

COLLIER STREET NEWS

October 2021



IN THIS ISSUE

SCHOOL REPORT

BROADBAND UPDATE

FAREWELL FROM REV'D LISA

POP IN GET TOGETHER

YALDING SURGERY NEWSLETTER

WOODPECKERS

YALDING ALMSHOUSES

RAMBLINGS

SPEEDWATCH

JACQUI BAKES

YALDING GARDEN SOCIETY

SCHOOL GAMBIA

YALDING EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

PARISH COUNCIL CIL MONIES

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 11th and 25th October

Recycling, food waste and textiles

Monday 4th and 18th October

www.maidstone.gov.uk

CUTE PET OF THE MONTH - Ruby



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

COLLIER STREET

Thank you very much to everyone who has contributed to October's edition of the magazine, it is greatly appreciated., especially for our regular features from Barbara Grandi.

A special thank you to Louise Bentley for the front page ariel photograph of St Margarets Primary School.

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



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:

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.



At the September Pop-In we celebrated Eve's 90th birthday and were also delighted to see Paul Ryan, Head Teacher of St Margaret's Primary School, when he came over to thank us

for the £100 donation which was given to help them buy more equipment for use on their newly acquired playing field.

TIME TO APPLY FOR THE YALDING EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION HIGHER EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIPS

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

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

APPLICATIONS in respect of the academic year 2020/21 are now invited by **LETTER** only to the Clerk to the Foundation, Gary Atkins at Hawthorns, Laddingford, ME18 6BP. Applicants should state which primary school they attended and when, brief details of the University or College course they will follow, and their home and term time address. **Applications must be signed by the applicant.** If an email address is included, applicants will receive an acknowledgement on receipt of their application and a date by which the trustees will be assessing applications so that awards can be paid. To qualify, **ALL APPLICATIONS SHOULD BE SUBMITTED BY OCTOBER 31st 2020** (this is later than normal to take into account any problems that may be caused by the Covid 19 outbreak).





Collier Street School Report

Collier Street School welcomed back all of its pupils and their families on Friday 3rd September 2021. Everyone is happy and excited to be back in school. We have come back with positive attitudes, lots of confidence and ready to do some fantastic learning.

We have seen positive changes to our school day with the ability to disband 'bubbles' and return to the normal routines of school. We are all now beginning the day together enjoying collective worship altogether in the hall. For our year 1 children this was the first time and lunchtimes are again a whole school affair. We are still keeping to routines to ensure we can all be COVID 19 safe and prevent the spread of the virus.



We would like to extend our warmest welcome to all new members of school, with a full cohort of 18 children in Year R in Russet Class, two new children one in Key Stage 1 and one in Key Stage 2.

Our 18 new Reception children have been absolutely fantastic in their phased transition. Again this year they were not able to come into school and meet Miss O'Connor or Miss France before the summer holidays. As you can imagine this was a very anxious and for the children.

However, they have settled in beautifully after the initial 'meet the teacher's and 'explore the class' sessions on Friday 3rd September. This was followed by two days of staying until midday and three days of staying until 1pm. We are delighted that all the children are now in school full time and have settled into school life.



We are very proud of the Year 1 children in Russet class who have been very grown up, showing lots of kindness and compassion when looking after their younger classmates.

Now we are at the end of the first two weeks of school we have lots of tired but happy children who have been exploring their new environment, making friends with their peers and developing confidence in the school setting. They have met and named their new class mascot, 'Cookie Bear' and have been enjoying lots of creative work, being outside using the new mud kitchen, small world, the bikes and exploring the grounds of the wider school.



During the summer holidays, we have been working hard to redesign and change the outdoor area in the Early Years playground. There was lots of dismantling, demolishing and rebuilding happening. We now have a lovely shelter for the children to use and will be continuing to develop this over the next year. With that in mind we would like to say a big thank you to Mr Collins, Miss O'Connor and her family.



We are very happy at the thought of being able to return to the church for our school services and are already practising for the Harvest Festival celebrations.

We look forward to our next academic year at St Margaret's, growing and working together with our children, families and the wider community after very positive start to the year.



A farewell from Rev'd Lisa

In the Old Testament it is written: **“There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens.... there is nothing better for a person than to enjoy their work, because that is their lot.”**

(Ecclesiastes 3: 1,22a)

As I write this letter, my three-year season in Yalding, Laddingford and Collier Street is drawing to a close. The nature of the Church of England's training pattern is that newly ordained clergy are sent to serve in a parish and learn from a more senior priest. For me, that mentor has been Fr. Paul Kish. I am very grateful for his generosity in sharing his time and considerable knowledge with me. He has shown much patience and kindness as I have grown in confidence as a minister. When a curate is sent to a parish of course, it is not just the training incumbent who has that role. It is said that it takes a village to raise a child and arguably it takes a parish to raise a curate. Thank you to you all!

Having worked the majority of my life in London schools, the chance to spend my curacy in a rural setting was something of a dream come true. I have really appreciated the changing seasons and farming year, and the range of traditions and events enjoyed in each community. My working life has been centred around beautiful church buildings. I feel particularly blessed to have the chance to worship in these three settings and with congregations who have been so easy to love. Each church brings me its own sense of God's presence and peace. Just how much I have grown to love them was made clear in 2020 when pandemic regulations led me to experience much sadness as I missed the places and people of the benefice during the first national lockdown.

One of the joys of parish ministry is to be alongside people at significant turning points in their lives. I have been part of baptism and wedding services and appreciated bringing these celebrations before God. A particular privilege of priesthood is in offering funeral and bereavement ministry. I thank all of you who have trusted me to care for you during the saddest times in your life. It has been such an honour to walk alongside you in your grief and be given the chance at funerals to celebrate the lives of loved ones and entrust them to God's care. Having been through the death of my own mother a few months ago, and needing the ministry of her local church, I am now even more aware of the need for a ministry which acknowledges the sadness of grief, but is counterbalanced with the chance to celebrate and give thanks for those that we love but no longer see.

There have been many sources of joy in my season with you. Amongst the greatest has been the opportunity to enjoy a range of music in churches and schools. To rediscover the joy of making and appreciating music has at times felt like I have grown wings to fly. Thank you to all those who have shared their musical talents over this time. My life has been enriched by you all.

As I move in September to be the rector of four rural churches, I am very grateful for all that you have taught me by welcoming me into your lives and communities. I have learned so much and been enriched by all the experiences, even those that were difficult at the time. I have laughed more in the past three years than I probably ever have before. Not least at choir practice! Leaving you, to shepherd a new flock will be hard but a task that I have been equipped for by every single encounter I have shared during curacy. I have enjoyed much local hospitality, good conversation and been sold a ridiculously large number of raffle tickets. Who knew there were so many good causes needing funds?!

I have so many thank yous to give, but I will leave the personal ones until my leaving do or to say in private. Of course, my greatest thanks must be to God. I am so privileged to have been called by him to serve amongst you in this beautiful part of his creation and amongst a very special community.

As I leave you for new pastures, I offer you this blessing from The Old Testament:

“The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.” (Numbers 6: 24-26)

Yours in Christ.

Rev'd Lisa Cornell

Yalding Surgery Newsletter

We are pleased to announce we will likely offer the Covid-19 booster jab for this year. We are awaiting confirmation for this from the CCG. Like the rest of the country, we are not 100% sure will be eligible and when it will start. We will let eligible patients know as soon as we do.

We are also pleased to announce that we have employed a brand new GP, Dr Suresh Logarajah, who will be working with us on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. He will join our regular GP's - Dr Alexandra Scott, Dr Shamim Ahmed, Dr Victoria Watson, Dr Jon Fenton as well as Miss Sonia Watling, our paramedic practitioner.

We are hopeful that with his kind help will be able to offer more clinical appointments to reduce our waiting times for an appointment. Alongside routine appointments, we have a daily duty doctor available all day for urgent clinical matters.

Sadly, people in our community are still falling ill with Covid-19, even with a double jab. We are therefore insisting that anyone entering the surgery wears a mask (or face shield), washes their hands and maintains a social distance. We will do our best to make provisions for anyone who doesn't want to wear a mask.

Lastly, the PPG – patient participation group – for Yalding Surgery are keen for new members and to hear from anyone in our community. They have meetings every two months at the practice. Please contact the surgery if you want to get involved or know more. Further information is also available on the Yalding Surgery website.

Thank you and stay safe.

Yalding Surgery.

New Clerk Needed for the Yalding Almshouses Trustees

We have a vacancy for a Clerk for the committee of Trustees of the Yalding Almshouses. The Clerk is required to attend between 2 and 4 Trustee meetings a year ; the committee consists of a Chair, Treasurer, Clerk and 5 other Trustees.

The new clerk will arrange meetings, prepare minutes, present clerk reports and act as a link between the residents of the Almshouses and the Trustees. Their role is essential to ensure the charity is run in the best interests of those it supports. No specific Clerking experience is necessary but Administrative experience and basic IT skills would be beneficial.

Trustees seek someone who is committed, tactful, caring and sympathetic to the needs of the residents and also able to contact tradesmen and service providers when needed.

The Alms Houses were built in 1847 for 6 single women of the parish. They continue to provide a safe and secure home for 6 ladies from Yalding, Laddingford or Collier Street.

If you are interested in this role or have any questions please contact the Chair, Barbara Grandi at barbaragrandi@aol.com

Also:

The Trustees are still interested in finding someone with general **Handyman** skills who is interested in quoting for ad-hoc work at the Alms Houses.



The Yalding Alms Houses

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

The building contains 6 individual houses which each have two floors. They are suitable for only one single lady as they have just one bedroom upstairs and a bathroom. Downstairs there is a lounge and kitchen.

In front of the building there is a communal garden maintained by a gardener employed by the Trustees and to the rear there is a back yard for each property where bins and other items can be stored in small outhouses.

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

All six Alms Houses are currently happily occupied.



Woodpeckers- 'so much to do!'

There was much to do for the Woodpeckers when they met on Saturday September 4th because they had been 'rained off' for the August session. Luckily there were plenty of us there and we soon got on with the tasks needed which meant removing everything unwanted that had grown so rapidly in the previous month.

David, Stephane and Ray all manned their strimmers and were quickly able to remove the weeds and long grass around the edges of the grave stones, walls and trees.



As usual David Goff whizzed around on the tractor mower, Christine and Barbara sorted the Rose bed, Ann cut back some low hanging branches with Liz's help while Jo and Margaret did general weeding and tidying. Dave Sealey again took on the unenviable task of weed killing and sprayed every nook and cranny.

We had a good chat while we had our hot drinks and enjoyed the cakes: banana/chocolate chip muffins, lemon drizzle or chocolate cake....all delicious.

Everyone is welcome to 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 (quite long) tea break and are finished by 12.

The Woodpeckers Picnic

The next day most of the Woodpeckers met up again in Stephane and Margaret's beautiful garden for the annual Woodpeckers get together. For the second year running we all brought our own picnics instead of the usual BBQ but we all had a lovely time in the warm sunshine. Many thanks to Stephane and Margaret for hosting the event and making us all so welcome.

BroadBand update

The latest update on the local Ultra fast Broadband projects.

The Jarmons Lane, Claygate Road & Pike Fish project is now nearing completion and those of you who are covered (& signed up for the voucher) should now have been invited to order your new connection. Please get your order into your chosen ISP and enjoy your new connectivity.

For those of us covered by the Hunton Road, Claygate, Spenny Lane, Burtons Lane project I have just had an update from Openreach to quote:

“I’m writing to give you an update on your community funded FTTP Project in Collier Street xx Infield and I am pleased to say that we are making good progress and the survey and planning work is almost complete. We are just about to move in to the build stage of our deployment where we can actually start to install the fibre network and associated infrastructure. You might see our engineers working nearby but they could also be working anywhere on the route from your community back to the local telephone exchange.

We will be in touch with you again in the next few months as we get nearer to the go live date, however I just wanted to let you know that as it stands, we are on track for your go live date in February 2022.”

This said, there are also some signs that work is commencing, fibre connectors & cabling have been spotted being installed along the Hunton road. The Photograph shows one of the new fibre connection blocks installed at the end of Green Lane, as works proceed more of these will be appearing on telephone poles in the area, when orders are placed this is the point where Openreach will connect the cable to the premises.

I also suspect that the scheme will be ready for orders to be placed a couple of months before the go live date of February as they will want to have some buffer before the vouchers expire.



If you have any questions or spot more installation work being carried out locally please contact me:
Alaric.j.r.turner@gmail.com

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 chilly mornings returned, but the merry band braved the elements with thermos flask and clipboard in hand !

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) or call 01892 354736. We are keen for any volunteers who can help during the day and at lunchtime. Thank you for all your efforts to date.

Below are the summary stats for May and June.

Number of 1 hour sessions	41
Number of vehicles recorded	7,203
Number of vehicles exceeding speed limit	626
Number of invalid DVLA vehicles exceeding speed limit (e.g no MOT or tax)	37
Maximum speed observed	69 !!! (not a typo !!)
Number of warning letters sent	136
Number of home visits by the police	6



ART EXHIBITION AND SALE

19 - 21 November 2021

Preview night: live music, a glass of wine and canapés £5 a ticket

Saturday and Sunday: free entry. Tea and cake available.

As many of you will remember, SchoolGambia held this very popular and successful event in 2018 and for several years prior to that. We had planned to organise a 2020 occasion but the pandemic prevented this. However, we have not given up and our very active committee have been meeting on Zoom and planning the details of putting on this function in the church of St. Peter & St. Paul, Yalding over the weekend of 19-21 November, 2021.

Happily most of the brilliant artists who originally signed up are keen to exhibit and we have booked the musicians for the Preview Night on Friday. Do put this date in your diary. As well as being able to look at a wide variety of exquisite art work, the occasion will provide an opportunity to do some Christmas shopping, to socialise and to enjoy the beautiful venue.

The money raised from this function will go to SchoolGambia, a Yalding-based charity that for 20 years has built and supported a community school in the village of Farato in The Gambia. The villagers themselves chose their name, Yalding School in honour of the support raised here in Yalding, Kent. Every year at least two of the trustees and up to 20 volunteers work in the school regularly but Covid restrictions have prevented this happening for over 18 months. However, the headteacher and staff have managed to run the school efficiently and keep to the Covid safety regulations, whilst operating new systems for making up the schooling lost between March and October, 2020. Two trustees hope to return to the school in January 2022 when the plans to renovate the Nursery classrooms (built by the villagers in 2000), including replacing the original roof; create a purpose-built library and plant a growing fence around the vegetable garden to keep out the goats! The Art Exhibition will help to finance these projects.

We encourage sponsors of teachers rather than individual pupils as we feel that this is fairer and more consistent. Through our sponsors we pay our 20+ teachers and senior staff a regular salary and provide professional development training. There is a very low turn over and most of our staff have worked in the school for 10-15 years. We are always looking for new sponsors! If you want to know more about our work, go to www.schoolgambia.org.uk or contact Tony and Karen Di Marco at schoolgambiauk@gmail.com

Jacqui Bakes

Three Cheese Scones

I hope you have had a good summer & are safe and well. For those who know me I am a bit of a cheese monster, I have a love for cheese scones but have never made them, so this was a first for me. I tried them with these 3 cheeses, a really strong cheddar, a sheep's Gouda and Gruyere. They worked really well, I will certainly make them again trying them with other cheese combinations.

Ingredients

225g Self raising flour, plus a little extra for dusting
1 tsp baking powder
1/2 tsp salt
1/2 cayenne pepper
1-1/2 tsp mustard powder
55g chilled butter, Uber
150g finely grated cheeses of your choice
80ml buttermilk

Method

Preheat oven to 200 degrees with the baking sheet inside.
Sift flour, baking powder, salt, cayenne pepper & mustard powder into a large bowl.
Rub in cubed butter with your fingertips to form fine breadcrumbs.
Mix in 100g of the cheeses.
Add butter milk & mix evenly, bring together with hand to form a ball, avoid kneading the mixture.
Using the heel of you hand press the mixture to 2.5cm thick, using a 6cm cookie cutter, cut out scones, reshaping until all mixture is used.
Brush with milk & sprinkle remaining cheese evenly over scones.
Space apart on the pre heated baking sheet, bake for 14 minutes until golden & cooked through.
Serve warm with butter.

Enjoy!



Collier Street Ramblings 'Golden Sunflowers'



Our friends used to live in the stunning Midi-Pyrenees area of France and we enjoyed many fantastic holidays staying in their gite. As we travelled about in our hire car we were amazed to see acres and acres of fields full of brilliant yellow sunflowers all facing in the same direction as they follow the sun from sunrise to sunset. Over recent years we have found that fields of sunflowers have become a regular site in England.

You can even go and pick your own during August and September at places close by like 'Blooming Green', Loddington Farm at Linton where there is a super selection of flowers you can pick, they have many sunflowers in August. Farmer Charlie Eckley grew 25,000 sunflowers in his field at Sandling near Maidstone this year and he also offered 'pick your own'. In this country the flowers will be at their most splendid for about two to three weeks between mid-summer and early autumn, probably in July and August.

The sunflower stem can grow up to 3 metres tall, with a flower head that can be 30 cm wide. Hundreds or thousands of tiny flowers called florets actually form the flower head and its brilliant for attracting pollinators like insects and birds; it then goes on to form thousands of seeds.

There are many uses for sunflower seeds apart from buying them to put in your garden bird feeders. Roasted seeds are eaten as a snack food; they can be processed into a peanut butter alternative called sunbutter; the oil is extracted and used as sunflower oil for cooking or for salads; and the 'cake' remaining after the seeds have been processed for oil is used as a livestock feed. The sunflower is the state flower of Kansas and that's why it's sometimes called the Sunflower State. Amazingly these flowers were grown to remove uranium and other toxic ingredients from the soil after the Chernobyl disaster because they are good at extracting uranium, arsenic and lead.

Sofia, aged 10 and a pupil of Collier Street Primary School, enjoyed growing her sunflower this summer and she sent me a picture with some writing about her lovely plant.

'I planted a sunflower seed into a pot with some compost in May. After it had sprouted and grown about 5 centimetres and there was no frost we planted it in the garden. Daddy had been watering it and its now grown so tall it's double my height, about 9 feet tall!

Did you know that the sunflower follows the sun during the day?'



YALDING GARDEN SOCIETY, AUTUMN SHOW, VILLAGE HALL, SATURDAY 18 SEPTEMBER 2021



It felt just like old times, to see the Village Hall on Saturday afternoon, 18 September, full of wonderful displays of seasonal flowers, fruit and vegetables, as well as stunning flower arrangements, delectable cooked produce, plus beautiful photographs and craft items, all being admired by a lively throng of around 60 visitors and exhibitors, buzzing with excitement and satisfaction at this element of return to normality, after the restrictions due to Covid-19 had prevented the YGS's usual shows being held since Spring 2020. A long wait indeed!

A few decades ago, by far the most popular Autumn flowers were Chrysanthemums and Dahlias, and the exhibition schedules still include several classes for these flowers. However tastes change with time, in ways impossible to predict or explain. This year, although there were several entries in the different Dahlia classes, there was only one of Chrysanthemums.

In fact, in several of the classes in different sections of the schedules, the number of exhibitors was noticeably below what might otherwise have been expected. This was probably in part due to the vagaries of the English weather (consistent only in its inconsistency!), which undoubtedly thwarted the efforts and ambitions of several would-be exhibitors. However this did not detract from the excellence of most of the entries actually on display.

For instance, although Sue Gerrish was the only entrant in the prestigious and demanding Master Gardener class, which requires skill in producing both flowers and a range of vegetables, the Judge had no hesitation in deciding that the quality of her entries fully justified that she be awarded the Cable Pipe Memorial Bowl. Jonathan Virden was awarded both the Milsted Challenge Cup, for the best performance in the Vegetable classes, and also the Society's Challenge Bowl for the best performance in the Vegetable, Fruit, and Flower classes combined. In the four different dahlia classes, there were in total 17 entries, with Pat Tomlin winning two of the classes, and also earning the Doctor's Cup for the best dahlia entry in the show.

As always, the flower arranging classes produced several wonderful exhibits, full of colour, imagination and skilled design, in their interpretation of the three subjects specified in the schedules, of Hallowe'en; Inspired by a Painting; and Harvest table decoration. Each of these classes was won by a different exhibitor (including one by Sue Gerrish, demonstrating her versatility in this field as well as in being Master Gardener). The Laura Borton Challenge Bowl for the best exhibit in the show went to Sue Williams, for her re-creation of a typical Dutch Old Master flower painting. The Penny Leon Award, for the best performance by a novice flower-arranger, in a separate class for novices on the subject of a Dressing Table Arrangement, was won by Helen Baldwin.

The Lumsden Bowl, for the best performance in the Photography classes was deservedly won by Bibi Findlay, who maintained her own very high standard in this difficult art, even though there were markedly fewer entries than normal in this field. The Perrins Challenge Bowl, for the best performance in the preserves and cookery classes, was won by Rachel West, who won the Pear Cake class, and also the Green Chutney class. The usually popular battle of the Sexes class, this time to produce 5 sausage rolls, was not awarded as there were only two entries.

Finally, the Craft class was won, through the popular vote of those present, by Yvonne Martin, for her exquisite cutwork embroidered table cloth.

Congratulations to all the organisers for mounting this successful event, and of course the exhibitors and visitors, who helped to make it all worthwhile! We shall now look forward to next year's shows.

Martin Williams Sept 2021.



Borough Councillor Retires

After 8 years in the role, our local Borough Councillor, Steve McLoughlin, was planning to stand down from the Council at the Borough elections that were due to take place in May. However, in view of the Covid 19 pandemic these elections have been delayed by 12 months to next May, when they will be held at the same time as elections for the County Council and Police and Crime Commissioner.

“For personal reasons, I have decided I am unable to continue in the role for a further 12 months and have, with some sadness, retired from the Council at the end of July. I was first elected in 2012 at a time when the preparation of Maidstone’s Local Housing Development Plan was in its early stages. Without doubt, the production of Maidstone’s Local Plan covering the period 2011 – 2031 has been the single most challenging task - and probably the least popular with residents - undertaken by Maidstone Borough Council in recent times.

The Local Plan was formally adopted in 2017/8 and now gives the Council control over where future housing and employment development should take place. But before that, planning permission was granted for over 500 homes in both Staplehurst and Marden and an additional 100 homes in Yalding. A review of the Local Plan is currently underway to include a further 7500 homes in the Borough.

Planning is often a contentious issue and I have always been ready to help residents either to support or object to various applications at Planning Committee meetings in the Town Hall.

Flooding is another major topic that I was very involved with in establishing a link between the Borough Council, the Environment Agency and residents through the Joint Parishes Flood Group. The Council set aside £1 million to put towards flood mitigation measures and while the original expectation that the Environment Agency would construct two flood storage areas on the Beult and Teise, this proved to be impractical and individual property resilience measures have been installed instead.

The Council continues to be an active member of the Medway Flood Partnership.

I must thank all those who elected me for giving me the opportunity to work with, and better understand how the Borough Council functions. For some time, I was the Cabinet Member with executive responsibilities for Corporate Services until, in 2015, the Council changed its governance arrangements from having an executive Cabinet supported by Scrutiny Committees to operate under a Committee System. This introduced a more collaborative cross-party approach to decision making and since then I have worked on the important Policy & Resources, Licensing and Employment Committees. I have also been Chairman of the Audit, Governance and Standards Committee and Cobtree Manor Estate Trust for several years.

This has been a hugely interesting experience for which I am extremely grateful and I hope that during my time I have been able bring about a greater sense of purpose to the Council’s financial performance and varied activities.

Of course, Yalding will not be left without a Borough Councillor until the next election is possible as we still have my colleagues David Burton and Annabelle Blackmore who together continue to cover the Marden & Yalding Ward. Please do get in touch with either of them if you need to”.



COLLIER STREET PARISH COUNCIL

CIL MONIES – Background

Introduced in 2010, the **Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)** is a tool for local councils to help raise funds from developers to deliver infrastructure within the Community.

CIL is charged for certain types of development in the area and commenced on 1 August 2015. We have just received the first tranche of monies in respect of the Bentlett's development.

Advised CIL monies	£68371.32
1st instalment	£31400.00
2nd Instalment	£2785.66
Balance	£34185.66

As a Parish Council we seek **your views** on the key issues that are important to the area.

Projects can be large or small, capital or revenue. **Only projects that meet the CIL prescribed criteria will be eligible for CIL funding.**

We need to establish when you wish to see these projects delivered in the short, medium or long term.

WHAT ARE THE CRITERIA THAT PROJECTS MUST MEET TO HAVE CIL SPENT ON THEM

Infrastructure Levy Regulations 2010 (as amended) state that CIL must be spent on:

The provision, improvement, replacement, operation or maintenance of infrastructure or anything else that is concerned with addressing the demands that development places on an area.

Initially we need to establish

A list of the projects and schemes you would like to see in the area.

The location of each project.

A brief description of each project.

A brief justification with evidence for each project.

A priority weighting for each project (as there will always be more demands than there are resources). This does not have to be numerical it could be short/medium/ long term or essential/desirable.

Let us give you a brief synopsis of the areas of responsible the parish council are/are not responsible for.

- **PLAY AREAS AND EQUIPMENT – Supply and Maintenance**
Do we need more equipment if so what?
- **HIGHWAYS, TRAFFIC CALMING & ROAD SAFETY**
Kent County Council has overall responsibility for the Highways and whilst the Parish Council has a Highways Improvement Plan. Highways are one of most expensive upkeep items. Because of the current situation and with the budgets tightening it is unrealistic for KCC to fund any large projects the PC would have to fund these.
What improvements would you like to see and the exact locations?
- **NEW VILLAGE HALL**
Your views? What would you like to see?
- **STREET LIGHTING**
Any improvement you would wish to see?
- **FLOODING ISSUES**
Not a direct PC responsibility but an important issue to the parish.
Improvement Issues and locations?
- **FOOTPATHS**
KCC are responsible for the maintenance of these.
- **AFFORDABLE HOUSING**
Not a PC responsibility
We would need to establish a need against criteria that Housing Associations set. What are your thoughts?
- **LACK OF OVERALL FACILITIES IN THE PARISH**
What are your thoughts?
- **HAVE WE MISSED ANYTHING?**
We welcome all suggestions, but some may not be included in the survey if they are not financially viable

Please let us have your thoughts by emailing the Parish Clerk parish.clerk@collierstreetparishcouncil.co.uk

We propose to gather your feedback and prepare a survey monkey/hard copy questionnaire to canvass further opinions prior to our next public consultation. We will then be able to cost the various ideas and priorities and bring together a **Community Infrastructure Levy Plan** to share with you.

USEFUL CONTACT DETAILS

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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

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Chairman
TBC

HELPING HANDS

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(Age concern representative)

SCHOOL

Headteacher Paul Ryan 01892 730264

Chairman of Governors

Gareth Waterman TBC

Friends of Collier Street School

Chair Person: Harriet Breslin
email info@focss.org.uk

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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

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Paddock Wood Citizens Advice Bureau

08701 264856

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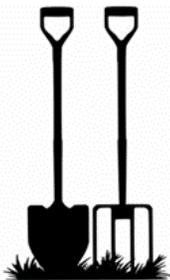
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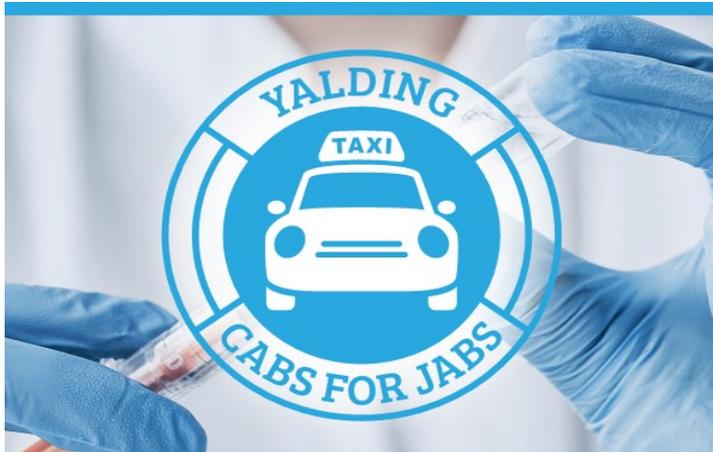


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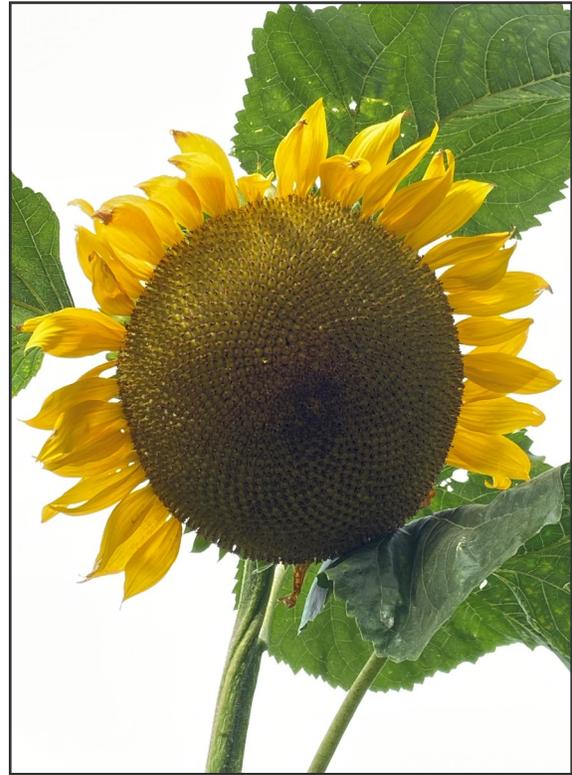
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