

# COLLIER STREET NEWS

May 2021



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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**

Monday 10th and 24th May 2021

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

Monday 3rd, 17th and 31st May 2021

[www.maidstone.gov.uk](http://www.maidstone.gov.uk)

### **CUTE PET OF THE MONTH - Sherlock**



## **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](mailto:barbaragrandi@aol.com)



We are gradually coming out of lockdown and restrictions are easing, but help is still available should you require it.

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



# His Royal Highness, The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh



We were deeply saddened to hear of the death of His Royal Highness Prince Philip The Duke of Edinburgh. Prince Philip led a life dedicated to his public duty and service and he passed away peacefully aged 99 just a few weeks short of his 100th birthday. He was the longest serving consort in British History and a constant companion providing tremendous support to his wife, The Queen Elizabeth II, who described him as 'her rock'.

An online Book Of Remembrance can be accessed at:

<https://www.royal.uk/condolence>

## A message for May from Rev'd Lisa

May is probably my favourite month. Frosts are behind us, the garden starts to take shape and being a few weeks into exposing my arms, legs, and face to sunlight again, I can rejoice for the passing of that bluey tinge of my winter skin.

If the government lockdown roadmap progresses to plan, May 17<sup>th</sup> will for this year be a turning point for us all. This date marks the return of the indoor reunions of families and friends. During the last year we have been subject to a plethora of social distancing regulations and rules and have perhaps fallen out of the habit of hosting one another. In my parish role the recent rarity of face-to-face contact has led me to appreciate afresh the joy of hospitality. I have never more appreciated the value of a shared beverage and conversation. For those of you looking forward to such contact after the 17th, I would be happy to meet with you, your teapot and biscuit tin if you need a chat!

As I speak to others about the new freedoms we may enjoy, people seem to hold one of three views.

Firstly, there are those who are excited by the changes. They are menu planning for dinner parties, planning holidays and have already been found queuing outside Primark. This group are amongst the minority in my experience.

The second group are those who are concerned about the relaxation of rules. They are either worried about how others might act irresponsibly and endanger them or have lost confidence in leaving home. To be in big or busy places after the intimacy of staying locally for most of the last six months is a daunting prospect that will need gradually building up to.

The third group are those who have rather enjoyed the peace and quiet of the last few months. Many have appreciated less pressure to travel and rush about, more time for hobbies and not having to wear normal work clothes. Whilst the relaxation of rules for some may be looked at as the timely end to an unplanned sabbatical; for others, it feels intrusive having settled to life at a different rhythm that seems much more enjoyable than their life before Covid.

So how can we help each other to manage our different perceptions about the changes ahead? I think we need to be honest about how we feel and listen carefully to one another. As we reflect, we could do worse than consider the message from Psalm 121 which reminds us that:

**“The Lord will keep you from all harm—he will watch over your life; the Lord will watch over your coming and going, both now and forevermore.”** This Psalm is one of the Songs of Ascent which would have been sung as the people walked to The Temple in Jerusalem to worship. In the modern context we are called on behalf of God to watch over one another as we travel and meet.

In our Benefice churches we have remained open for prayer and worship throughout the recent months of lockdown. For some the chance to visit church on a Sunday or Wednesday has been an important part of their routine; but for many, shielding or being cautious until they are vaccinated or otherwise feel safe, the month of May could mark the beginning of a return to church as well as other activities. Your church family will be happy to greet you whenever you feel able to return in person. Please be assured that our Covid protocols are top notch, and we do everything we can to ensure your safety. If anything is worrying you, please speak to one of us so that we can offer appropriate support.

In Luke 4, Jesus declared that he had come to **“proclaim freedom for the prisoners...and to set the oppressed free...”** Whilst this long winter may have felt like a prison at times, I hope that you are able to reflect back on some of the positives of life lived more simply and embrace the new freedoms for yourself. We have in each church service prayed for you and your safety and will continue to do so. We look forward to welcoming you in person to church as soon as you feel ready.

With every blessing

Rev'd Lisa Cornell.

# THE SCHOOL REPORT

This month we have a magazine article with a difference, as it is composed of articles written by Discovery Class as part of their literacy focus – producing newspapers. Well done to our budding journalists who certainly have a feel for some eye-catching headlines!

## DAY AT DOVER CASTLE



On Monday the 24th Pippins class went to Dover castle to learn

further information about their topic - castles.

Katie and Oliver, some of the pupils on the trip told us " It was fun at Dover castle. We played games and had lunch outside, we went to the top of the castle and played outside. It was very windy and Katie's hair blew in the wind". Even with the bad weather they still had a really good time .

## Crazy Cakes

On the Friday 21st of January 2011 Russet Class held a cake sale in the school hall to raise money for Starfish Malawi. Charlotte said "I had great fun buying cakes at the cake sale and eating them afterwards." Jamie said "I loved the cake sale and really enjoyed it when I went home whilst I was eating my yummy cakes!" Every class did a cake sale. In total we raised £502.26p for Star fish Malawi.

## Playtime fun!

After being so well behaved with the football the boys have earned a treat..... football nets!

There is also playground equipment for others who do not play football, so all the school can share the fun. Everyone has been enjoying the new equipment that the old school council chose from the money we raised at P.E



skills day. It has been great fun at playtimes and KS2 can enjoy the equipment too!

## ECO BITES

The eco council has been re-doing one of the boards to make a brand new display. Last year the whole school created a pledge tree, a board of things that we pledge to do to make the world and school a better place .This has been replaced with a smile surrounded by eco achievements, things that we have done to help save the planet.

## **FORCES THAT WILL BOWL YOU OVER.**

On Wednesday the 26th Russet class went on a trip to Tunbridge Wells Bowlplex to discover more about their topic forces, pushing and pulling, and to help with taking away numbers from 10. The person with the top score was Jamie Clifford (year R) with 100 points. Although Joe and Jamie Flintan didn't get top score they were the only people to not use the ramp! On the whole the entire class thoroughly enjoyed the experience and would like to go again!

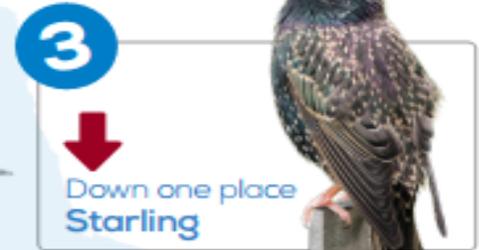


Children's writing is one of many aspects of school life which you will be able to enjoy if you are able to visit us on our Open Day on March 23rd. The school will be open from 9 -11.30 in the morning, and from 1.30 until 3.15 in the afternoon. Children will be available to guide you around and answer questions during lesson time, and the day will include a cookery demonstration at 1.30 and a performance of gymnastics at 2.45. You are warmly welcome to come and join us.

# United Kingdom

Across the UK, over one million people (**1,019,802**) took part in Big Garden Birdwatch, spotting a phenomenal **17,117,256** birds. Top of the flocks for the 18th year running was the cheeky little house sparrow. Blue tits moved up one place to take second, while starlings dropped down one place to come third.

## Top ten 2021



## Collier Street Ramblings Mole Hills

Once again our lawn has been spoilt by those tiny little 'velvet' skinned mammals that make so much mess, this time their mysterious mole hills have appeared across our front lawn. Initially the tell tale mound of 'sifted' soil appeared in the longer grass by the pond edge but within days there were 4 more evenly spaced mounds in a line across the grass. We usually notice the new piles of soil the following morning but one evening a new one appeared around 8pm. Ray collected the soil and spread it over a nearby flower bed but this did not deter the little groundworker and we ended up with 11 dirty patches in a line about twenty feet long.



I wanted to find out how these tiny animals manage to produce so much apparently sifted soil when we know our ground is full of stones and weald clay; the following information came from a really good website : [animalcorner.org/animals/british-moles](http://animalcorner.org/animals/british-moles)

**Moles** belong to the mammal family Talpidae and they are very common throughout Britain, however, they are rarely seen as they spend almost their entire life underground. It is thought that the mole population is around 31,000,000; that's a lot of mole hills!

European mole  
(*Talpa europaea*)



Male moles are called 'boars' and female moles are called 'sows'. A group of moles is called a 'labour'. They measure around 14 centimetres in length with a 2.8 centimetre tail and they are highly adapted for their underground digging way of life. A mole can dig its way through an amazing 14 metres of soil in just one hour. Their body is the shape of a cylinder and they dig so effectively because of very strong shoulders and broad, spade-like fore limbs with claws. Its pink snout is hairless and extremely sensitive.

### **MOLE HABITATS**

They dig out a spherical ball in the burrow in the centre of their territory which is lined with dry grasses and leaves collected from the surface.

### **MOLE DIET**

Moles are carnivores feeding almost exclusively small invertebrate animals living underground such as earthworms and the larvae of beetles and flies. Their saliva contains a toxin that can paralyse their prey, the unfortunate live victims can then be stored in special underground larders for later consumption. Researchers have discovered such larders with over a thousand earthworms in them. Before eating earthworms, moles pull them between their squeezed paws to force the collected earth and dirt out of the worms gut.

### **MOLE BEHAVIOUR**

They live alone and sleep, feed and breed in their tunnels. Moles occasionally appear at the top of one of their characteristic molehills, and even then usually only the head and pink fleshy snout is revealed. The tunnels are quite deep but the mole follows its prey so it will be near the surface when the food is there but tunnels deeper to seek food as the ground dries. Most soil is compressed against the side of the tunnels but when it's burrowing near the surface it pushes the soil out making mole hills.



### **MOLE REPRODUCTION**

Female moles give birth to one litter per year containing 2 – 7 young. Gestation period is 4 weeks. The young leave the mother when they are about 5 weeks old and the average life span of a mole is 2.5 years.

So next time you find a mole hill you can marvel at their skills, they are nearly blind but have sensitive hairs and whiskers to help them find their way around. They also they also have snouts that can smell in stereo, each nostril can smell independently of the other to find food!

## New Trustee Sought for Yalding Alms Houses

Retirement from the committee leaves a vacancy for a new member. Trustees are required to attend between 2 and 4 meetings a year. The committee consists of a chair, treasurer, clerk and 5 other members.

The new trustee will be involved in discussions and decision making to ensure the charity is run in the best interests of those it supports.

No previous experience is necessary. The members seek someone who is committed, willing to suggest & question as well as listen to and consider other's ideas.

The Alms Houses were built in 1847 for 6 single women of the parishes. They continue to provide a safe and secure home for 6 ladies of our community.

If you are interested in this role or have any questions please contact the Clerk, De-Ann Parsons at [deannkember@gmail.com](mailto:deannkember@gmail.com)

Also:

The Clerk would be pleased to hear from anyone with general **Handyman** skills who is interested in quoting for ad-hoc work at the Alms Houses. Contact the Clerk, De-Ann Parsons at [deannkember@gmail.com](mailto:deannkember@gmail.com)



### The Yalding Alms Houses

These attractive houses were built in 1847 and they are located along Windmill Path in Yalding, this is a pathway leading off the Yalding end of Vicarage Road.

The building contains 6 individual houses which each have two floors. They are suitable for only one single lady as they have just one bedroom upstairs and a bathroom. Downstairs there is a lounge and kitchen. In front of the building there is a communal garden maintained by a gardener employed by the Trustees and to the rear there is a back yard for each property where bins and other items can be stored in small outhouses.

Each lady must have lived in Yalding, Laddingford or Collier Street for at least two years although they may be offered a place if they live elsewhere but have relatives/a friendship network within these parishes. They also have to be over 50 and of limited means with a maximum asset value of £16,000.

All six Alms Houses are currently happily occupied.

## Advice from Dogs Trust on how to keep your dog safe from thieves and what to do if your dog goes missing.



Losing your dog or having them taken from you is an unbearable thought. It's a reality for the families of 2,000 dogs who are stolen each year in the UK.

A recent study by the charity DogLost estimates a 250% increase in dog thefts nationwide during the pandemic.

Follow this advice to protect your pooch and share it with other dog owners.

With your help we can ensure no one else has to experience the heartbreak of dog theft.

Keep your dog safe from thieves at home.

### Follow these tips to keep thieves away from your home and pooch.

- Make sure your house and property boundaries are secure – keeping your dog in and intruders out.
- Fit garden gates with a sturdy lock to prevent trespassers gaining easy access to your property.
- Join your local Neighbourhood Watch scheme.
- Report any suspicious activity to the police.
- If you post pictures of your dog on social media, regularly review your privacy settings and make sure someone couldn't identify your address from your posts.

### Keep your dog spottable at all times

Always knowing where your dog is will help keep them safe from being stolen. Here are a few things to keep in mind when you're outside with your pooch.

- Keep your dog in sight when they are in the garden and never leave them unsupervised.
- If you're exercising your dog off-lead always keep them in sight and pay attention to what they are doing.
- Make sure your dog **comes back when you call them**, regardless of where they are.
- Never leave your dog unattended in a public place even if it's just for a minute.
- Never leave your dog unattended in a car – as well as the risk of being stolen **they can also easily overheat**.

### Make sure your dog is searchable if the worst should happen.

- Ensure your dog is wearing a tag with **your name**, phone number and address on it.
- Ensure your dog is microchipped and that your contact details are kept up to date with your database provider.
- Keep up to date, clear photos of your dog making sure to show any distinctive features. These will be a massive help if your dog goes missing.

## What to do if your dog is stolen.

Here are some practical things you can do to give you the best chance of being reunited with your dog.

- Report the theft to the police straight away. Make sure you get a crime reference number and insist that your dog is recorded as stolen and not missing.
- Report the theft of your dog to your local authority dog warden and notify your microchip database provider.
- Contact local animal centres, rescue charities, your local vets, and any other neighbouring practices to ask them to keep an eye out for your dog.
- Monitor places thieves may try to sell your dog, like pet websites, pet shops and notice boards. Notify the police immediately if you come across anything.
- Use missing and stolen animal websites such as [www.dogslost.co.uk](http://www.dogslost.co.uk). They help reunite missing pets with their owners by offering free advice and support.

## Use social media to find your dog.

One of the most effective ways to raise awareness of your lost pet is through social media. Here are some top tips.

- Create a poster with a recent picture of your dog and where they were last seen, including as much detail of the incident as possible.
- Post on all the platforms you can and ask your friends and family to do the same.
- Ask your followers to share your posts.
- Search social media platforms. If someone finds your dog they may post about it on social media, so search for identifying features and the location your dog was lost, eg words like 'dog found in Essex', 'brown Labrador found' etc.
- Tag animal charities, vets, microchip database providers and local businesses to ask them to share your posts.
- Make sure your social media profiles are set to 'public' in the security settings.



Information from the Dogs Trust website. For more information please visit [www.dogstrust.org.uk](http://www.dogstrust.org.uk)



## Woodpeckers- *Getting back to 'normal'*

Well, it may not be normal yet but at least the Woodpeckers were able to meet and stay safe while getting some of the work done on the first Saturday of April. It was a pleasant day and we managed to tidy up the graveyard, spray the weed killer around the gravestones, weed the rose bed, strim the undergrowth and remove a large section of tree from the rear of the grave yard.

It was also lovely to welcome Christine as a new member of the group.

Our task was made easier because Stephane and David Goff had been keeping the grass mown.

David driving the mower back on to Stephane's trailer.



Everyone took their own tools and drinks but all enjoyed the usual socially distanced chat while eating the coffee cake supplied by Margaret and the Madeira cake supplied by Jo.

There is always plenty to do and we are proud to have such a well kept church yard and cemetery so if you would like to join us you would get a warm welcome. We are a very sociable group and we always manage to have a chat and a laugh while we are there so if you enjoy a couple of hours of fresh air and some very basic gardening please come along. We meet on the first Saturday of each month between 10am and 12 mid-day.

### The Woodpeckers dates for the 2021 churchyard tidying sessions are:

May 1st	August 7th	November 6th
June 5th	September 4th	
July 3rd	October 2nd	

# Jacqui Bakes

## Irish Brack

The sun is shining, the sky is blue, I've just popped one of these in the oven, we will enjoy it hot with butter & a cuppa in about an hour & 20 minutes. This is one of my dear old mums recipes, we finally got to sit in my parents garden on Wednesday with a cuppa and slice of this delicious tea bread. It's so easy to make and is lovely hot or cold with plenty of butter. Whilst mine is baking in the oven, I'm off to check on our pregnant ewes, 2 have lambed so far, 5 left to go.

### Ingredients

225g mixed fruit  
240ml cold black tea  
120g soft brown sugar  
1 egg  
225g SR flour



### Method

Place the fruit & sugar in a bowl with the tea, leave to soak overnight.  
Preheat oven to 160 degrees, grease/line a 1lb loaf tin.  
Combine the egg & flour with the tea mixture, being careful not to over-mix.

Tip the mixture into the prepared loaf tin, bake for about 1 hour, 20 minutes. You may want to cover with baking parchment halfway through cooking so the top isn't to crusty.

Remove from oven, serve hot or cold with lots of butter & a cup of tea.

I sometime add mixed spice or cinnamon to the mixture,

ENJOY !

## **Air Quality in Collier Street**

Over the last two years, the Parish Council have been participating in an air quality initiative organised by Maidstone Borough Council. We were one of 13 sites in and around Maidstone who signed up.

### **How is Air Quality Defined?**

The air quality here is defined by measuring the amount of Nitrogen Dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) in the air. The main source of this gas is from the burning of fossil fuels and in the UK emissions come from

35% Road Transport

22% Energy Generation

19% Industrial Combustion

17% Other Transport such as rail and shipping

### **Acceptable Levels**

The concentration of NO<sub>2</sub> is measured in micrograms in each cubic metre of air ( $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ ). A microgram ( $\mu\text{g}$ ) is one millionth of a gram. A concentration of  $1 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$  means that one cubic metre of air contains one microgram of pollutant. In the UK, the government has set an annual average acceptable limit of 40  $\mu\text{g}$ .

### **Location**

The site chosen for Collier Street was the junction with Green Lane opposite the school.

### **Results**

The overall monthly average over 2 years over all 13 sites was 24 so well within limits

The overall monthly average in 2019 was 27 and in 2020 was 21 so lockdown had a significant impact.

Only one site exceeded the limit and that was in Leeds where the average was 52 in 2019 with the limit being exceeded in every single month. In 2020, it was 39.

Our average was 20 in 2019 and 15 in 2020

In 2019, two sites recorded marginally lower figures than us and in 2020 just one – outside Headcorn Primary School – which averaged just 13.

Figures were generally worse in winter – being on average approximately 25% higher across all sites.

Our worst month was January – levels reaching 25 in 2019 and 20 in 2020. Our lowest month was July, recording 14 in 2019 and 11 in 2020

### **What Happens Next?**

In view of the above results, and the not insignificant cost of performing the monitoring, the intention is to repeat the analysis every 3-5 years.

## Collier Street Speed Watch - We are back .....



With the easing of lockdown on the 29th of March, we were able to resume Speed Watch. High-vis vests were washed, pencils sharpened and the dust blown off clip boards.

Each month we will publish our stats so we can share our progress. 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](mailto:Sean@reddoortraining.co.uk)) or call 01892 354736 and join our merry gang.

### Data for April:

Number of 1 hour sessions	32
Number of vehicles recorded	4163
Number of vehicles exceeding limit	594
Maximum speed observed	48
Number of warning letters sent	100
Number of home visits by the police	3



### You can also join group by following these simple steps:

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]**.

### 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](mailto: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](mailto:freight@kent.gov.uk)



COLLIER STREET PARISH COUNCIL  
LORRY WATCH TEAM



# COLLIER STREET PARISH COUNCIL

## CONTACT

The Parish Clerk  
01580 766249  
[parish.clerk@collierstreetparishcouncil.co.uk](mailto:parish.clerk@collierstreetparishcouncil.co.uk)

## WEBSITE

<https://collierstreetparishcouncil.co.uk>

## **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 and the agenda and link will be displayed on the parish website three clear working days before the meeting.

This is your opportunity to meet 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.**

## 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

### PARISH MAGAZINE

#### Editor

Jacki Fogg 01892 730869

Emma Howard 01892 730245

Tracey Bentley (Advertising) 01892 730252

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

### VILLAGE HALL

Chairman  
TBC

### 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

Drs Streeter, Potter, Morgan, Estall, DeCourcy

Hallinan & Wilford 01622 831257

### POLICE

PCSO Nicola Morris 07870163411

Non Emergency 101

### NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Barbara Grandi 01892 730376

### Paddock Wood Citizens Advice Bureau

08701 264856

### COLLIER STREET PARISH COUNCIL

#### Clerk to the Council

Alan Crocker 01580 766249

[parish.clerk@collierstreetparishcouncil.co.uk](mailto:parish.clerk@collierstreetparishcouncil.co.uk)

Dave Sealey 01892 730589  
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David Goff **Chairman** 01892 730512  
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Andrew Papas 01892 730830

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[deborah.papas@collierstreetparishcouncil.co.uk](mailto:deborah.papas@collierstreetparishcouncil.co.uk)

# NOTES

## UNDER THE CORONAVIRUS ACT [2020] A VIRTUAL MEETING OF COLLIER STREET PARISH COUNCIL Took place on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2021, commencing at 7.00pm

In attendance	Cllr Deborah Papas	Clerk Alan Crocker
Cllr David Goff [Chair]	Cllr Dave Sealey	2 members of the public
Cllr Andrew Papas [Vice Chair]	Cllr Steve Sandys	2 agents
Cllr Steve Barham	County Councillor Eric Hotson	
Cllr Jack Highwood	Claudine Russell Conservative Candidate for Borough	

Prior to the commencement of the meeting, the Chairman requested members and attendees to observe a minute's silence in memory of the late, The Prince Phillip, The Duke of Edinburgh who died on 9 April 2021 aged 99, he was the Queen's husband for 73 years and the longest serving royal consort in British history, the family's patriarch and a well-known figure in public life for two-thirds of a century. The Parish Council extend to Her Majesty, The Queen, our sincere condolences. A Book of Remembrance has been opened virtually on the Buckingham Palace Website. The link is shown on the parish website.

PLANNING	This section of the meeting was chaired by the Chair of the Planning Committee Cllr Dave Sealey.	Lead DS
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The meeting formally approved the minutes of the above meeting as an accurate recording of the said meeting.

Questions from members of the Public.	<u>Public adjournment.</u> 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
---------------------------------------	--

Graham Fuller and David Harvey the agents for Reed Court Farm Hunton Road Marden Tonbridge Kent who propose the erection of a new free-range egg farm consisting of 3no. hen houses with extensive outdoor ranges and fencing, formal vehicle access from Hunton Road and associated parking, landscaping, woodland and tree planting, drainage and other associated works were invited to address the meeting. They invited members of the parish council to visit and see first-hand how Reed Court Farm operate. Several of the members will be visiting. They reiterated that we are now in a second period of consultation. The parish council have uploaded their comments to the parish portal. Cllr Jack Highwood has also received assurances over the issue we raised with them, a précised version is as follows: -  
Friday's trucks and tractors can drive through Staplehurst because it is an A road. They will be routing all traffic from the A229 to Chainhurst and will not be coming through Collier Street. They stated that the margins on chickens were so low that they need to be efficient as possible and so all vehicles will take the same route. Chainhurst to Underling Lane, to A229 and then out to Maidstone or to their Staplehurst site. He said that he cannot account for human error but all of their trucks and trailers have GPS tracking to make sure they keep to the most efficient and designated routes.  
So while Chainhurst is going to see a relatively big increase in traffic we will not. He said ' he can guarantee we will see 0 vehicles from him on day to day operations'. He said we can complain to him if they do and he will put them back on track.

Smell.  
He was asked about smell and he said that Collier Street will not be affected as they have 0 smell outside of 20m from a building. That is quite a claim and after some more discussion he has invited us or anyone who is interested to tour the Brenchley or Headcorn facility and see and smell for ourselves. The PC have arranged a visit.

04.21.06.01 THE WHITE HART	Update & Actions from the Community Interest Group
-------------------------------	--

Ben Ward on behalf of the CIG briefed the meeting that the demolition fencing necessitates lorries to back up Green Lane and turn around at the school.  
The PC will raise this issue along with the following: -  
With Freight at KCC for them to be aware of the situation. We have identified the lorry concerned.

The planning approval complaint has passed to stage 2. Dependent on the result could be referred to the Ombudsman who has clear guidelines as to what he/she can investigate.  
The planning process should protect and encourage the facilities within the community.  
No consideration to the viability of a community owned public house.  
Time is of the essence and it is quite apparent that the owner is prepared to demolish the building.  
Further representations is to be made by the CIG.

Another issue is that in the event of flooding the drain has been prevented from being cleared, another action point for the PC to take up with the appropriate authority.

Correspondence and Action Points

04.21.07.01	Defibrillator Installation Update	Lead DG																						
<p>The contractor has agreed to wire up the defibrillator free of charge since it is a community initiative. We thank them for their generosity. Once installed we will upload the u-tube video explaining how to use the appliance and arrange training for some 50 residence as part of the purchase package. The Clerk will advise all of the emergency authorities of the installation.</p>																								
04.21.07.02	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;">   </div> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>LorryWatch</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Speedwatch &amp; LorryWatch Joint Initiative Reports from the Leads Sean Randell &amp; Sarah Perks</p>																							
<p>The team led by Sean Randell and Sarah Perks were thanked by the Chairman for the volume of activity within this initiative. Sean presented his report as follows:</p>																								
<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td>Town/Parish Council Report for Collier Street Speedwatch Group.</td></tr> <tr><td>Reporting between 12/03/21 and 12/04/21</td></tr> <tr><td>Current Volunteers = 14</td></tr> <tr><td>Summary for this Period</td></tr> <tr><td>Number of Sessions this period = 16</td></tr> <tr><td>Total Vehicles exceeding limit = 305</td></tr> <tr><td>DVLA Valid vehicles = 233</td></tr> <tr><td>Accuracy = 76%</td></tr> <tr><td>Maximum Speed recorded in 30 limit = 50 mph(+66%)</td></tr> <tr><td>Police Actions this Period</td></tr> <tr><td>1st Record Observed = 186</td></tr> <tr><td>Hand Delivered HD4 = 2</td></tr> <tr><td>Letter Sent FO1 = 8</td></tr> <tr><td>Letter Sent FO2 = 1</td></tr> <tr><td>Letter Sent MO2 = 27</td></tr> <tr><td>Letter Sent MO3 = 6</td></tr> <tr><td>Superceeded = 3</td></tr> <tr><td>Overall</td></tr> <tr><td>My group started Recording* on = 17/06/20</td></tr> <tr><td>Number of Sessions since start date = 118</td></tr> <tr><td>Vehicles recorded exceeding limit since start date = 2609</td></tr> <tr><td>Maximum Speed recorded in 30 limit = 68 mph(+126%)</td></tr> </table>			Town/Parish Council Report for Collier Street Speedwatch Group.	Reporting between 12/03/21 and 12/04/21	Current Volunteers = 14	Summary for this Period	Number of Sessions this period = 16	Total Vehicles exceeding limit = 305	DVLA Valid vehicles = 233	Accuracy = 76%	Maximum Speed recorded in 30 limit = 50 mph(+66%)	Police Actions this Period	1st Record Observed = 186	Hand Delivered HD4 = 2	Letter Sent FO1 = 8	Letter Sent FO2 = 1	Letter Sent MO2 = 27	Letter Sent MO3 = 6	Superceeded = 3	Overall	My group started Recording* on = 17/06/20	Number of Sessions since start date = 118	Vehicles recorded exceeding limit since start date = 2609	Maximum Speed recorded in 30 limit = 68 mph(+126%)
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<p>The Chairman briefed the parish meeting on the meeting with both the Speedwatch Manager at Kent Police and the Lorry Watch Coordinator at KCC. In is now apparent now that police must be at the scene of an offence in respect of traffic regulations on the 7.5 tonne limit.</p>																								
<p>It was agreed that the PC now need to seek police assistance with both initiatives as it was agreed that the only way forward was to involve those with the power to enforce and more to the point to prosecute offenders.</p>																								
04.21.07.03	Coronavirus Update	Lead DS																						

The parish website link is updated by central government.

CIL MONIES	Lead DG
<p>Focus/Workshop Group Feedback  Health and Wellbeing – Lead Cllr Steve Barham  Cllr Steve Barham thanked Kelly Anderson for instigating a survey via What’s App. Overall the response was reasonably good and gave useful statistics. It was agreed that Cllr Barham would now prepare an article for the Collier Street News in order to gain further input.  Village Hall – Lead Cllr David Goff  Cllr Goff had no replies from the CSN Advert for new Trustees for the Village Hall, He will now progress further meetings with the existing trustees and further meetings will be held.  Highways and Community Safety – Cllrs Deborah and Andrew Papas  Cllr Goff, Cllr Papas and The Clerk met with the KCC Liaison and a KCC Engineer. We prepared a 10-point agenda and each side is to feed further information into the group once we have completed further research and costings have been prepared,</p>	
MARDEN MINORS FOOTBALL CLUB	
01.Discuss and agree the terms of the renewal of the contract and the annual fee payable.	
The meeting agreed to renew the contract and terms for MMFC in its original format and for the agreed fee of £200.00 per annum.	
<p>Discuss and agree the payment for the use of the field for training.  In view of the disruption to both the fixture list and the training session and the very few times the club used the field it was unanimously agreed that we would waive the small amount that would have been payable. The Clerk will brief the club accordingly.</p>	
Flood Committee Report	Lead DG
<p>The Parish Council replied to the public enquiry on the Leigh Barrier and Cllr Goff has been invited to attend and speak on the paper.  The reported trees on the Lesser Teise has been reported to the appropriate authorities. They will action the removal during the ‘short windows’ they have, influenced by the weather conditions and the crop growing cycle.</p>	
Recreation Field Report	
The contractors have recommenced the cutting of the recreation field.	
HIGHWAYS	Lead DG
<p>At the meeting with the KCC Highways Liaison and Engineers the following point were discussed.  Quite Lanes  Illusional Road Markings – new perceived traffic calming ideas.  Flashing speed signs  Give Way signage  Village White Gates  Creation of Footpath Legislation  Clarity on 5 tonne signs  Jarmon’s Lane  On the next site the relevant issuses will be further investigated.  In the interim Cllr Goff and Papas, by way of clarity, will digitally capture the issues we discussed for further actions to be taken.</p>	
Car Park Maintenance	
The potholes in the Car Park have been filled and all of the loose road planings have been redistributed.	
Diffusion Tubes	Lead Cllr Dave Sealy
Owing to favourable readings over the last three year the members agreed that going forward we will not renew this initiative for the upcoming year.	
BANK RECONCILIATION – March 2021	
Members approved the bank reconciliation and Cllr Papas agreed that the on line accounts matched the report. The Corporate Card Account will be opened for viewing by Cllr Deborah Papas gling forward.	
RECONCILIATION STATEMENT – March 2021	
Cllr Goff will sign off the agreed reconciliation statement at the next one to one open air meeting.	
RECORD OF PAYMENTS & RECEIPTS – March 2021	
Members agreed the payments as detailed. [circulated in advance of the meeting].	

BUDGET REPORT YTD – March 2021
Members approved the budget reports circulated in advance of the meeting.
CONFIRMATION YR END CLOSEDOWN 08.04.2021
The year-end closure and carryover the 2021-2022 went smoothly with Rialtas Software, with no issues arising. All end figures year figures were verified. Back-up copies of various documents were prepared by The Clerk as requested by Rialtas.
04.21.12.06 AUDIT TIMELINE – AUDITING SOLUTIONS [Internal] PKF LITTLEJOHN [External]
The audit deadline for PKFL is the 2 <sup>nd</sup> of July. Members will be requested to approve the AGAR and supporting reports at the full council meeting on the 17 <sup>th</sup> of May 2021.
Internal Audit Report.

<p>Members approved the internal audit report.</p> <p><b>Overall Conclusion</b>  We have concluded that, on the basis of the programme of work we have undertaken, the Council has again maintained adequate and effective internal control arrangements during the year. We are pleased to acknowledge the quality of records maintained by the Clerk and thank him for his assistance, which has ensured the smooth progress of our review process. We have completed and signed the 'Annual Internal Audit Certificate' in the year's AGAR, having concluded that, in all significant respects, the relevant control objectives set out in that report were being achieved throughout the financial year to a standard adequate to meet the needs of the Council.</p> <p><b>Recommendation</b>  <u>Response Review of Expenditure &amp; VAT R1</u>  The Council minutes should include detail of all payments being approved whether due for payment following the meeting or retrospectively, be payment made online, by Corporate Card, Standing Order or Direct Debit, ideally also identifying the transaction reference according to the Alpha software.</p> <p><u>Fixed Asset Registers R2</u>  Consideration should be given to the development of a photographic register of the Council's asset stock to assist any potential insurance reclaims or police investigations in the event of theft or damage to Council property.</p> <p><u>PC Note</u> The Parish Council has already initiated this recommendation and has almost finalised a digital asset register. This will be presented with the internal audit for next year.</p>
--

Borough Councillor's Report
<p>Clr Hotson praised the Speedwatch and Lorry Watch Teams for the level of activity on these initiatives. Regrettably, other adjacent parishes were suffering from the same issues without such proactive initiatives. Following a meeting with the Chief Constable, the Rural Task forces are to be reinstated. We now need to gather a few more statistics and will approach this initiative for some enforcement manpower. I have been involved with the massive volume of lobbying on the White Hart, together with Helen Grant. We now await the result of the second stage complaint and the further action that the CIG Group will consider. The next stage would be considering referral to the Ombudsman.</p> <p>With elections pending on 10 May 2021, this could be my final meeting. I wish to extend to all members of the parish council and The Clerk my sincere thanks for our all-pleasant working relationships and the help we have afforded each other. The Chairman thanked Eric for all his past help, whilst we wait for the election results.</p>
Matters for Discussion at the Next Meeting
Village Picnic

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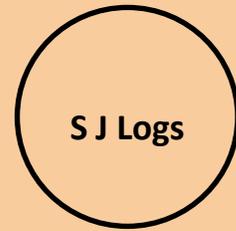


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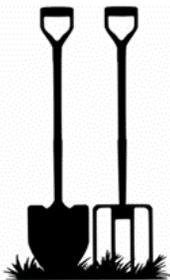
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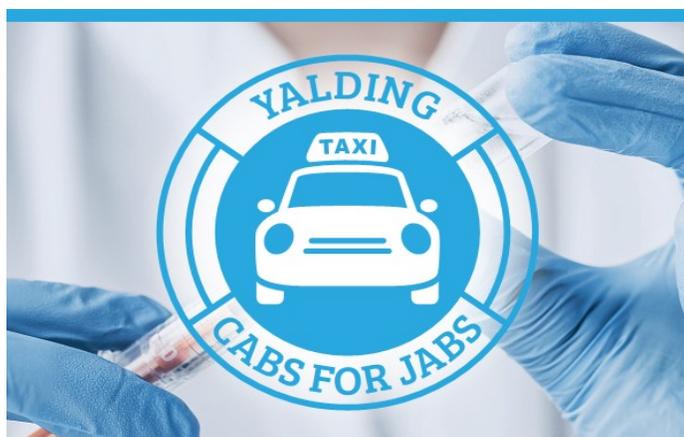
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