job done!

We can use all sites around the parish now, with a maximum of 4 volunteers and face coverings. Hand sanitiser must be used when handling equipment, as we may not be able to achieve 2 metres social distancing.

Currently we can use the following sites:

By Jaguar garage north and south
Church car park pedestrian and vehicle entrance
Bradford batteries
Green Lanes west of Haviker Street
Martins' farmhouse



We have a couple of new sites awaiting approval from Kent Speedwatch team, if you have a site that you believe is suitable, please let me know and I will put it on a waiting list.

Vehicles recorded speeding by us are uploaded to Kent Police and appropriate action ranging from warning letters to home visits are taken by them.

If you have any questions please do get in contact and lets all make a difference!



COLLIER STREET PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING/ ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The Annual General Meeting, followed by the Annual Parish Meeting are scheduled to take place on

Monday 17th May 2021 commencing at 6.45pm

Under the Coronavirus Act [2020] these meetings are scheduled to take place on the Zoom platform. The agenda and link will be displayed on the parish website three clear working days before the meeting.

This is your opportunity to meet remotely, your local Parish Councillors and many of the representatives of the various organisations in the parish who present their annual report to the meeting.

The Annual Parish Meeting is scheduled to commence at 7.30pm.

Contact

The Parish Clerk

01580 766249

parish.clerk@collierstreetparishcouncil.co.uk

website

<https://collierstreetparishcouncil.co.uk>

JOHN DOCTOR 1940-2021

I would like to say a HUGE thank you to all of you who have sent me cards and flowers, to those who have walked with me, for all who came to the funeral and for all the overwhelming kindness and prayers. It has really helped me cope at this very difficult period of shock after the death of John my husband, friend, rock, and the love of my life. THANK YOU

Jo Doctor.

**LOVING FOREVER HOME NEEDED FOR
6 MONTH OLD BLACK AND WHITE KITTEN
FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE PHONE
MARGARET ASHWORTH
01892 730323**

Paddock Wood & District: Lions Big Heart Spring Giveaway

The pandemic has proved challenging for everyone in many ways and in Paddock Wood & District Lions Club, we believe in developing support in our communities. Throughout the year we respond to requests to provide funding and support to all sorts of organisations, families and individuals. But we want to go further and we need to hear from you.

We are launching our first "Lions Big Heart Spring Giveaway". We have a pot of up to £3000 to spend across a range of projects, ideas, and people.

Is your organisation/club/society looking to start things up again? Do you need some money to kickstart or support a community idea or project? Do you know of anyone who has fallen on hard times and needs a helping hand?

We will consider any requests for funding from any area we cover and up to any amount. All you need to do is tell us what the funding is for, how it will help, how much you need and your contact details. You can email us at enquiries@paddockwoodlions.co.uk, send us a private message on Facebook at Paddock Wood & District Lions Club or call us on 0345 833 9564.

We cover Brenchley, Capel, Collier Street, East Peckham, Five Oak Green, Goudhurst, Horsmonden, Lamberhurst, Marden, Matfield, Paddock Wood, Staplehurst and Yalding.

To note, each application will be assessed by the Club on its merit. The Club reserves the right to reject the proposal or amend the amount approved.



Jacqui Bakes

Malteser Millionaires Shortbread

Malteser's one of my all time favourites, first time of making & I will defiantly be making again, a little tradition in our family, you have to eat Maltesers 2 at a time, one in each cheek. I did buy a large bag so there was plenty to keep the tradition going.

Biscuit Base Ingredients

600g Malted Milk Biscuits (3 packs)
250g butter, melted

Homemade Caramel Ingredients

200g butter
3 tbsp caster sugar
4 tbsp golden syrup
397g condensed milk (1 can)

Chocolate Malteser Spread

200g milk chocolate
400g Malteser Spread
200g Maltesers

Shortbread Base Method

Blitz biscuits in a food processor to a small crumb, add to melted butter & combine.
Tip into a lined 9x9 square tin, press down firmly and chill.

Homemade Caramel Method

In a large saucepan pour condensed milk, butter, sugar & golden syrup, melt on a medium heat until dissolved, stirring frequently.

Once sugar has dissolved, turn up heat to high & let mixture reach boiling point, boil for 5-7 minutes. Stir constantly so mixture doesn't burn.

Boil until mixture is a slightly darker golden colour & has thickened to a soft fudge texture.

Pour onto biscuit base, allow to cool & chill in fridge for approx 2 hours.

Chocolate Malteser Method

Melt chocolate over a Bain Marie.

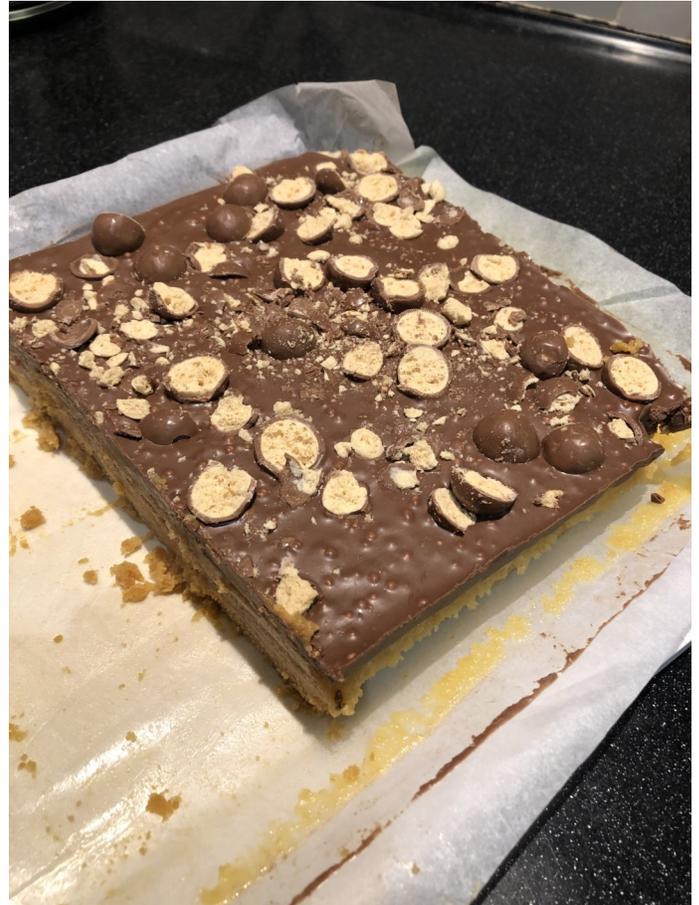
In a separate bowl melt Malteser spread for in the microwave for 30 seconds so it softens.

Mix the chocolate & melted spread together, spread over caramel.

Sprinkle with some crushed & whole Maltesers.

Allow to set in the fridge.

Once set, cut into pieces and ENJOY!



YALDING POST OFFICE - MOST LOVED POST OFFICE IN KENT 2016 /17/18/19/20/21

OUR PRODUCTS, LOCALLY SOURCED, LOCALLY SOLD

APRIL 2021

I have received a letter from Post Office Ltd offering me the choice to either remain as “Conditionally Resigned” awaiting a new operator to take over the branch at new premises or to continue operating the branch on the existing contract for the foreseeable future. This includes all terms, rights and fixed remuneration. It also means that on my retirement the new Postmaster would be offered the same contractual terms. No more hoping and waiting for POL to allow us to remain open. Basically this means you are stuck with me for a while yet.

Sorting Office news. Well, the posties are now operating from the new Medway Valley Royal Mail office at Snodland. Cheryl is keeping her current round but, sadly Dan and Jo are no longer working the rounds in Yalding. Jo has gone back to her previous employment (before Covid) and Dan has transferred to a different office with a plan to move north in the relatively near future. We had a collection for Dan which was presented to him in a small ceremony on Friday 12th March and we all wish him and his family the very best of fortune for the future.

Royal Mail postal problems. We are receiving increasing enquiries from customers whose mail appears to have gone astray over the past months. Please be aware that Royal Mail staffing levels have taken a huge hit due to Covid 19. Many main offices are operating at about 50% staff capacity with current mail levels at about double the normal. Even since Christmas, when mail levels normally decrease significantly, mail levels have stayed very high. Please don't panic...the mail will arrive eventually. **Please also remember that since Brexit all parcels to EU destinations now require a customs label. All customs labels have to be filled in with block capitals and be clear and legible and must include the senders' name and address. If not the package will not leave the country and will be returned to the sender.**

Another thing causing some confusion is customers attempting to track “Signed For” items and finding that the system tells them the item has not left the Post Office it was sent from. This is because “Signed For” is only registered in the tracking system twice. Once on despatch and only again on arrival at destination.

Another concern has arisen recently...For **pre-paid “Tracked” items** we can only accept returns. **If you have pre-paid for and printed your own “Tracked” label most of these cannot be processed or deposited at a Post Office.** These have to be taken to main Royal Mail depots at Tonbridge or Parkwood. Our apologies, but we are not allowed to accept them. **As above all “Tracked” returns can be processed at Post Offices.** All “Standard”, “Signed For” and “Special Delivery” pre-paid items can also be processed at Post Offices.

For those customers with Post Office Card Accounts. (POCA) We await news from POL and Gov't about how they will cater for those who cannot transfer benefits to a standard bank account.

The Coronavirus emergency. Please wear a mask in the shop. Only one customer in the shop at any one time (more than one allowed if residing together) Please also keep a safe distance apart whilst waiting to enter.

Helen's cakes and biscuits. Helen has re-started her biscuit making and we hope to have a steady supply available again at the Post Office. Thank you Helen.

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

New stamps sets this month are the **Classic Science Fiction and the Wars of the Roses** 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 cannot be arranged in branch at present due to a technical problem, but you can collect literature and contact details from us.

Foreign Currencies. We still have a stock of Euros and US Dollars...Hopefully people can resume foreign travel this year. 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, Croissants and other pastries Thursdays and Saturdays, cold drinks, 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. As well as a large stock of locally made face masks, bags and scrunchies...all moneys to the Yalding Surgery fund to pay for some new vital equipment. Well done to Sharon...the face mask manufacturer extraordinaire...

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Whilst Lockdown 3 prevents this initiative of operating currently.

Collier Street Lorry Watch seek future volunteers, who are able and willing to get out and about and record the details of large vehicles. We will then pass this information on for action by the Freight Team at Kent County Council/ Police.



LorryWatch

If you are interested in volunteering for at least an hour a month (every little helps), then please email: lorry.watch@collierstreetparishcouncil.co.uk for details of how you may help to reduce the volumes of large lorries in our village.

The Lorry Watch Scheme is an initiative run by Kent County Council, Kent Police and Kent Parish Councils to increase awareness of roads which are unsuitable for through use by Heavy Goods Vehicles. Information on this scheme can be obtained by calling 08458 247 800 or email freight@kent.gov.uk



COLLIER STREET PARISH COUNCIL

LORRY WATCH TEAM

Roadmap out of lockdown—Subject to Government’s Criteria being met

Step 1 - Changes on 29 March

Social contact

The evidence shows that it is safer for people to meet outdoors rather than indoors. And this is why from 29 March, when most schools start to break up for the Easter holidays, outdoor gatherings (including in private gardens) of either 6 people (the Rule of 6) or 2 households will also be allowed, making it easier for friends and families to meet outside.

Business and activities

Outdoor sports facilities such as tennis and basketball courts, and open-air swimming pools, will also be allowed to reopen, and people will be able to take part in formally organised outdoor sports.

Travel

The ‘stay at home’ rule will end on 29 March but many restrictions will remain in place. People should continue to work from home where they can and minimise the number of journeys they make where possible, avoiding travel at the busiest times and routes. Travel abroad will continue to be prohibited, other than for a small number of permitted reasons. Holidays abroad will not be allowed, given it will remain important to manage the risk of imported variants and protect the vaccination programme. The government has launched a new taskforce to review global travel which will report on 12 April.

Step 2 - not before 12 April

Business and activities

Step 2, which will be no earlier than 12 April, will see the opening of non-essential retail; personal care premises such as hairdressers and nail salons; and public buildings, including libraries and community centres. Indoor leisure facilities such as gyms will also reopen (but only for use by people on their own or in household groups); as will most outdoor attractions and settings including outdoor hospitality venues, zoos, theme parks, and drive-in cinemas. Self-contained accommodation such as campsites and holiday lets, where indoor facilities are not shared with other households, can also reopen.

Hospitality venues will be allowed to serve people outdoors at Step 2 and there will be no need for customers to order a substantial meal with alcoholic drinks and no curfew, although customers must order, eat and drink while seated (‘table service’). Wider social contact rules will apply in all these settings to prevent indoor mixing between different households.

Events

While funerals can continue with up to 30 mourners, the number of people able to attend weddings, receptions and commemorative events such as wakes will rise to 15.

Step 3 - not before 17 May

Social contact

As part of Step 3, no earlier than 17 May, the government will look to continue easing limits on seeing friends and family wherever possible, allowing people to decide on the appropriate level of risk for their circumstances.

This means that most legal restrictions on meeting others outdoors will be lifted - although gatherings of over 30 people will remain illegal. Indoors, the Rule of 6 or 2 households will apply - we will keep under review whether it is safe to increase this.

As soon as possible and by no later than Step 3, we will also update the advice on social distancing between friends and family, including hugging. But until this point, people should continue to keep their distance from anyone not in their household or support bubble.

Business and activities

Most businesses in all but the highest risk sectors will be able to reopen. In all sectors, COVID-Secure guidance will remain in place and businesses may not cater for groups bigger than the legal limits. Indoor hospitality will reopen - and as in Step 2, venues will not have to serve a substantial meal with alcoholic drinks; nor will there be a curfew. Customers will, however, have to order, eat and drink while seated.

Other indoor locations to open up in Step 3 include indoor entertainment venues such as cinemas and children's play areas; the rest of the accommodation sector, including hotels, hostels and B&Bs; and indoor adult group sports and exercise classes. The government will also allow some larger performances and sporting events in indoor venues with a capacity of 1,000 people or half-full (whichever is a lower number), and in outdoor venues with a capacity of 4,000 people or half-full (whichever is a lower number). In the largest outdoor seated venues, where crowds can be spread out, up to 10,000 people will be able to attend (or a quarter-full, whichever is lower).

Events

Up to 30 people will be able to attend weddings, receptions and wakes, as well as funerals. This limit will also apply to other types of significant life events including bar mitzvahs and christenings.

Review of social distancing

Finally, before Step 4 begins, the government will complete a review of social distancing and other long-term measures that have been put in place to cut transmission. This will inform decisions on the timing and circumstances under which the rules on 1 metre plus, the wearing of face coverings and other measures may be lifted. This will also inform guidance on working from home – which should continue wherever possible until this review is complete.

Step 4 - not before 21 June

Social contact

By Step 4 which will take place no earlier than 21 June, the government hopes to be in a position to remove all legal limits on social contact.

Business, activities and events

We hope to reopen remaining premises, including nightclubs, and ease the restrictions on large events and performances that apply in Step 3. This will be subject to the results of a scientific Events Research Programme to test the outcome of certain pilot events through the spring and summer, where we will trial the use of testing and other techniques to cut the risk of infection. The same Events Research Programme will guide decisions on whether all limits can be removed on weddings and other life events.

As we move through each of these phases in the roadmap, we must all remember that COVID-19 remains a part of our lives. We are going to have to keep living our lives differently to keep ourselves and others safe. We must carry on with 'hands, face, space'. Comply with the COVID-Secure measures that remain in place. Meet outdoors when we can and keep letting fresh air in. Get tested when needed. Get vaccinated when offered. If we all continue to play our part, we will be that bit closer to a future that is more familiar.

PARTY TIME



NOTES

OF THE VIRTUAL MEETING OF COLLIER STREET PARISH COUNCIL UNDER THE CORONAVIRUS ACT [2020]

that took place on Monday 8th March 2021 commencing at 7.00pm

In attendance: Cllr David Goff [Chair]; Cllr Andrew Papas [Vice Chair]; Cllr Jack Highwood; Cllr Steve Sandys; Cllr Deborah Papas; Cllr Steve Barham; Cllr Dave Sealey; Parish Clerk Alan Crocker; County Cllr Eric Hotson; 5 Members of the public

PLANNING The planning section of the meeting was chaired by the Chair of the Planning Committee – Cllr Dave Sealey.

Minutes of Previous Meeting/s

Minutes of Zoom Full Council Meeting 8th February 2021.

Minutes Closed Meeting 22nd February 2021 (Lorry Watch and Speedwatch Initiative going forward)

The meeting unanimously agreed that the minutes of the open meetings of the 8th of February 2021 and the Closed Meeting of the 22nd February were an accurate recording of the said meetings. The minutes of the closed session will be discussed as a closed item at the end of this meeting.

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.

Under this item the meeting agreed to discuss the updated position regarding, The White Hart.

Although the parish council, on behalf of the CIG [Community Interest Group] had submitted a formal request to bring together a bid process, and this was formally confirmed by MBC, the estate agent acting for the owner was reluctant to engage with the parish council/CIG. Planning permission had been granted during the moratorium period which expires 17th August 2021.

John Dobin and Ben Ward briefed the meeting that demolition workers were on site and it was apparent that the inside was being stripped. On behalf of the CIG an email had been sent to the Head of Planning at MBC a précis version of that email is as follows:

Calling for the planning permission to be revoked.

Disproportionality of the viability report.

Ignoring the ACV moratorium.

Dismissive of the Government directive through the ACV regulations to protect their buildings and amenities assets.

The following dates are also most pertinent.

18th August 2017 White Hart listed as an Asset of Community Value.

14 January 2021 Date disposal notice received by Council,

10 February 2021 Date expression of interest received, and six months moratorium period triggered confirmed by Council.

18 February 2021 Council granted planning permission.

The Clerk was tasked with speaking with the Head of Planning, Enforcement, and the officer responsible for ACV's. Helen Grant the MP, will also be copied in.

Correspondence and Action Points

Installation Update

The meeting agreed that the costs obtained by the Chairman in the sum of £300.00 was unanimously accepted by members. The Chairman will progress the installation.

Speedwatch/Lorry Watch

[Initiatives Temporarily Suspended]

The Chairman briefed the meeting on the Zoom meetings with Sean Randell and Sarah Perks, who have agreed to co-ordinate the joint initiative. The coordinators will be responsible for the safe keeping of the Speedwatch equipment and have agreed to feedback to the parish council monthly.

A Zoom meeting is being arranged to launch the new initiative which will include Alan Watson, Community Speedwatch Manager, Annette Fletcher KCC Freight Officer, Jennie Watson, KCC Highways, Sean Holden, Sarah Perks, the Parish Council Chairman and The Parish Clerk together with the combined team of volunteers. This session will include training in respect of Lorry Watch.

The Chairman agreed to move the Speedwatch equipment to a secure building for use when lockdown allows the initiative to recommence.

Coronavirus Update

Collier Street News [March] Page 8 details the Yalding Surgery Vaccination Programme

Collier Street News Page 13 [March] Vaccination Centre's in West Kent

The CSN is available on the parish website <https://collierstreetparishcouncil.co.uk>

CIL MONIES

Focus/Workshop Group Feedback

Health and Wellbeing – Lead Cllr Steve Barham

Now that the school has recommenced Cllr Barham will follow up the action points from the last Zoom meeting.

Village Hall – Lead Cllr David Goff

Cllr Goff led a successful Zoom meeting and is proactive in recruiting Trustees, a further meeting will take place in early course.

The Clerk was tasked with requesting an extension to the grant from Wealden Homes in view of the effects of Covid.

Highways and Community Safety – Cllrs Deborah and Andrew Papas

Having updated the draft of the Highway Improvement Plan, we now await a site visit by KCC for the suggestion to progress to costings and inclusion within the CIL plans for H and CS.

Flood Committee Report

Collier Street Flood Action Group [backed by KCC] has been re-established with two new volunteers – Cllr Steve Sandys and resident Charlie Cooper.

A strategic action plan is being produced. Brook Farm will require a new pipe laid following the works carried out to drainage. A report is being prepared on the effectiveness/or not of the flood measures in force.

Recreation Field Report

The Chairman had received a request for dogs to be allowed on the recreation field. Unfortunately allowing this would be contravene the deed of gift of the original land to the parish council.

The Clerk was tasked with checking the CIL money process for a contribution towards repairs to the surface of the Car Park.

HIGHWAYS

The Chairman and The Clerk attended a Highways Seminar recently. The objective, an attempt to reduce road death to zero by 2050 – 'Thinking outside of the box'. Many good speakers made excellent presentations and the breakout rooms divided the delegates into debate syndicates, with this overall objective in mind. Whereas deaths influenced priority thinking, any accident is now recorded to learn from the incident and make improvements where necessary. New, more affordable speed cameras have been flagged up by the Kent Speedwatch Team. These will be under consideration by the CIL Focus Group.

Following extensive research by KCC – the format of Jarman's Lane is to remain in the current layout.

FINANCE

Reports

[Copy documents sent electronically to all members in advance of the meeting].

BANK RECONCILIATION – February 2021

Members approved the bank reconciliation. – DG will sign off during a 1 to 1 meeting.

RECONCILIATION STATEMENT – February 2021

Member's approval to be signed off by DG at next 1 to 1 meeting.

RECORD OF PAYMENTS & RECEIPTS – February 2021

Members approved the record of payments and receipts.

BUDGET REPORT YTD – February 2021

Members have copies of the latest budget report and will revert to The Clerk with any issues.

CONFIRMATION YR END CLOSEDOWN 08.04.2021

Rialtas will close the accounts for the year end on 8th April 2021.

KALC 08.03.2021

'The point that we wanted to particularly bring to your attention is the update on the AGAR 2020/2021:

- Local audit timescales revert to AGARs completed by 30 June 2022 and audited accounts published by 30 September, although NALC has urged the government to maintain the currently extended time scales.
- AGAR [Annual Return Forms] forms will be sent out by the audit firms from mid-March.

PAYMENTS FOR THE MONTH

Approved by all members.

County Councillor's Report

Eric Hotson acknowledged the intense work on both Speedwatch and Lorry Watch.

When Covid permits, he hopes to meet face to face with Sue Laporte and Jennie Watson [KCC].

Mentioned the Net Zero Conference and the major issues in the 37 parishes in Maidstone is the speed off traffic. As a deterrent, now that the police force has recruited further officers it is hoped that more assistance will be given to the parish initiatives by way of manpower on enforcement. There are now some seven officers in the Maidstone Rural Division. There will be proactive lobbying of the Chief Constable at County level.

The County have agreed their budgets, resulting in a 5% increase [2% being set aside for social care].

The member grant has been halved for 2021-22 to £10,000 to be shared by 7 parishes. Just under £1500 per parish. We will need to first in the queue, the first week in May 2021.

The Chairman tasked The Clerk to write to Margaret Ashworth and the team and thanks them for taking part in the Litter Pick – A great job.

Date of Next Meetings

Next virtual Full Council Meeting scheduled for Monday 12th April 2021 commencing at 19.00hrs.

The parish AGM followed by the Annual Parish Meeting is scheduled to take place on Monday 17th May 2021 commencing at 6.45pm. The Zoom platform will be used.

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

**THE PARISH COUNCIL WOULD LIKE TO SAY A BIG
THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO HELPED WITH THE
VILLAGE CLEAN, ESPECIALLY MARGARET
ASHWORTH FOR CO-ORDINATING EVERYONE**

USEFUL CONTACT DETAILS

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Church Warden

Rachel West 01622 872278

Sec to P.C.C.

Vicky George 01892 730239

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Father Victor McLean 01580 211267

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Chairman

TBC

HELPING HANDS

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(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

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PCSO Nicola Morris 07870163411

Non Emergency 101

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Paddock Wood Citizens Advice Bureau

08701 264856

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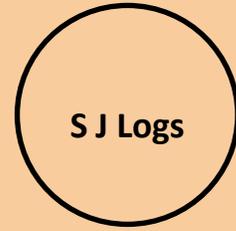


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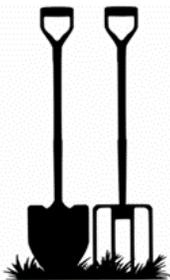
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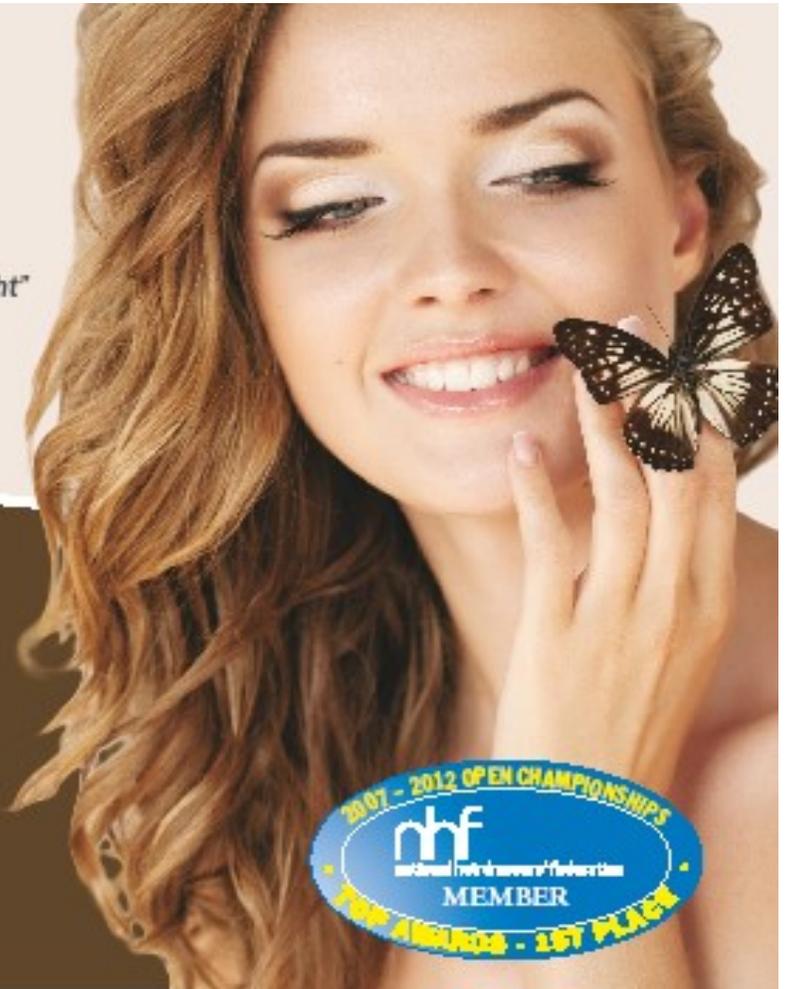
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