

COLLIER STREET NEWS

November 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 8th and 22nd November

Recycling, food waste and textiles

Monday 1st, 15th and 29th November

www.maidstone.gov.uk

CUTE PET OF THE MONTH - ROXY



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

COPY DEADLINE 20TH OF THE MONTH

Dogs, cats and fireworks

- Always keep dogs and cats inside when fireworks are being let off
- Make sure your dog is walked earlier in the day before the fireworks start
- Close all windows and doors, and block off catflaps to stop pets escaping and to keep noise to a minimum. Draw the curtains, and if the animals are used to the sounds of TV or radio, switch them on (but not too loudly) in order to block out some of the noise of the fireworks.
- Ensure dogs are wearing some form of easily readable identification (ID) – even in the house. They should have at least a collar and tag.
- Think about fitting pets with a microchip, so that if they do run away they have a better chance of being quickly reunited with you
- Prepare a ‘den’ for your pet where it can feel safe and comfortable – perhaps under a bed with some of your old clothes. They may like to hide there when the fireworks start.
- Let your pet pace around, whine, miaow and hide in a corner if they want to. Do not try to coax them out – it’s just trying to find safety, and should not be disturbed.
- Stay calm, act normally and give lots of praise for calm behaviour. It’s OK to cuddle and stroke your pet if it helps them relax, but if they prefer to hide under your bed, then let them do this instead.
- Avoid leaving your pet alone during such potentially upsetting events. If you do have to leave the house, don’t get angry with your pet if you find they have been destructive or toileted after being left on its own. Shouting at a frightened pet will only make them more stressed.
- Don’t tie your dog up outside while fireworks are being let off, ie outside a shop while you pop inside, or leave them in the garden or in your car.

Never take your dog to a fireworks display. Even if they don’t bark or whimper at the noise, it doesn’t mean they are happy. Excessive panting and yawning can indicate that your dog is stressed.

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

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



Great news for all those fabulous litter pickers out there there's some nice new equipment you can use.

Thanks to a generous grant from the Paddock Wood and District Lions Club I was able to buy some litter picking hoops, tongs and some snazzy high-vis vests.

Maidstone Borough Council provides free green bags for the litter and will come and collect afterwards.

Keep Britain Tidy has got some useful tips on how to keep yourself safe while litter picking so it's worth a read before you head out. Volunteers use the equipment at their own risk and I will be ensuring it's sanitised and quarantined between uses to keep us all safe. If you would like to borrow the equipment email catherine_harker@yahoo.co.uk



Please support YOUR local Sport Club this Christmas?

Buy your Christmas Tree this year with us by ordering on



www.trees4sport.co.uk



All profits will go to your chosen local Sports Club.

Collection from a local site or delivery available.

Any other queries, please email Louise on trees4sport@gmail.com
Many thanks, your support means so much and makes so much difference!

Collier Street Pop-In Get Together 2021

St Margaret's Church

We are open again!

Margaret, Barbara, Jacki, Christine 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:

The remaining dates this year are Nov 10th, Dec 8th

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.

At the October Pop-In we were once again back inside the church, although it was sunny outside the temperature dropped rapidly when the sun went in.

We enjoyed a choice of home baked cakes and Margaret's special sausage rolls.

The tables had been decorated with an Autumn theme with horse chestnut leaves and very healthy shiny brown conkers



The raffle prizes provided a bright and healthy display with lots of fruit all locally grown.



Collier Street School Report



Russet Class:

The children enjoyed a carpet poetry session with Neal where he performed some of his poetry to them. They had great fun joining with repeating words and phrases!

Pippin Class:

With Pippin Class, Neal created a poem using adjectives and verbs to describe a spider! The children loved this as they started their ideas at the bottom of the page and climbed all the way to the top, hence the name 'tall poems'. In pairs, the children then had the chance to write their own 'tall poems' about different animals.

Bramley Class:

The children in Bramley Class created a class poem using an adjective, noun, verb and adverb to describe their favourite book characters:

I went to the library, what did I see?

My favourite book characters, looking at me:

Brave Spiderman swinging energetically,

Fluffy Shaun the Sheep driving crazily,

Tall Thor saving courageously,

Kind Kirsty flying confidently,

Naughty Amelia Jane pranking cheekily,

Generous Ironman rescuing cleverly,

Colossal Thanos exploding loudly,

Adventurous Lucy daring dangerously,

Beautiful Cinderella dancing softly,

Humble Jack climbing fearlessly,

Villainous Cat Woman scratching spitefully,

Sneaky James Bond shooting uncontrollably,

Grumpy Daffy Duck hunting frantically,

Determined Giant ascending carefully,

Rich Scrooge McDuck bathing joyfully.

Discovery Class:

With Discovery Class, Neal looked at using imagery to create a poem titled 'Poetry is..' and Neal asked them a number of questions to get them started including: What colour would it be? What would you say to it? What shape would it be?

Poetry is..' by Honor (Yr 6)

Poetry is free with imagination, floating wild through the air,

Poetry is a creative language everyone can speak,

Poetry is soft and warm; a strong feeling inside of you,

Poetry is different from the others,

Poetry is a hallway through our imagination,

Poetry is a world of clouds that cover the world in joy,

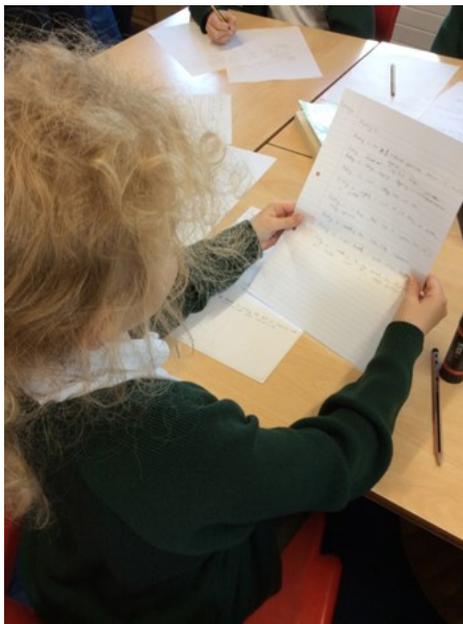
Poetry is brave and wild,

Poetry is but a crumb of our creativity,

Poetry is everywhere, here, there, everywhere,

Poetry is a thread of your mind.

We thoroughly enjoyed sharing all the exciting activities we had done with Neal and the outcome of all of our hard work in a special assembly the next morning.



OUR PRODUCTS, LOCALLY SOURCED, LOCALLY SOLD

NOVEMBER 2021

LAST POSTAGE DATES CHRISTMAS 2021.

| | | |
|-----------|------------------------------------|--|
| <u>UK</u> | Saturday 18 th December | 2 nd Class & 2 nd Class Signed For |
| | Tuesday 21 st December | 1 st Class & 1 st Class Signed For |
| | Thursday 23 rd December | Special Delivery (Guaranteed) |

INTERNATIONAL

| | | | | | |
|-------------|--------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------|----------------|--------------------------|
| Africa | Wed 8 th Dec | Asia | Wed 8 th Dec | Australia | Mon 6 th Dec |
| Austria | Thu 15 th Dec | Belgium | Sat 18 th Dec | Canada | Mon 11 th Dec |
| Caribbean | Wed 1 th Dec | Central America | Wed 8 th Dec | Cyprus | Fri 11 th Dec |
| Czech Rep | Mon 13 th Dec | Denmark | Thu 16 th Dec | Eastern Europe | Sat 11 th Dec |
| Far East | Wed 8 th Dec | Finland | Mon 13 th Dec | France | Sat 18 th Dec |
| Germany | Thu 16 th Dec | Greece | Sat 11 th Dec | Iceland | Thu 16 th Dec |
| Ireland | Thu 16 th Dec | Italy | Mon 13 th Dec | Luxembourg | Sat 18 th Dec |
| Malta | Fri 10 th Dec | Middle East | Wed 8 th Dec | Netherlands | Thu 16 th Dec |
| New Zealand | Mon 6 th Dec | Norway | Thu 16 th Dec | Poland | Mon 13 th Dec |
| Portugal | Thu 16 th Dec | Slovakia | Thu 16 th Dec | South America | Wed 8 th Dec |
| Spain | Thu 16 th Dec | Sweden | Mon 13 th Dec | Switzerland | Thu 16 th Dec |
| Turkey | Sat 11 th Dec | USA | Mon 13 th Dec. | | |

Next October will see the end of use for the old £50 and £20 notes. From 1st October 2022 these notes will be classified as "outmoded". They will no longer be used in shops etc, but can be deposited into bank accounts for a further 20 years. So, plenty of time to discover cash under the mattress and get it down to the bank.

News from the Post Office concerning Post Office Card Account. (POCA) This is of interest to those that cannot, for any reason, have access to a regular bank account. The termination of POCA has been delayed by a year and will now finally take place in November 2022. Dept of Work and Pensions (DWP) will replace the card with a payment voucher service which will be issued either on a card, a text or email attachment and will be operational by August 2022. I will publish more details as appropriate.

Please observe Covid rules, while still in force, for your own safety – and mine too! Individuals or domestic bubbles in the shop at any one time and mask wearing is discretionary.

We offer all main PO postal & basic banking services, plus phone and energy meter top-ups, fishing licences, Moneygram, Health Lottery etc.,

EU parcels need a correctly completed customs label.

Foreign Currencies. We stock Euros and US dollars and can order other currencies, as you plan your trip abroad

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

Shop & Local Produce

Croissants and other pastries available on Fridays & Saturdays only.

Coxheath bakery items on sale every day. Orders taken.

Cold drinks, unique greetings cards by local artists, Melanie's ceramics, 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.

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.

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 **DC Collectables (Batman) and Rugby Union** collections. Other Philately products in stock or can be ordered on request.

Foreign Currencies. We still have a stock of Euros and US Dollars... 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 Chile, Peru and Yemen)

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

PADDOCK WOOD & DISTRICT LIONS CLUB



We are your local charitable organisation which has been serving the community for over 38 years. Our membership of men and women of all ages and walks of life, come together to support the community through our fundraising efforts, and socialise too!

We cover Brenchley, Collier Street, East Peckham, Five Oak Green, Goudhurst, Horsmonden, Lamberhurst, Marden, Matfield, Paddock Wood, Staplehurst & Yalding and our members live throughout the district.

Every year we run a variety of fundraising events including the East Peckham 10k Fun Run and in December, Santa's sleigh tours the streets of the villages with volunteers knocking on doors, and Father Christmas saying hello to the children. Our Christmas music and bright lights let the children know Santa is on his way.

During the Summer, we hold our big Carnival Weekend. First comes the 'Rockin in the Rec' live music event, a chance to bring the whole family together to listen to local musicians. Then we run the Paddock Wood Carnival & Fete which draws around 2000 people. At midday, a Parade of over 200 participants brings the streets to life and leads everyone to St Andrews Field for an afternoon of browsing the stalls, watching events in the arena and enjoying the rides at the Funfair.

All of this is to raise money for local, worthwhile causes and we donate to individuals, families, clubs, societies and charities which gives us the flexibility to respond to emerging need. Our remit is huge and examples of how we've helped include replacing an expensive, essential household item for a struggling individual, paying for repairs to a scout hut and buying school uniform for children starting secondary school. We have also regularly supported the local food bank with supplies of fresh fruit and vegetables.

We are a very social club with events throughout the year such as chilli nights, safari suppers, our Christmas meal, black-tie event to celebrate our Club and can even be found playing bat 'n' trap in the local pubs!

One of our members shares her experience as, "It's very rewarding and gives you a chance to give back, be a part of your community, meet new people and socialise. The club members themselves are all people who just want to help others in the best way that they can. Although the Club is local, it's also the largest volunteer service organisation in the world with 1.4 million members across over 200 countries so it's a great organisation to be a part of".

We always welcome new faces so if you are interested in volunteering, or can think of something or someone where help from our Lions Club could be needed, call 0345 833 9564 or email enquiries@paddockwoodlions.co.uk. You can also find us on Facebook at Paddock Wood & District Lions Club, or on our website 'Paddock Wood & District Lions Club'

Friends of Collier Street School (FOCSS) is a registered charity set up in the 1980s to raise money to support the amazing work of St Margaret's School.



Over the years it has raised thousands of pounds to subsidise educational school trips for the children, paid for computer equipment and books, and made significant contributions towards the creation of a stunning classroom on the grounds, The Garden Room, and also towards increasing the size of the playing field giving the children an incredible green space to play and learn.

Despite the challenges of covid over the last year FOCSS still managed to raise more than £3,800. This was with school uniform sales, a generous donation from another school who won a grant thanks to one of our parents, bulb planting proceeds, sales from the tuck shop and also some ad hoc sales of items around Christmas and Father's Day. The biggest success was the Captain Tom's 100 Challenge which raised more than £2,000.

Thanks to this fundraising we were able to treat the children to chocolate rabbits for Easter, an online-Christmas pantomime and a present from Father Christmas as well as the end of term visit from an ice-cream van, which has been described as the 'highlight of the year' by Head teacher, Mr Ryan.

As we get used to the new normal and restrictions are lifted we are hoping to hold all our usual events; the Christmas Fair and the Summer Fair and Pet Show. We'd love village residents to come along to these events (as well as some more we are planning).

- **Saturday, November 13 - Quiz Night. 7pm for 7.30pm at the school.**
 - **Saturday December 11 - School Christmas Fair - Time TBC.**
- Saturday June 25 - Summer Fair and Pet Show - Time TBC - School field.**

FOCSS is made up of parents and school staff but is also open to the community. We would love to have some more volunteers from the village, don't worry if you don't have lots of time to spare any help is really welcomed.

Our next FOCSS meeting is on **Wednesday November 3 at The Unicorn pub in Marden. 7pm for 7.30pm.** We'd love to see you there.

Drop us an email on info@foccs.org.uk or give our [Facebook page](#) a like and a follow.

Finally, we have a new look board. A huge thank you to Harriet and Jenna, for their service as Chair and Vice Chair. They have done an absolutely amazing job running brilliant events and raising money for FOCSS. I'm delighted that they will both continue to be involved with FOCSS in the future, we'll definitely need your support.

The new look board is:

Me, **Kelly Ridgen** as Chair. I have two children at the school in Reception and Year 3. I was previously the treasurer and you may know me best for baking cakes for meetings and running the school uniform shop with the fabulous Emma Howard.

Jodie Reilly - Vice Chair. Jodie has two children at the school in Year 1 and Year 3 and was a volunteer reader at the school before the pandemic. I have no doubt Jodie will be instrumental in organising lots of social events so that we can make sure it's not just the children who have all the fun.

Hannah Sibley - Treasurer. Hannah has a daughter in Reception so is new to the school! I really appreciate her putting herself forward for this role and as she works as an accountant I'm confident our finances are in safe hands.

Catherine Peerless - Secretary. Catherine has two children at the school in Year 3 and Year 4 and is also a parent governor and looks after the [Facebook page](#).

Kelly Ridgen
Chair of Friends of Collier Street School



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

Contact @ 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: *Bewilderment* by Richard Powers (Available all good bookshops)

Coffee: Woodstock (Satnav: Hermitage Lane, The Hermitage, ME16 9NT)

Bewilderment by Richard Powers 8/10

Every year I try and read the Booker Prize longlist titles that take my fancy before they announce the shortlist. I find that it's fun to be part of a wider conversation about books in this way, and *Bewilderment* caught my eye immediately this year. Several years ago, Richard Powers' book *The Overstory* was selected for the list and I was very disappointed when it didn't win but vindicated when it went on to collect the Pulitzer. This year I'm keeping everything crossed that it'll be Richard Powers' year.

Bewilderment is, at its heart, a story about romantic and familial love, but in classic Powers' style it is also about the world at large, mainly politics and the environment. Tragic circumstances bring a father and son closer together, as they struggle with the difficulties of being unique and 'alone' (in several senses) in a world that isn't very forgiving of difference. In a sense, portrayals of children with autism/Asperger's syndrome risks becoming a trope of well-received fiction of the last 10 or so years, but this rendering is – in my opinion – one of the more thought provoking and profound.

This novel is much less epic than *The Overstory*, but there are echoes of the transcendent everything-is-connected vastness that will delight Powers fans, as well as a much more intimate atmosphere which is beautiful.

There are interesting aspects of the story that are firmly rooted in science, particularly astrology, that fascinated me in a way I wasn't expecting at all. Similarly, the ending shocked and upset me – I won't ruin it for you by telling you what happens, but needless to say it is a very sad ending so please be prepared.

I had pre-ordered a copy as it was only released in the last month so by the time it came I had built up a real excitement for it, and I definitely wasn't disappointed. It's probably my favourite new release this year by quite a way, though I can also highly recommend *The Sweetness of Water* by Nathan Harris (Booker Prize 2021 longlisted) and I'm about to start *Great Circle* by Maggie Shipstead (Booker Prize 2021 shortlisted).

Woodstock 7/10

For an unexpected gem, albeit maybe one that's a bit compact and busy to enjoy a quiet read on a weekend, Woodstock is tucked behind an industrial estate near Maidstone Hospital. If you, like me, have been disbelieving of the enticing sign for a café when driving out that way, follow your curiosity and you won't be disappointed.

You'll find a modern wooden single story, light filled and comfortable café with a surprisingly wide menu of hot and cold food, breakfast and lunch options, as well as a wide drinks menu. The service is friendly and incredibly fast, the food high quality, cake delicious and coffee just hits the spot.

For somewhere that you could quite easily overlook it seems like a fantastic draw to me. I'd really like to go back in the summer to see if they put out tables in the 'garden'/'field' area beside the building as the setting would be very quiet and relaxing.

I'm all ears! Please recommend books for me to read and cafes to read in! Send me an email at

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 WALKS

SUNDAY WALKS

The next Sunday walk will be on **November 7th**, starting at the library at 10 a.m. and will be the 5 mile Festival (renamed Hopping) walk.

Also November 27th is "Tree Charter Day", with a Tree Planting ceremony in Southons Field at 10.30 a.m. To mark this Steve will lead the new 4 mile "Tree Walk" around Marden on **Sunday November 28th** starting from the Library at 10 am and finishing in Southons field.

SATURDAY WALKS

Saturday walks will continue throughout November, starting at 2 pm from the library. The proposed walks are;

November 6th By car to Linton Church walk along the greensand way to Boughton Monchelsea Church and back, no stiles, good views across the Weald.

November 13th Collier Street via Turkey Farm

November 20th Copper Lane to Park Road three stiles

November 27th Turkey Farm via Westfield House

As most of you will know, the Victorians loved "big and beautiful" and introduced the Giant Hogweed plant into the UK for it to start to overtake our native species killing off natural habitats as well as being dangerous to humans by burning the skin.

Yalding Parish Council has been a partner with others, in trying to eradicate this, and other non-native plants, from or river banks. We ask all of our residents with river frontage to please be part of the scheme. Other non-native species include Himalayan Balsam, Japanese Knotweed and Floating Pennywort.

Here is a link to the 2021 MVCP newsletter [Medway Valley - Medway Catchment Invasive Non-Native Plant Control Project - 2021 Newsletter \(mailchi.mp\)](#)

Geraldine Brown
Chairman Yalding Parish Council



It's that time again and I am proud to announce the launch of the

David Jenner Photography Calendar 2022

With Christmas just around the corner an ideal present would be my 2022 calendar featuring a collection of my favourite landscape images from the past year.

<https://www.davidjenner.co.uk/calendars/>

Collier Street Ramblings 'Rare white squirrels'



While out walking with the local ladies walking group in the lanes above Yalding we spotted a very unusual sight when a white squirrel ran across the lane in front of us and rummaged around amongst the autumn leaves in a small clearing before scuttling off in to the undergrowth. Its' pure white fur made it very easy to see and we wondered how it managed to escape predators.

Initially I assumed it must be an albino but it could also have been caused by a condition called Leucism, if so its' fur would be white because of loss of pigmentation but the eyes would have remained dark. We were not close enough to see if it had the red eyes characteristic of an albino; a congenital condition resulting in the skin and hair having no colour because of a lack of melanin.

Wildlife experts in the UK believe they are rare and they estimate there are only 50 in the country. A sighting of a white squirrel is believed by some to be a sign that you will have good luck and there is some evidence that they were thought of as a sign of peace as long ago as the 14th century. Apparently Native Americans would release a white squirrel during a battle to send the opponents a sign of surrender.

According to Wikipedia Olney, Illinois (in the USA) calls itself the "white squirrel capital of the world" and they have the world's largest white squirrel colony. The Olney police wear a uniform badge that shows a white squirrel and they will fine motorists \$500 if they hit a white squirrel because they have right of way on all streets in the town! Four other North American towns also claim to be the home of the white squirrel, they are: Marionville, Missouri; Brevard, North Carolina; Exeter, Ontario and Kenton, Tennessee. They all hold annual white squirrel festivals.

Other interesting squirrel facts (from www.thefactsite.com):

They can leap 10 times their body length.

They have double jointed legs and can turn their ankles 180 degrees when climbing trees etc.

In Greek the word squirrel means shadow tail.

Squirrels can eat their own body weight every week

They can fall 30 feet without hurting themselves. They use their tail for balance and as a parachute.

The way their eyes are positioned on their heads means they are able to see behind them.

A HISTORY OF YALDING'S ALMSHOUSES

The following words can be seen engraved in stone on the front of
Yalding's Almshouse building

Today we live in a village which has a high level of community spirit and volunteering to everyone's benefit. It is pleasing to report that it was the same in 1863.

THESE ALMSHOUSES WERE ERECTED AND ENDOWED BY THE MISSES ANN AND ELIZABETH SIMMONS OF MILL PLACE YALDING FOR THE USE AND BENEFIT OF SIX POOR WOMEN OOF THE PARISH OF YALDING ANNO DOMINI MDCCCLXIII

Let's start by telling you of the lead players. They were Ann Simmons, Robert Ellis, Thomas Cutbush, Gervois Whitehead, all of Yalding, and George White of Hunton. These five were the original Trustees. There's no mention in early documents of Elizabeth Simmons whom we presume to be Ann's sister.

The site was chosen from part of a larger field then known as the Workhouse Field, which itself was part of the large farm of Court Lodge, leased, lived in and farmed by Robert Ellis. The conveyance dated 6 January 1863 records that Ann Simmons paid £50 and Robert Ellis surrendered his leasehold interest in the site to her at an apportioned rent of 5 shillings. Immediate agreement was given to a right of way and access to the land from what we now know as Windmill Path, leading from Vicarage Road to Blunden Lane.

Things moved swiftly. A Trust Deed was established on 30 January 1863, by which date construction of the building, a single block of six houses, had already started. Ann Simmons gifted an Endowment Fund of £6,000 (equivalent today to £674,000) which would produce an income of £180. Sadly her Trusteeship was short-lived as she died on 4 March 1864. Unfortunately, nothing has been recorded of her life and character beyond her evident generosity and public-spiritedness.

An unanswered question is who paid for the construction. All four gentlemen as a group? Thomas Cutbush who had recently built a similar site in Maidstone's King Street? Or Robert Ellis himself? He was a farmer of substantial wealth and property. The lease he held carried a yearly rent of £650 (about £73,000 in today's money). The array of oasts in today's Oast Court is testimony to the size of the Ellis business.

The Rules and Regulations for future Almshouse tenants were precisely set out in a document of July 1863:

The Houses to be occupied rent free by six single women, widows or spinsters above the age of 50 years; one to each house; or by women under that age who from sickness or other infirmity shall be considered proper objects of the Charity, being Parishioners of Yalding.

Each inmate to be allowed to take a female lodger gratuitously, if the said Trustees shall approve of the same; no male person to be allowed to lodge in any of the Houses.

Any inmate or lodger may be removed by the Trustees if from misconduct or other cause such inmate or lodger shall have ceased to be a fit object of the Charity.

The said Trustees for the time being to pay out of the endowment fund eight shillings on Monday in every week to each inmate, and one shilling on the same day to each lodger, and to supply to each inmate (not being a lodger) one ton of coals in the month of July in every year.

Charity Commission Schemes were established in 1907 with subsequent amendments in 1937, 1975 and 2004, all of which have regulated the way in which the Trust is operated. These included introducing the concept of the residents paying a contribution, now commonly known as the weekly Maintenance Contribution, and broadening the eligibility of residents beyond the Parish of Yalding but retaining a Yalding connection.

Major refurbishment schemes have been carried out in the past 25 years in keeping with modern requirements for safety and comfort. Sound financial management of the Trust's funds over many years have enabled such improvements to be made as well as maintaining separate funds for those In Need or In Sickness.

A LITTLE MORE HISTORY or HOW SMOKING CAN SOMETIMES SAVE YOUR LIFE (a tragic story with a happy ending)

It was previously mentioned that the land on which the Almshouses now stand was agricultural land leased and farmed by Robert Ellis. It was owned, however, by an aristocratic family called Halsey whose "seat" was (still is) in Great Gaddesden, Hertfordshire.

In January 1863 23-year-old Frederick Halsey sold the land to Ann Simmons. He could not have done so much sooner because in those days you had to be 21 before you could own and sell land.

So, couldn't older members of his family have sold it? Well, no. Sadly all had perished when in 1854 the steamship in which they were travelling on a Mediterranean holiday collided with another ship off Cap d'Antibes. Frederick should have been with them but as a 14-year-old schoolboy at Eton he had been caught smoking, "gated" and forbidden from taking part in the family holiday.

Frederick went on to become a distinguished MP from 1873 to 1906 and a member of the Privy Council. After losing the 1906 election he devoted himself to extensive community work, was appointed a Deputy Lieutenant of Hertfordshire, created a Baronet in 1920 and lived to the age of 87.

Who knows? But for that illicit cigarette and moment of schoolboy naughtiness such good works may not have been achieved and we may not have had our Almshouses.

I am indebted once again to our super-sleuth Donald Troup for unearthing these gems. I am grateful too to Alison Cresswell, local sage and erstwhile archivist at Maidstone Library, for information concerning Mill Place Yalding.

The stone plaque on the Almshouse building shows that this is where the benefactors Ann and Elizabeth Simmons lived. They and a third sister, Harriet, were the daughters of John Simmons (1745-1807) who owned Mill Place Farm and sundry properties, some of which were sold at The Star, Maidstone, in 1814 as "fit for the Residence of a Genteel Family".

Ann and Elizabeth lived on in the farm house until their deaths in 1862 (Elizabeth) and 1864 (Ann), either side of the establishment of the Almshouse Trusteeship in 1863. The 1841 Census refers to their farmhouse lane as "The Miss Simmons Lane".

Michael Stewart

I'm indebted to Donald Troup for his painstaking research on the history of the Almshouses, and all recent Trustees and residents are extremely indebted to him for his informed contributions and efficiency as Trustee and Treasurer for over 24 years up to his recent retirement.

Jacqui Bakes

Jams & Chutneys

Ah! Breathe. It has been a tough term in school for both staff & pupils, getting back to some kind of 'normal'. Half term is the start of Christmas in my house - hopefully this year we will get to spend Christmas with our loved ones. I love to make gifts for close friends & family. This year, I am making jams and chutneys. Here are a few recipes that I love to make as gifts (I'm also having a go at infusing gin my favourite tippie!)

Mulled wine plum jam

350ml Merlot or a fruity red wine
Grated zest & juice of 2 oranges
1-1/2 tsp whole cloves
2 cinnamon sticks
1.8kg red plums
1.8kg preserving sugar

Heat red wine, orange zest & juice, cloves & cinnamon sticks, simmer for 10 mins.
Allow to cool slightly.

Place plums in a large saucepan or preserving pan, strain over cooled mulled wine.
Cover and cook gently for 20 mins or until plums have softened.

Uncover, add the sugar, stir until dissolved.

Increase heat & bring to a rolling boil. Boil for about 5 mins until setting point is reached 105 degrees.

Allow jam to cool slightly so the fruit will be suspended, then pour into warmed sterilised jars, seal tightly and allow to cool completely.

Label & decorate with jar toppers. Store jam in a cool dark place, will keep unopened for 1 year. Store in fridge after opening.



Spiced pumpkin & apple chutney

1.2kg pumpkin or squash cut into 2 cm cubes
3 tbsp sea salt flakes
75g raisins
2 medium onions
600g Bradley, apples peeled, cored & diced
75g glacé cherries, chopped
4 garlic cloves
4 red chillies
1 tbsp coriander seeds
1 tbsp mustard seeds
3cm root ginger, grated
500ml cider vinegar
400g caster sugar

Put the pumpkin in a large bowl, sprinkle with sea salt, toss together. Cover with a clean tea towel, leave overnight, this process helps the pumpkin to keep its shape rather than become a purée.

The following day, soak the raisins in 200ml of boiling water for 15 minutes. Rinse & drain the pumpkin, place in a preserving pan with the onions, apples, glacé cherries, ginger, chillies, coriander & mustard seeds and the grated ginger. Add the raisins including their soaking liquid.

Pour in vinegar and 350ml water, so the ingredients are just covered. Bring to the boil and simmer, partially covered for 1 hour or until the pumpkin is tender.

Stir in sugar over a low heat until dissolved. Increase heat slightly and cook for about 40 mins, stirring often to prevent sticking. To test if the chutney is ready, draw a wooden spoon through chutney, it should leave a trail for 30 seconds before filling in again.

Ladle into warm sterilised jars, secure lids. Label once cooled. Leave the chutney to mellow for 2 weeks before trying, it will keep unopened for 6 months. Store in fridge after opening.



Prepared for Winter.

The winter period is upon us and thoughts turn to shorter days and changes in the weather.

Whilst we hope for a mild winter it is important to be prepared for whatever weather comes our way in the months ahead.

The village as we all know is subject to flooding and it is important to be prepared.

For those properties that have been fitted with protection measures it might be worth checking they are all in good condition and working order. Check the rubber seals are in good condition and not been damaged by mice in the garage or shed.

Those with pumps may need to check they are in working order.

It may well be worth spending time checking all is in order and time spent now may well be time worth spent just in case the rains come.

If you are not signed up for the free Flood warnings issued by the EA you can do this online or by ringing 03459881188.

We hope that the service will not be required this winter but better to be safe than sorry.

In the event of any alerts or warnings are issued I will use the village whats app group to send out any additional information. This has worked well in the past couple of years.

My email and phone number are in the magazine if you need any help with your defences or have any questions.

I hope that the weather will be kind to us this winter and the rain stays away but as we have seen across the world in the past few years, we are seeing more extreme weather conditions that have caused enormous problems.

So please stay safe and lets, hope for a dry winter.

David Goff



NOTES

FROM COLLIER STREET PARISH COUNCIL

Full Council Monday 11th October 2021 commencing at 7.00pm

| | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Cllr David Goff [Chair] | Cllr Dave Sealey |
| Cllr Andrew Papas [Vice Chair] | Borough Cllr Claudine Russell |
| Cllr Steve Barham | County Cllr Lottie Parfitt-Reid |
| Cllr Jack Highwood | Parish Clerk Alan Crocker |
| Cllr Steve Sandys | 1 member of the public |

Apologies Cllr Deborah Papas. Cllr Dave Sealey joined the meeting at 7.15pm

Declarations of Interest None received

Minutes of Full Council Meeting 13th September 2021

Following a proposal by AP seconded, by SS, the meeting agreed the minutes of this meeting represented an accurate recording of the meeting. Minutes are displayed on the parish website.

<https://collierstreetparishcouncil.co.uk>

Correspondence and Action Points

Defibrillator Installation Update The Clerk tasked to send the booklet on the defib to Cllr Goff

CIL MONIES

Focus/Workshop Group Feedback

Health and Wellbeing – Lead Cllr Steve Barham

The group will revisit the results of the survey on usage/suggestions, post the half term holiday.

Village Hall – Lead Cllr David Goff

The meeting discussed the actions to date and agreed a further meeting of the focus group in the very near future.

Highways and Community Safety – Cllrs Deborah and Andrew Papas

Waiting the results of the costings on recent suggestions submitted to KCC Highways, in order for the various options to form part of the consultation document on spends.

HIGHWAYS

Brief on Highways /Update Highway Improvement Plans on 'blueprint' from Cllrs Andrew and Deborah Papas

KCC Highways now have the updated Highways Improvement Plan – Cllr L-R suggested that the long list be prioritised. There will of course be actions on that plan that may have to be funded by the parish CIL monies

LORRY WATCH and SPEEDWATCH UPDATE

Following a meeting attended by David Goff, Cllr Claudine Russell, Sean Randell and Sarah Perks it was agreed that the following actions would be taken: -

Action Points: -

Can KCC confirm the list of lorries which are permitted to use the area as they are local businesses? Cllr LPR agreed to follow this action item up.

Can the triangle for Longends Lane be put back in – CR to investigate whether it is still a condition of the planning permission. Cllr CR would follow this up and examine the planning application.

DG to add to Highways Improvement Plan.

Who maintains the KCC road signage as some is dirty/broken? LPR to ask who and what the schedule for maintenance/cleaning is.

Can Matthew Scott be contacted to ask why there is no enforcement effort being made with regard to this issue? Why can't police commit to some days per month? CR to email.

Both DG and CR agreed to raise this issue at the next CSU meeting where the head of this unit will be attending. Feedback from this meeting will follow.

What are Yalding doing with regard to enforcement as the lorries will be coming from their way as well? CR to email and ask Yalding.

Sarah Perks has a list of lorry registrations that have travelled through the parish, but these are unbranded vehicles – is there a way of finding out the company to contact them?

Sean Randell to ask James Powell.

Is there a possibility of a joint parishes group to co-ordinate speedwatch/lorrywatch issues and to feed back? Discussion re Marden, Yalding, Nettlestead, Collier Street, Hunton, Horsemonden?? Once we have Collier Street more planned out CR to investigate.

Photos and a list of existing signage to be prepared in the village with ideas and a costing exercise of how this can be improved/what the parish need. This information to be added as an appendix to the Highways Improvement Plan.

SP to forward to DG the list of the lorries.

It was suggested that DG and Collier Street PC work on a template letter that can be used with repeat offenders.

The meeting discussed this action point, and it was agreed that we will need to liaise with KCC Freight Initiative in order that the actions are coordinated and that we are seen to be working with them. We also need to establish the suggested format of such a letter. The Clerk will liaise with KCC Freight and the Freight Officer responsible.

DG wished to record the thanks of the parish council to the group for the great job they are doing

Car Park Maintenance Waiting members grant application following meeting with Cllr Lottie Parfitt-Reid Cllr LP-R has approved has approved the funding but is yet to be received. The Clerk will Chase.

Borough Councillor's Report – Cllr Claudine Russell Reported that the Draft Local Plan has been put to full council. Apart from an amendment not carried the Local Plan will be submitted under Regulation 19 by the end of October/November.

Confirmation has not been received that local PCSO's will stay in situ apart from a couple of parishes

The Executive arrangement are now in situ. Motion of changes to the election system was defeated.

The Bus Station is now reopened, as is the Maidstone Museum and the Leisure Centre. A new initiative 'Safer Maidstone' has been launched.

County Councillor's Report – Cllr Lottie Parfitt-Reid Reported on the new initiative 'Get Lorries out of our Lives' campaign led by County Cllr Sean Holden

LP-R also requested feedback on the possible closure of the High Weald Academy. The meeting discussed the implications. Cllr LP-R has just been appointed to the Southern Regional Flooding Coastal Committee. A representative Martin Hurst will be visiting the parish at some time. At the time of reporting she has had no reply from Plan Bee

Recreation Field Maintenance The Clerk to request the hedges surrounding the playing field be cut by the contractor. Actions to gate will be taken by a contractor shortly

Routine Inspection Checklist received from RoSPA Play Safety Copies of the regular checks to the recommended play equipment log sheet are to be copied to DG to conform to the conditions of insurance

Flooding Update

DG reported a pilot taking place in Collier Street Parish by the National Flood Forum digital mapping.

A newly created strategic group is being formed under the Medway Flood Partnership. The Upper and Medway Internal Drainage Board are to separate by the year end.

There has been an issue with the smell of sewerage on the Dandara site. As of the date of this meeting the residents are without reply from email sent to the developers. The planning and technical department are said to be investigating.

Date of Next Meeting

The next Councillor's Meeting, scheduled as a physical meeting, will take place in The Orchard Room, St Margaret's School, Monday 8th November 2021 commencing at 7.00pm. The meeting will be subject to any changes introduced central government.

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

USEFUL CONTACT DETAILS

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Church Warden

Rachel West 01622 872278

Sec to P.C.C.

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SCHOOL

Headteacher Paul Ryan 01892 730264

Chairman of Governors

Gareth Waterman TBC

Friends of Collier Street School

Chair Person: Kelly Rigden

email info@focss.org.uk

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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

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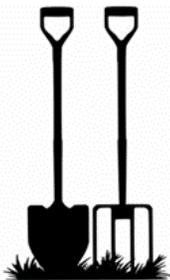
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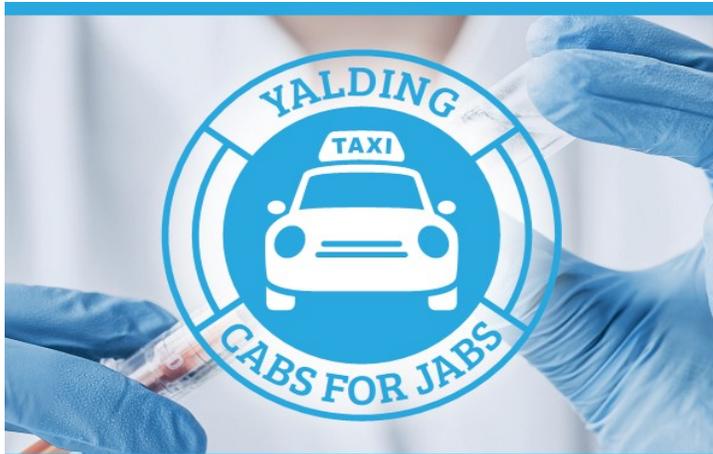


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