

# COLLIER STREET NEWS

August/September 2021



## THIS ISSUE:

Jacqui bakes x 2

Woodpeckers

Ramblings

Bamboo

Words from Justin Elks

Saxonden

The Post Office postcard

Speedwatch

ABC

Giant Hogweed

Parish Council Notes

# 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 2nd, 16th and 30th August

Monday 13th and 27th September

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

Monday 9th and 23rd August

Monday 6th and 20th September

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

### **CUTE PET OF THE MONTH - MELLOW MOLLY**



## **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)

**COPY DEADLINE 20TH OF THE MONTH**

# COLLIER STREET

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this bumper double edition. It's so rewarding to know that residents appreciate our efforts in editing this magazine and want to get involved. Thank you to Dave Gifford and Jason Day for sending in some amazing photos and to Alyshia Harrington-Clark for the new regular feature ABC. Thank you to Barbara Grandi for the usual Ramblings and Woodpeckers, especially with a broken arm!

Front cover main photo Good Year blimp over the village—Dave Gifford. Small photo—Pop-in tea

## WE NEED YOUR HELP

We would love to hear from you with information, articles or photographs you wish to feature in the village magazine.

Or please send us a picture of your pet for 'cute pet of the month'.

Without your contributions there would not be a magazine, so please send to

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

## FLY TIPPING AND POTHOLES

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

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



## 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 Pop-In Get Together

2021

## St Margaret's Church

We are open again!

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

2 - 4pm the second Wednesday of the month:

Aug 11

Sept 15

Oct 13

Nov 10

Dec 8

There is a very modest charge for a 'bottomless' hot drink for £1 and an additional £1 for a very generous slice of home baked cake or savoury snack and all profits go to good causes.

This month, we are donating £100 to St Margaret's Primary School, Collier Street to help them buy more equipment for use on their newly acquired playing field.

We will continue to meet outside while the weather is good and inside again when needed.

Please come along during the rest of 2021, all ages welcome.



## Music, inclusion and love

*"If you've lost your faith in love of music oh the end won't be long"*

This lyric, from the Libertines song "the Good Old Days" neatly sums up the importance music has had in my life. I've spent most of my life listening to music every waking hour, and always being involved in music in some type of capacity. I met my wife when singing in a band, had a small recording setup in my house ever since, and have only recently come to the rational conclusion at the age of fifty that perhaps rock stardom isn't coming knocking anytime soon.

I have passed on the interest to a household of one drummer, one pianist and a very talented guitarist who, grades permitting, will be leaving home to study music soon. None of this implies I consider myself to have any particularly remarkable talent; but music speaks to me in a way that other activities don't. God meets me in music. I find music has a real power to communicate what can't be put into words, to provide comfort and carry me through difficult times.

The pandemic has had a big impact on worship in general, but particularly on our music in church. Up until recently, our services in Yalding have been without music; but recently we have been able to reintroduce a small choir and, by the time this newsletter is published, it may well be that we have been able to return to congregational singing in church.

The main purpose of the Christian church meeting in our services is to worship God, and congregational singing and involvement in music enables Christians to "make a joyful noise" together (Psalm 100:1-5). As well as pointing upwards to God, joining together in singing in church can unite us into a single body – the body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:12-31) - as we gather and encourage each other as we journey through our lives – much missed during the pandemic.

Music's power to speak to us and provide meaning is why people care so much about it. Music can be controversial; each person has their own taste and point of view, and disagreements about music are a well-known source of tension and division within churches.

In striving after unity within a church community, there is a danger that church music makes it more difficult for those outside our church communities to feel welcome, and able to join in. Similarly, musical excellence can risk making music worship more about performance than participation. There is something profoundly counter-cultural when the church invites anyone, irrespective of their ability, to sing and participate in communal music-making.

If you're not a fan of church services and music, you're in good company – an Old Testament God laments "I hate, I despise your religious festivals....Away with the noise of your songs!" (Amos 5:21-23). This criticism is levelled where worship is too inward, and becomes a substitute for engaging in the wider world. But this isn't God's attitude; in the Parable of the Wondering Sheep (Matthew, 18:10-14), Jesus describes the greatness of God's love in his love not just for the gathered, but his wish to reach out to all (captured in the great Cory Asbury song "Reckless Love").

When disagreements arise around church music, perhaps this loving message is missed. By being diverse in our choices and including a wide variety of people within our musical choices, we can provide hospitality to all people. Love involves putting the interests of others before self-interest, and Christians can demonstrate a community grounded in love and concern for others through their music and worship.

While it might seem a paradox, through diverse music choices we can include and unite people together – helping to form us into a community that is more than the sum of our parts and demonstrating love and concern for others. Music can change us. It draws us closer together as diverse community focused on what unites us – love of God and faith in his Son. Take your pick from Frankie Goes to Hollywood, Huey Lewis and the News, or Celine Dion but that's "the Power of Love".

Justin Elks

Licensed Lay Minister

## Collier Street Ramblings- The National *open* Garden Scheme



If you want a day out locally in the next few months why not visit one of the many gardens operating National Garden Scheme Open charity days. It's a nationwide scheme giving visitors unique access to over 3,600 exceptional private gardens in England and Wales, while raising impressive amounts of money for nursing and health charities through admissions, teas and cake.

Thanks to the generosity of garden owners, volunteers and visitors the NGS has donated over £60 million to nursing and health charities and made an annual donation of £2.88 million in 2020. Core beneficiaries include Macmillan Cancer Support, Marie Curie, Hospice UK and The Queen's Nursing Institute.

The National Garden Scheme doesn't just open beautiful gardens for charity – they are passionate about the physical and mental health benefits of gardens too and they support charities doing amazing work in gardens and health and grant bursaries to help community gardening projects.

### Their history:

The National Garden Scheme has a rich and interesting history - with humble beginnings in the early 1900s when they first started supporting district nurses, to donating millions of pounds to nursing and health charities over 90 years later. **In 1859** William Rathbone (pictured), a merchant, philanthropist and MP, employed Mary Robinson to nurse his wife at home during her final illness. After his wife's death, Rathbone retained Mary's services so that people in Liverpool who could not afford to pay for nursing would benefit from care in their homes. Seeing the good that nursing in the home could do, William Rathbone and Florence Nightingale worked together to try to develop the service – and so organised 'district nursing' began.



**In 1887** The Queen's Nursing Institute (QNI) was founded to coordinate national standards for district nurses - providing the 'training, support, maintenance and supply' of nurses for the sick poor, as well as establishing training homes, supervising centres, co-operating with other bodies and establishing branches as necessary.

At a QNI council meeting **in 1926**, council member Miss Elsie Wagg came up with the idea of raising money for district nursing through the nation's obsession with gardening. A year later the National Garden Scheme was founded and garden owners were asked to open their gardens for 'a shilling a head'. 609 gardens opened and raised a total of £8,191.



**By 1930**, 900 gardens opened for the National Garden Scheme, and Sir Winston Churchill and Vita Sackville-West were among the owners opening their gardens. **In 1932** The first National Garden Scheme guide was published - detailing 1,079 gardens open for charity, the guide cost 1 shilling.

**In 1980** The National Garden Scheme became independent of The Queen's Nursing Institute to fund a range of nursing and health charities. In their 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year the NGS donated £3 million to charity. **In 2019** they celebrated a 35 year partnership with Macmillan Cancer Support during which time they donated over £17 million.

In 2020 the outbreak of the Coronavirus pandemic led to the closure of many National Garden Scheme gardens during the lockdown periods. Despite this, they were still able to donate £2.88 million to their beneficiaries and launched an annual Great British Garden Party fundraising event. They also donated to their main beneficiaries Marie Curie, Hospice UK and Carers Trust while supporting several other charities.

So why not have a lovely day out and feel good about your entrance fee going to fantastic charities. It's sensible to double check before you go though as some venues have had to cancel their open days because of covid. You can check on line to find out when the gardens are open and what facilities they have such as tea rooms, disabled access, dogs permitted etc. Some require pre-booking and many offer pre-booking if you prefer, the information can be found on the NGS web pages:

**[www.ngs.co.uk/find a garden](http://www.ngs.co.uk/find-a-garden)**

Or there is a telephone line between Monday and Friday: 1483 211535 The free 2021 yellow NGS open day booklets can be found at different venues including some garden centres.

Here are just a few of the many gardens opening in Kent during August and September:



***Tram Hatch Gardens, Charing Heath, Ashford, Kent,***

*TN27 0BN. Opening: Sunday 1st August 12- 5pm*

*Their information: Meander your way off the beaten track to a mature, extensive garden changing through the seasons. You will enjoy a garden laid out in rooms - what surprises are round the corner? Large selection of trees, vegetable, rose and gravel gardens, colourful containers. The River Stour and the Angel of the South enhance your visit. Please come and enjoy, then relax in our lovely garden room for tea.*

*Mrs P Scrivens, [Info@tramhatch.com](mailto:Info@tramhatch.com) 07835 758388 <http://www.tramhatchgardens.co.uk>*

***Nettlestead Place, Nettlestead***

*Opening Sunday October 3rd 2-4.30pm*

*Their information: C13 manor house in 10 acre plantsman's garden. Large formal rose garden. Large herbaceous garden of island beds with rose and clematis walkway leading to a newly planned garden of succulents. Fine collection of trees and shrubs; sunken pond garden, a maze of Thuja, terraces, bamboos, glen garden, Acer lawn. Young pinetum adjacent to garden. Sculptures. Wonderful open country views.*



**Also:**

Cobham Hall, Cobham Kent Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> August

Penshurst Place, Penshurst, Tuesday Sept 14<sup>th</sup> 10.30am- 6pm

Doddington Place, Sittingbourne Sun 19<sup>th</sup> Sep 11am-5pm

Chartwell, Wed 22<sup>nd</sup> September 10- 5pm

Emmetts Garden, Sevenoaks. Wed 22nd September 10-5pm

**Information from the NGS website.**

## Jacqui Bakes

### Grasshopper Pie

Wow! It's been so hot, this is a lovely summer pud that refreshes your taste buds. My good friend Victoria introduced me to this Hummingbird Bakery recipe. If you like mint choc chip, you will love this favourite American pie.

#### Ingredients

250g chocolate flavoured biscuits

175g butter

180g large white marshmallows

180ml whole milk

1/4 tsp peppermint extract

1/8 tsp green food colouring

700ml double cream

Chocolate shavings to decorate

#### Method

Crush biscuits to form a fine crumb, melt butter & combine with the biscuit crumb.

Pour into a lined 23 cm loose bottom tart tin. Press firmly, chill for 40 mins.

To make the filling, melt the marshmallows into the milk over a low heat. Remove from heat, add the peppermint extract & food colouring, stir until the food colouring is evenly mixed in. Set aside to cool for about 20 mins.

Whip 300ml of cream into soft peaks, fold into the marshmallow mixture. Pour onto the chilled base, leave to set completely.

Serve with whipped cream and chocolate shavings.

Enjoy!





## Woodpeckers- 'a small hard working bunch!'

Unusually there were only 9 volunteer 'gardeners' for the Woodpeckers churchyard tidying session on July 3<sup>rd</sup> but this was probably because a few of the regulars were off on their holidays.

Once again there were two new recruits, David and Colleen, who have recently moved into the

Parish. They were very welcome additions and David turned out to be rather good at strimming so that was extremely useful. Stephane was able to do the mowing, Rob cut back the low tree canopies and then helped with the ivy. Christine dug weeds in the cemetery, the rest of the Woodpeckers 'lost' her for a while when they didn't know where she'd gone but she was found working hard. Dave Sealey raked up the cut grass and the rest of the volunteers continued the never ending task of removing the ivy.



It was raining when the session began but had stopped by tea time. Jacki made a delicious sounding tray bake with a lime icing topping and Annette sent Dave along with some yummy chocolate brownies.

As always everyone complied with Covid 19 requirements and took their own tools and drinks. The cakes were enjoyed by all while keeping a safe distance in the open air.

Please come and join the Woodpeckers on the first Saturday of each month (as long as it is not raining) from 10am to 12noon if you think you will enjoy a chat and a couple of hours working with the team. We always have a leisurely tea break and are finished by 12.

**YALDING POST OFFICE - MOST LOVED POST OFFICE IN KENT 2016 /17/18/19/20/21**  
**OUR PRODUCTS, LOCALLY SOURCED, LOCALLY SOLD**  
**AUGUST 2021**

**HORIZON SCANDAL UPDATE...**Several more convicted Postmasters have been cleared by the Court of Appeal...there are many more waiting for their convictions to be overturned. The biggest ever injustice in Britain and still no signs of senior Post Office managers losing their jobs or being prosecuted.

**POSSIBLE CLOSURE THREAT FOR YALDING RETURNS...**Nick Read, the new POL CEO, has said that he is hoping to lead a new and open relationship with the Postmasters...he has a funny way of putting this new beginning into practice. Under his leadership he has proposed that there will be a new way of calculating our mails remuneration from next year. Like the bad old days of the past most branches will be paid less for exactly the same work. It is so sad to report that if the projection for the future mails remuneration for us at Yalding proves correct this office will have to close. With the loss of income from the Royal Mail sorting office going to Snodland and this sharp proposed cut in wages it will not be economically viable to operate the Post Office after March next year. The Post Office did a consultation exercise with us postmasters and have ignored it all. Nothing really changes with them even after all the trouble they have caused.

**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. If you are VAT registered and trading under Etsy, eBay, Amazon etc you will be required to declare the VAT on your goods when mailing to the EU.**

**For those customers with Post Office Card Accounts. (POCA)** POCA is due to cease operating in November. For those with no access to normal bank accounts it is likely that vouchers will be issued for encashment at Post Offices. Didn't we have that before? Oh yes...Green Giros.

**The Coronavirus emergency. We will not be enforcing the wearing of masks in the shop. It is entirely up to you if you wish to wear one. However, we will maintain the one customer (or family group) in the shop at any one time.**

New stamps sets this month are the **Industrial Revolutions and Wild Coasts** collections. Other Philately products in stock or can be ordered on request.

**Foreign Currencies.** We still have a stock of Euros and US Dollars...Hopefully people will have resumed foreign travel from July 19<sup>th</sup>. 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.(except Venezuela)

Croissants and other pastries have been resumed (Fridays and Saturdays only) as the baker has moved home and got his new kitchen up to speed. Coxheath bakery items continue as normal. 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.

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

Our opening hours are 9.00am to 1.00pm. 2.00pm to 5.30pm. Closed on Sundays.

Early closing on Wednesdays and Saturdays (12.30pm Saturdays).

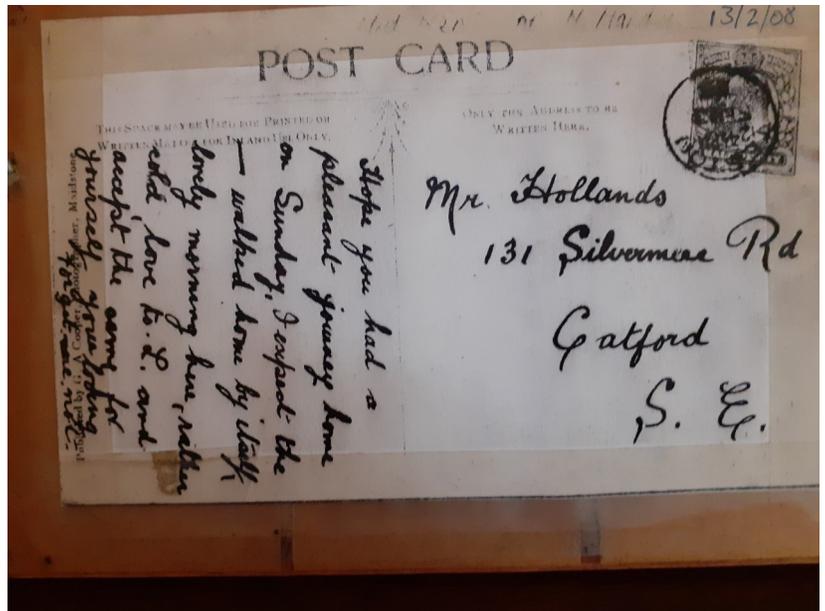
Many thanks for your wonderful support for Kent's Most Loved Post Office.... Telephone...01622 814327

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

Angela Springate contacted us recently after seeing the photo of the postcard showing The Old Post Office in last month's magazine. She advised that she had an original copy of that postcard which she took possession of when she moved into The White Hart Pub in the late 70's. The pictures below show that postcard posted in 1908. The message is cryptic and makes the imagination work overtime ..... who was Forget me and Mrs Hollands!



97  
 Hope you had a  
 pleasant journey home  
 on Sunday, I expect the  
 — walked home by itself  
 lovely morning here, rather  
 cold love to L. and  
 accept the same for  
 yourself your loving  
 Forget me not.



## Jacqui Bakes Again

### Biscoff Apple Crumble

As this is a double edition which will take us into apple picking season, I have included a twist on the classic apple crumble recipe. I have a love for Biscoff Lotus biscuit, this recipe is one of my all time favourites.

#### Crumble Topping Ingredients

175g plain flour  
115g butter  
100g golden caster sugar  
2 tbsp soft brown sugar  
45g crushed Biscoff biscuits

#### Apple & Biscoff filling

600g Bramley Apples, peeled, cored & roughly chopped  
Juice 1/2 lemon  
100g Biscoff spread  
1 tsp cornflour  
60g soft brown sugar  
1/2 tsp ground cinnamon  
1/2 tsp mixed spice

#### Method

Preheat your oven to 180 degrees.

Mix together flour & sugar.

Cube butter, add to bowl, using your fingertips, rub the butter into flour to form breadcrumbs.

Stir in the crushed Biscoff biscuits.

Place lemon juice in a bowl with the prepared apples, to prevent them browning.

Add sugar, cornflour, cinnamon & mixed spice, stir until combined.

Place apple mix into your pie dish in an even layer.

Dot the Biscoff spread evenly over the apple layer.

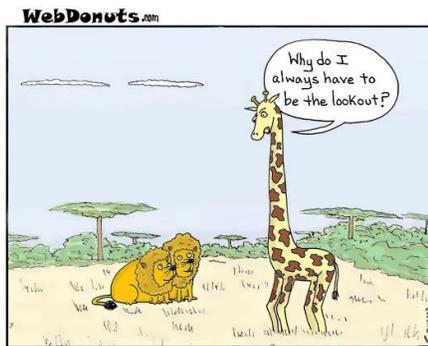
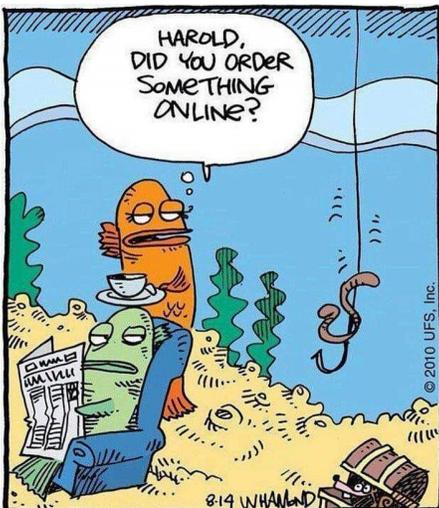
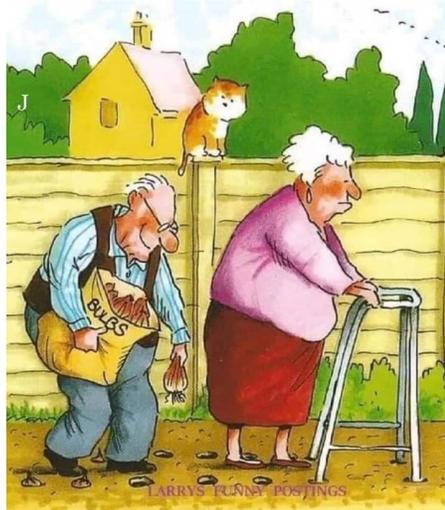
Pour the crumble mix evenly over the apple layer.

Bake for 30-40 minutes until golden & bubbling.  
Serve with ice cream, clotted cream or custard in the colder month

Enjoy!



A LITTLE LIGHT HUMOUR!



## Yalding Surgery Newsletter

We are offering both face-to-face *and* telephone appointments; whilst our preference is for telephone appointments, if a patient wishes to be seen in person and has no acute Covid-19 symptoms then this can definitely be arranged.

We are happy to help with any problem, big or small. You are never 'wasting our time' and if you are worried about something, please, don't ignore it, tell us.

We have become a lot busier recently, in part due to the easing of restrictions and return to (near) normal services. Our waiting times are higher than they were before, but we are taking steps to change this, including employing new staff. Please bear with us.

Unfortunately, in June alone, we had a very high number of patients who DNA (did not attend): 24 GP appointments, 175 nursing appointments and 20 appointments with our practice paramedic. There are different reasons why this happens and sometimes we recognise that it is unavoidable but we do ask that you please make every effort to let us know if you cannot make your appointment so that we can offer it to someone else.

Everyone at the practice is doing their best and we appreciate the kind comments and support from our patients. We are also keen to hear about ways we can do better; we take this feedback seriously and make changes where we can. Unfortunately, a small minority of patients are rude, use bad language or act unreasonably towards our staff. We have, and will institute, a zero tolerance policy against repeat offenders, which will include removal from the practice list.

To end on a high note, the weather is getting hotter, travel restrictions are lifting and, at the time of writing, England are through to the EURO 2020 finals. Fingers crossed!

## Collier Street Speed Watch and Lorry Watch Update

Just as the Collier Street Speed Watch crew put away their winter hats and reached for the sun cream to conduct their sessions the chilli mornings returned, but the merry band braved the elements with thermos flask and clipboard in hand ! No we return with sunscreen and hats.

For one session this month we were joined by Kent Police Crime Reduction Officer, who experienced first-hand the issue we face. As a result he has spoken to one local offending haulier who if continues to use Collier Street as a cut through will be issued with fines and other invasive action. In addition he is working with local residents to identify spots within the village where the Police safely pull over speeding cars.

We are still recruiting if anyone would like to join us, please contact Sean (email [Sean@reddoortraining.co.uk](mailto:Sean@reddoortraining.co.uk)) or call 01892 354736.

Below are the summary stats for May to July.

Number of 1 hour sessions	59
Number of vehicles exceeding speed limit	831
Number of invalid DVLA vehicles exceeding speed limit (e.g no MOT or tax)	60
Maximum speed observed	48
Number of warning letters sent	167
Number of home visits by the police	9

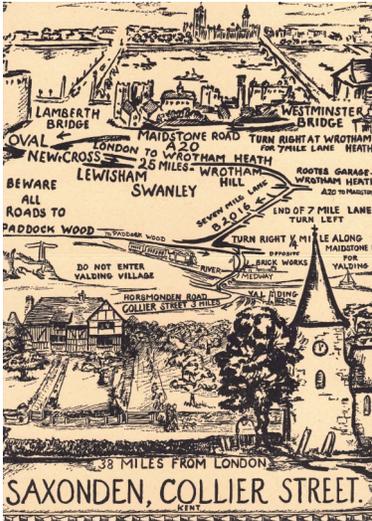
# SAXONDEN



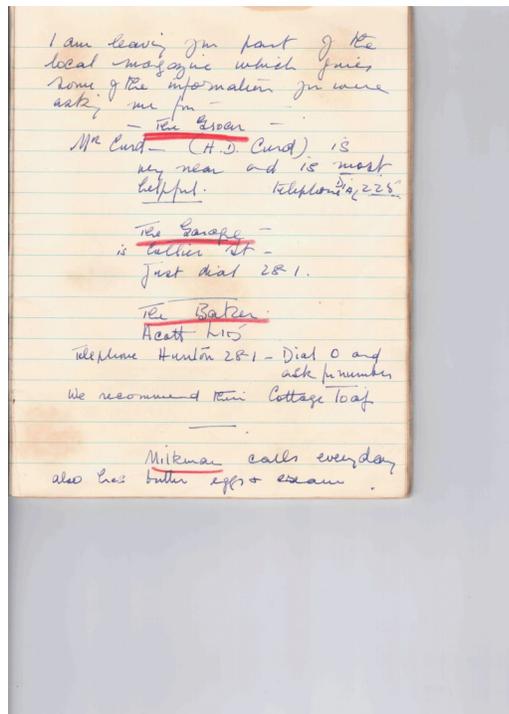
Postcard showing Saxonden given to the late Myrtle Fetto by Ivy Chambers (Margaret Ashworth's Mother), estimated to have been taken late 1800's-early 1900's. Sent in by Myrtle's daughter Sally.



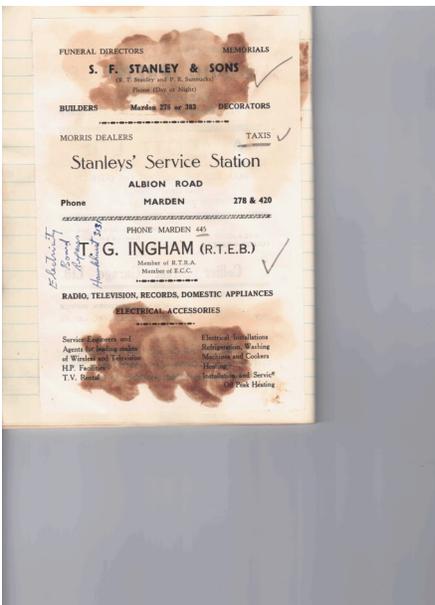
Saxonden taken approximately 1950's



A map of how to get to Saxonden, painted by the talented Nicholas Harris the owner of Saxonden before Myrtle Fetto.



Excerpt from an exercise book giving local information written by the Harris' for the Fetto's when they moved into the property in 1965



Page from the Collier Street Parish Magazine, August 1965 showing local advertisements

# Out and **A**bout, with a **B**ook, for a **C**offee

Contact @ [collierstreetABC@gmail.com](mailto:collierstreetABC@gmail.com)

Isn't it lovely to have a recommendation for a good book? And wouldn't it be nice to have a lovely place to have a coffee and cake to settle down to read it?

**Book:** *Half a World Away* by Mike Gayle (Available Sevenoaks Library)

**Coffee:** The Hub @ Quarry Farm (Satnav: Bodiam, Robertsbridge, TN32 5RA)

*Half a World Away* by Mike Gayle

7/10

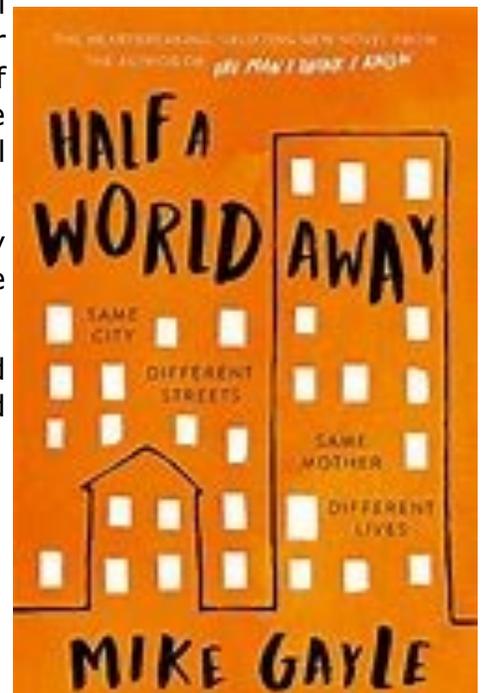
Last month I finished a surprising and unexpected read, *Half a World Away* by Mike Glover. It's a book I selected, as I often do, in a random browse of the library in a stack only limited by the amount I can carry to my car under one arm! Sometimes you hit on a real treat, and this was an interesting, heart warming but also more thought provoking read than I anticipated.

It tells the story of an estranged brother and sister, separated by a coincidence of adoption and foster care, and their respective lives both separately and together. But it's also a story of marriage, class, wealth, race, child rearing and everything in between.

What surprised me at the outset of this novel was how relatable the characters are and their situations, hopes, perspectives and feelings, and this is all despite much of what they have gone through being very far from my own experience. For something that could be full of trite clichés and vapid cinematic moments, instead I found the narrative compelling and moving, as well as highly personal without being over heavy.

It would be a recommended read for a holiday or for cosy winter evenings both the same, especially for those that are interested in contemporary stories of modern Britain.

I'm now interested to read further books by this author and would like to hear from villagers who could recommend another by Mike Gayle to read next!





For a location to enjoy the book this month I'd like to suggest not only coffee to accompany your reading, but also breakfast and a walk! The coffee was lovely, relatively high quality and the service excellent. Between our party we had several Americanos, a flat white and a tea, and all came out quickly and was well received by all. Despite a good selection of pastries, I chose waffles with bacon, with others we were with selecting Eggs Benedict and Eggs Florentine. All portions were of a good size, and the bacon particularly was fresh and thick cut.

The Hub @ Quarry Farm is about a mile's walk up the hill from Bodiam Castle, so there's a lovely walk (with a short stretch of road walking) to do some visiting! On a lovely sunny day, after sitting outside for a filling breakfast the short stroll to catch the breeze and view the Castle was just what we all needed!

Overall, it's a great location for an inexpensive informal breakfast for those that are keen to sit outside and enjoy the sunshine, and in a wonderful part of the world.

I'm all ears! Please recommend books for me to read and cafes to read in! Send me an email at [collierstreetABC@gmail.com](mailto:collierstreetABC@gmail.com).

*Please remember, you can use the Kent County Council library service to reserve a book of your choosing, such as the one reviewed above, and collect it from a library of your choosing too.*

*Marden and Yalding branches are not yet open due to the pandemic, though !!BREAKING NEWS!! Marden will reopen in the middle of August. Coxheath, Tonbridge, Maidstone, Tunbridge Wells, Allington, Cranbrook and many others are already open – so drop in en route to running some errands! (On this occasion I'd borrowed from Sevenoaks Kaleidoscope as I happened to be in town for an appointment.)*

## BAMBOO

We moved into Collier Street 9 years ago and in so doing inherited several clumps of bamboo. All but one clump are contained but unfortunately that is now out of control. I have never liked it and Rob and I have disagreed over its removal. However, when we returned from a week's holiday in early June we found a long line of new shoots which had grown across the grass and over a meter tall. Finally, Rob agreed that we should try and get rid of it. I investigated how to do so but have no doubt it isn't going to be easy.

Advice found online states two methods, chemical and manual but probably will require a combination of both:

**Cut the bamboo down to soil level and wait for new shoots to grow back.** Before you spray new bamboo leaves, make sure that you either cut or mow it down and then allow it to regrow. It sounds weird, but you need to let new bamboo grow. Bamboo herbicide won't be effective if the canes of the bamboo are well-developed.

Bamboo is stringy but not very hard. A "lopper", which looks like scissors with huge handles and a little jaw, cuts it much better than a saw.

Cut the bamboo down in late winter so that you can be applying to herbicide on the new growth in late spring or early summer.

**Sever any underground rhizomes when new shoots start to grow back.** Use a sharp spade (or another sharp garden implement) to cut down the bamboo and sever the rhizomes of the bamboo.<sup>[1]</sup> Break up as many clumps of rhizomes as possible.

Rhizomes are masses of roots that grow underground. These root-stalks grow horizontally underground in clumps and then send new shoots up beyond the surface when the plant is ready to grow.

You probably recognize rhizomes if you've ever eaten ginger and galangal, or have seen raw turmeric. These roots with many offshoots are what the underground rhizomes of the bamboo plant should look like.

**Apply glyphosate herbicide to the leaves, stalks, and shoots of the bamboo.** Glyphosate herbicide only kills the plants that it comes into direct contact with. This means that you'll need to be careful about applying it only to the bamboo. Most glyphosate herbicides need to be sprayed onto the leaves, stalks, and shoots of the plant and allowed enough time to penetrate before any water dilutes it. Unless instructed to do so, do not apply glyphosate herbicide to the soil surrounding the bamboo, as it will be ineffective.

To reduce the risk of killing the wrong plant or over-spraying, you can paint the herbicide onto leaves and stalks with a brush instead of spraying the plant.

If you're near a water supply (river, lake, ocean, etc.) make sure that you're using an herbicide that's meant for eradicating plants near water. You don't want to contaminate nearby bodies of water.

**Alternately, use a stump and root killer on the bamboo.** Another way to mow down bamboo in its tracks is to cut down the canes and then apply a stump and root killer containing glyphosate or triclopyr to the foliage of any regrowth and to the cut stump.

Decision made I had planned to cut down a few stems each week but just before I started discovered two baby collard doves almost ready to fledge sitting on a small nest of twigs in the bamboo. So I waited, they fledged and was ready to start again when I noticed one of the pair was back on the nest. Collard doves breed between March and September and even into Winter if there is a food source. They lay two eggs each time and incubation takes 14-18 days. The chicks will be ready to leave the nest after 18-21 days.

Not sure when I will get to cut it down, couldn't possibly disturb them.



## GIANT HOGWEED

**Giant hogweed** (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*), is a tall, cow parsley-like plant with thick bristly stems that are often purple-blotched. Giant hogweed looks like an enormous cow parsley. When it's fully grown, it can reach towering heights of between 1.5m to 5m and have a spread of between 1 and 2m. It forms a rosette of jagged, lobed leaves in the first year before sending up a flower spike in the second year and then setting seed.

**Stems:** green with purple blotches and stiff, white hairs. Stems are hollow with ridges and have a thick circle of hairs at base of each leaf stalk.

**Leaves:** huge, up to 1.5m wide and 3m long and is deeply divided into smaller leaflets. It looks a bit like a rhubarb leaf, with irregular and very sharp or jagged edges - which has given rise to one of its other common names - wild rhubarb. The underside of the leaf is hairy.

**Flowers:** appear in June and July. They are small and white (or slightly pink) and are clustered on umbrella-like heads known as umbels that can reach a diameter of 60cm. All the flowers on the umbel face upwards.

**Seeds:** dry, flattened, and oval. Almost 1cm long with tan with brown lines extending 3/4 of the seed length.



Giant hogweed is not native to the UK. It originates from the Caucasus Mountains and Central Asia. It was first introduced to the UK as an ornamental in the 19th century where it escaped and naturalised in the wild. It can now be found throughout much of the UK, especially colonising river banks where its seeds are transported by the water.

The sap of **giant hogweed** can cause burns. It contains furocoumarin, which makes skin extremely sensitive to sunlight (phytophotodermatitis). If the sap gets onto your skin, then you are exposed to sun, your skin can blister badly and blistering can recur over months and even years.

Blisters and burns caused by touching Giant Hogweed



Common hogweed is very similar-looking to giant hogweed but is much smaller. Its stems aren't blotchy like those of giant hogweed (their colour graduates smoothly from green to purple) and are ridged, hollow and hairy. This plant only reaches a maximum height of 2 metres (6ft 7) and the symmetrical flower heads only reach 20cm across. Its seeds are much smaller and lighter than those of giant hogweed, and the leaves are less jagged and more rounded at the edges than giant hogweed.

The sap can also harm animals in the same way.

# MINUTES

## COLLIER STREET PARISH COUNCIL COUNCILLORS ZOOM MEETING

Monday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2021 commencing at 7.00pm

<b>In attendance</b>	
Cllr Andrew Papas [Chair]	Cllr Dave Sealey
Cllr Steve Barham	Cllr Steve Sandys
Cllr Jack Highwood	Parish Clerk Alan Crocker
Cllr Deborah Papas	

<b>07.21.01 Apologies</b>	Cllr Goff, IT issues, unable to join meeting Borough Councillor Claudine Russell – clash of meeting dates.	
<b>07.21.02 Declarations of Interest</b>	None declared	
<b>07.21.03 PLANNING</b>	Cllr Dave Sealey chaired this section of the meeting.	
<b>07.21.03.01</b>	<b>Application: 21/502873/SUB</b> Address: <b>Willows End Green Lane Yalding TN12 9RB</b> Proposal: Submission of details pursuant to conditions 4 (biodiversity enhancement scheme), 5 (landscape and ecological management plan), and 7 (landscape scheme) of application 21/501161/FULL. Applicant: Mrs Jody Cooper Contact Address: Willows End Green Lane Collier Street Marden TN12 9RB	Lead DS
Confirmation of planning conditions no reason for the Parish Council to comment.		
<b>07.21.03.02</b>	<b>Application: 21/502907</b> Address: Little Longend Cottage, Burtons Lane, Marden, Kent TN12 9PN Proposal: Retention of conservatory, internal and external alterations [part retrospective] and proposed removal of upvc windows and conservatory patio doors and replacement with timber framed, multi pane units with slim-line double glazing.	
The parish council agreed to adopt a neutral stance on this application		
<b>07.21.03.02</b>	<b>Application 21/502908/LBC</b> Address: Little Longend Cottage, Burtons Lane, Marden, Kent TN12 9PN Proposal: Listed Building Consent for retention of conservatory, internal and external alterations [part retrospective] and proposed removal of upvc windows and conservatory patio doors and replacement with timber framed, multi pane units with slim-line double glazing.	

The parish council agreed to adopt a neutral stance on this application

<b>07.21.03.02</b>	<b>21/502330/FULL</b>	
	<b>Address:</b> Land North of Longend Lane Collier Street Marden Tonbridge Kent TN12 9SE <b>Proposal:</b> Change of use of the land to allow stationing of a mobile home for residential occupation. Creation of new access onto Longend Lane.	

**PARISH COMMENTS**

**21/502330/FULL**

The parish council met last evening, and we found it unreasonable to meaningfully comment on this application given the essential information missing from the application.

We therefore reserve commenting until such times as the points we raise below have been clarified.

Unless we are receive clarity on these issues we would wish to see the application REFUSED.

There is no plan for the sewage disposal or surface water run-off.

**[MBC LDP xiii]**

There does not appear to be any attempt to mitigate the fact that the area floods as shown in the EA report submitted. With no details of the flood in 2000. There will be a resultant displacement of water and we cannot see that the IDB have commented or consulted. We would welcome sighting a site-specific FRA.

**[Contrary to MBC LDP DM1 xi]**

*The parish council has a responsibility to see that any development does not aggravate the flooding situation prevalent within the parish.*

A further exit is planned onto Longends Lane, and we see no report from any issues that KCC Highways would wish to raise.

**BC LDP DM1 ix]**

We are confused by the description of the proposed development, description of the development describes the proposal as a mobile home for residential occupation, drawings describe it as a chalet, and make it look more like a permanent building.

**[Appears to be contrary to MBC LDP Policy 8 DM. 6.54]**

We will await further comments from Maidstone Borough Planning Department.

<b>07.21.04</b> <b>Minutes of Previous Meeting/s to be approved</b>	Minutes of Councillor Meeting 14 <sup>th</sup> June 2021
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Following a proposal by Cllr Highwood, seconded by Dave Sealey and unanimously agreed by all other attendant members, the minutes of the last meeting were confirmed as a true and accurate recording of the said meeting.

**07.21.05**

Community FSU Update and relocation of PCSO's.

Our understanding is that PCSO Nicola Morris, is to be relocated to 'Maidstone Town Centre'. No official notice of the announcement came from the Community Safety Unit as we would have expected but was filtered through those in the know. We also discussed the creation of the Community Safety Units meetings being attended by a select few officers from MBC, the police, and our Borough Councillor. We will now have to brief our Councillor and hold her to account for the issues we would like to see presented at these meetings. Having spoken with our PCSO it appears inevitable that her move will take place, we will however join the lobbying for her to stay attached to our parish, given her excellent work and the amount of knowledge and intelligence she has gained within the parish.

**07.21.06****Correspondence and Action Points**

Reference	Factor	Lead
<b>07.21.06.01</b>	<b>Defibrillator</b> Installation Update	<b>Lead DG</b>

We need confirmation from DG that the defibrillator is in place as there are several actions that the Clerk must take.

<b>07.21.06.02</b>	<b>CIL MONIES</b>	<b>Lead DG</b>
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**Focus/Workshop Group Feedback**

**Health and Wellbeing** – Lead Cllr Steve Barham

Survey in this month's Collier Street News

**Village Hall** – Lead Cllr David Goff

Zoom meeting to be arranged to follow up on the action points from the last meeting.

**Highways and Community Safety** – Cllrs Deborah and Andrew Papas

DG DP and AP need to meet to discuss the papers produced by DP and AP to progress the matter via the Highways Improvement Plan, together with the existing input of the suggestions from the last CIL meeting. Covid and its restrictions have been responsible for lack of action from KCC. If the July 19<sup>th</sup> restrictions are lifted, we hope to progress many of the issues on the plan.

<b>07.21.06.04 Car Park Maintenance</b>		
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Waiting members grant application following meeting with Cllr Lottie Parfitt-Reid

The Clerk tasked with progressing issue.

**07.21.07****FINANCE****Accounts Reconciliation & Finance Reports****Lead Clerk/RFO**

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

**06.21.07.01. BANK RECONCILIATION** – June 2021

Proposed by Cllr Papas and seconded by Deborah Papas that the reconciliation is approved. Unanimous approval by attendant Councillors.

**06.21.07.02. RECONCILIATION STATEMENT** – June 2021

The resultant acceptance will be signed off at a one to one meeting with the Chairman.

See above.

**06.21.07.03. RECORD OF PAYMENTS & RECEIPTS** – June 2021

For members approval.

Proposed by Cllr Papas and seconded by Cllr Barham and approved by attendant members.

**06.21.07.04. BUDGET REPORT YTD** – June 2021

For members approval

Proposed by Cllr A Papas and seconded by Cllr Barham and approved by attendant members that the budget report was presented to Council.

<b>07.21.07.05 PAYMENTS FOR AUTHORISATION</b>		
13.07.2021	Staff Payroll	£610.71
13.07.2021	HMRC	£140.60
13.07.2021	Paul Waring	£3090.00 [gross]
13.07.2021	KALC – Yearly Subscription comm. 01.04.2021	£383.71

Proposed by Cllr A Papas and seconded by Cllr S Sandys and approved by attendant members.

#### **07.21.07.06**

##### **The Clerks Appraisal and Salary Review**

Cllr Papas will follow up the formal appraisal and salary review with Cllr Goff.

#### **06.21.07.07**

##### **Payment Details 01.06.2021 to 30.06.2021 [For information and retrospective approval].**

Date		Description	Payment	
07-Jun-21	DD	EDF ENERGY CUST PLC	23.94	STREELIGHT ELECTRICITY
15-Jun-21	BP	BHIB LTD LCO00709/505798	679.82	PARISH INSURANCE
15-Jun-21	BP	RIALTAS BUSN SOLS INV SM23584/7428	148.80	SOFTWARE LICENCE 1 YR
15-Jun-21	BP	STAFF PAYROLL	634.46	STAFF PAYROLL
15-Jun-21	BP	HMRC PAYE/NIC CUMB 120PV004463301504	140.40	HMRC - JUNE
21-Jun-21	DD	COMMERCIAL CARD	20.39	IONIS 1 AND 1 – Parish Emails
			<b>1647.81</b>	

Proposed by Cllr A Papas and seconded by Cllr D Papas and approved by attendant members.

#### **06.21.08**

##### **Borough Councillor's Report – Cllr Claudine Russell**

No attendance

#### **06.21.09**

##### **County Councillor's Report – Cllr Lottie Parffit-Reid**

No attendance

#### **06.21.10 Recreation Field Maintenance**

To consider the contractor costings for 2021-22

The meeting unanimously agreed the costings for the continuance of the contract for the maintenance of the recreation field. It was agreed that Paul Waring will be the appointed contractor for the year 2021-22.

#### **AOB**

AOB.1. Signage in Jarmon's Lane to be repositioned Cllr Sandys to provide picture.

The Clerk to action

AOB.2 Information on CIL monies – Car Park

The Clerk to action

AOB.3. Progress laptop backup

The Clerk to action

AOB.4. Confirm KALC representative details to KALC

The Clerk to action

#### **04.21.11**

##### **Date of Next Meetings**

There will be no meeting in August 2021.

The next Councillor's Meeting, scheduled as a physical meeting,

**Monday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2021 commencing at 7.00pm.** Venue to be confirmed.

## 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

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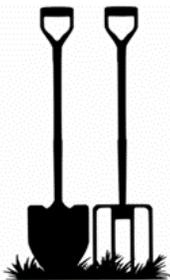
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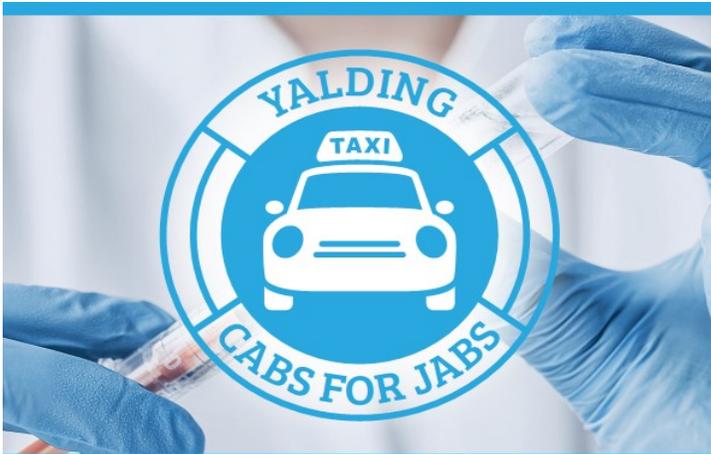
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A rare Hornet Hawk Moth seen in a  
back garden off Benover Road in late  
June during a warm spell.

Photo—Jason Day



This bumble bee was found weak in a garden  
in Collier Street. It was given sugar dissolved  
in water and eventually recovered and flew  
away.

Photo—Jacki Fogg



Damselflies taken by Dave Gifford on the  
Lesser Teise



Grass snake taken by Dave Gifford down Den  
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