

COLLIER STREET NEWS

February/March 2024



*Happy
Easter*



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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

12th and 26th February 2024

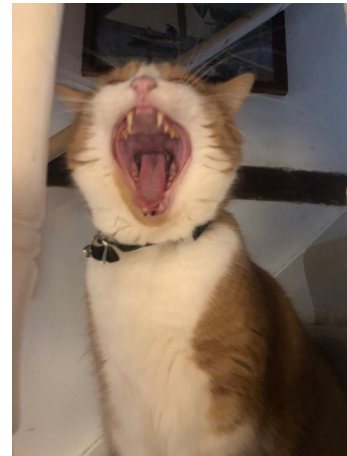
11th and 25th March 2024

Recycling, food waste and textiles

5th and 19th February 2024

4th and 18th March 2024

CUTE PET OF THE MONTH - WOODY



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



Village What's App Information Group



To keep up to date with beneficial information, news, advice, crime / incidents, you are welcome to join the Resident's What's App group.

If you would like to be part of this group, please send an SMS / iMessage to:

Clr Deborah Papas on 07960 754641 stating "**Sign up for CSWA Group**" and Deborah will add you to the group.

Terms and Conditions

By signing up to the group, you accept these conditions and also understand that the messages are only for urgent and important details only and not for general chit-chat. You also are in agreement to receiving information considered to be of benefit to the group such as community safety and highways bulletins. The Parish Council will not tolerate any rude or inappropriate messages, photographs or videos and reserve the right to remove such material and also the participant from the group.

COPY DEADLINE 20TH OF THE MONTH

A belated Happy New Year!

With an early Easter this year I wondered how the timing is decided but having found the following, am still confused!

The simple standard definition of Easter is that it is **the first Sunday after the full Moon that occurs on or after the spring equinox**. If the full Moon falls on a Sunday then Easter is the next Sunday.

Happy Easter!



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

THANK YOU

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.



Defibrillators

There are defibrillators available at St Margaret's Church, Collier Street and The Woolpack, Benover Road. These are life saving devices so it is important that as many people as possible are able to use them. Defibrillator training is available for anyone to undertake via the website below:

<https://vimeo.com/557677120/e7524918c5>

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
- Jonny Bentley - 730252
- Georgie Barham - 730247
- Olivia Brown—07460 243707—weekends



Ring the changes for the New Year

This month, I wanted to use this space to share a poem. I came across “Ring Out, Wild Bells”, written by Alfred Lord Tennyson, around this time last year. It forms part of In Memoriam, his elegy to his sister’s fiancé who died at the age of 22:

| | |
|--|---|
| Ring out, wild bells, to the wild sky, The flying cloud, the frosty light: The year is dying in the night; Ring out, wild bells, and let him die. | Ring out the old, ring in the new, Ring, happy bells, across the snow The year is going, let him go; Ring out the false, ring in the true. |
|--|---|

| | |
|--|--|
| Ring out the grief that saps the mind For those that here we see no more; Ring out the feud of rich and poor, Ring in redress to all mankind. | Ring out a slowly dying cause, And ancient forms of party strife; Ring in the nobler modes of life, With sweeter manners, purer laws. |
|--|--|

| | |
|--|--|
| Ring out the want, the care, the sin, The faithless coldness of the times; Ring out, ring out my mournful rhymes But ring the fuller minstrel in. | Ring out false pride in place and blood, The civic slander and the spite; Ring in the love of truth and right, Ring in the common love of good. |
|--|--|

| | |
|--|--|
| Ring out old shapes of foul disease; Ring out the narrowing lust of gold; Ring out the thousand wars of old, Ring in the thousand years of peace. | Ring in the valiant man and free, The larger heart, the kindlier hand; Ring out the darkness of the land, Ring in the Christ that is to be. |
|--|--|

With the sound of the bells we can be reminded to leave behind the sadness and disappointment of the past and look forward to a better future. We can let go of the things that hold us back and represent the worst of what we can be, while doing our best to be kinder and gentler towards others. We can consign to bygone years the broken promises of yesterday’s politics and look forward to the chance to speak out for a brighter future for our nation and for the world – a future of honesty, justice, love and peace.

This poem also speaks to me of staying the course on our New Year’s resolutions, of maintaining hope despite how hopeless things can seem, of staying true to our beliefs, and of striving to make change to be our best selves. I hope it inspires you - as it has me – and encourages you to stand tall in 2024, to step forward with optimism, and to be courageous in adversity in the knowledge that individually every one of us matters, and that together we can make a difference to the world we live in.

Justin Elks
Licensed Lay Minister

History of Valentine's Day

Where does the name *Valentine* come from?

The holiday is aptly named after Saint Valentine, but who exactly was he? Valentine is likely based on a combination of two Valentines who were executed on February 14 in different years by Roman Emperor Claudius II in the 3rd century A.C.E. The Catholic Church maybe have established St. Valentine's Day to honor these two martyrs.

Legend says that one of these men, Saint Valentine of Terni, had officiated weddings for Roman soldiers in secret, going against the emperor's wishes, making him seen to some as a proponent of love. Another story involves the practice of writing love letters to your valentine. It's said that St. Valentine wrote the first "valentine" greeting to a young girl he tutored and fell in love with while he was imprisoned for the crimes outlined above. Before his death, he wrote her a letter signed "From your Valentine," which remains a commonly used phrase to this day.

But these romantic anecdotes are only legends. So little historical information is known about the martyrs named St. Valentine that [in 1969](#) the Roman Catholic Church removed the feast day from its calendar, though St. Valentine is still recognized as a saint.

Does Valentine's Day have pagan origins?

There was a mid-February fertility festival in ancient Roman called Lupercalia. Dedicated to the Roman god of agriculture, Faunas, and Roman founders Romulus and Remus, this feast of debauchery involved a ritual where an order of Roman priests ran naked through the streets, "[gently slapping](#)" women with the blood-soaked hides of sacrificed animals (yes, really), which they believed promoted fertility. Later, the women would be paired off with men "by lottery."

In the late 5th century A.C.E., Pope Gelasius I outlawed Lupercalia. Some sources contend that he designated the celebration of St. Valentine's Day on February 14 to replace the pagan holiday.

When did Valentine's Day become a romantic holiday?

If you're thinking that none of this sounds very lovey-dovey, that's because Valentine's Day did not begin to resemble the romantic holiday we know today until the Middle Ages—and we might have the poet Geoffrey Chaucer to thank.

The late scholar [Jack B. Oruch](#), a University of Kansas English professor, determined that Chaucer was the first to link love with St. Valentine in his 14th-century works "The Parliament of Fowls" and "The Complaint of Mars,". Therefore, Oruch claimed, Chaucer invented Valentine's Day as we know it today.

At the time of Chaucer's writing, February 14 also happened to be considered the first day of spring in Britain, because it was the beginning of birds' mating season—perfectly appropriate for a celebration of affection. In fact, Chaucer's "The Parliament of Fowls" is all about birds (albeit anthropomorphized ones) gathering to choose their mates: "For this was on Saint Valentine's day, / When every fowl comes there his mate to take," reads one of the verses.



St Valentine's Day circa 1800

Collier Street Pop-In Get Together 2024

St Margaret's Church

Margaret, Barbara, Jackie, Christine, Jo 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 new dates for this year are:

February 14th,

March 13th,

April 10th,

May 8th,

June 12th,

July 10th,

August 14th

September 11th

October 9th

November 13th,

December 11th



If you enjoy a mug of hot drink and some home made baking please come along to one of the Pop-In sessions at St Margaret's Church in 2024. There is a minimal cost of £1 for a 'bottomless' drink and just £1 per bakery item.

Everyone has a lovely chat and they always look forward to the raffle which is made up from donations by attendees. Our Christmas 2023 raffle prizes are pictured above. We hope to see you there.

YALDING POST OFFICE - MOST LOVED POST OFFICE IN KENT 2016 /17/18/19/20/21/22/23
OUR PRODUCTS, LOCALLY SOURCED, LOCALLY SOLD
FEBRUARY 2024

Many thanks...to all those of you who gave us Christmas cards and gifts. We had a very gentle and happy Christmas and now look forward to the start of a bright new year.

2024 did start rather brightly..., but not for Post Office Ltd and Fujitsu. Such a lot has happened since ITV broadcast "Mr Bates vs the Post Office" over 4 nights from New Years Day. From a little backwater story, where the Powers that Be hoped it would stay, to the sensational wave of anger and disgust shown by the whole nation. I am now more than hopeful that proper redress to the 1000 sub postmasters will be forthcoming. I am less confident that those that created and perpetuated this scandal will ever face justice. These people have a habit of slipping away and leaving others to pay the price.

Something to consider when you address your parcel or letter...Please write or print the Postcode in uppercase letters. So much easier to read and interpret correctly by both us at Post Office and Royal Mail staff. Might also help items arrive on time.

Please be aware that the mobile phone network signal is not so good in the Post Office. Many of our customers find their phones cannot download the necessary QR codes in the Post Office. So, if you are using a QR code from your phone to post off a return package it may be good practice to take an earlier screenshot of the QR code so our infra-red readers can interpret it quicker.

New bakery supplier. Sadly Coxheath bakery are unable to maintain a delivery service to us. We have now changed supplier to Cranbrook Bakery. We hope you are as pleased with the quality of their bread and pastries as we are?

Shop & Local Produce. Cranbrook bakery items on sale every day. Orders taken. Sourdough bread available by special order. Cold drinks, unique greetings cards by local artists, Yalding and Laddingford honey, Joan's jams. Bit Spicy curry mixes, stationery, Yalding mugs, fresh eggs, (from genuinely free range local chickens), Loddington Farm fruit juices & Oakapple Farm fresh produce – all in stock now.

New stamps sets this month are the **Spice Girls** 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 phone Top-Ups, Western Union and Moneygram. And, of course...we sell stamps and send parcels and letters all over the world. A list of nations that cannot accept mail at this time is on the Royal Mail website. **Mail to Russia, Belarus and Ukraine are currently subject to restrictions**

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 the Yalding Post Office Facebook page.



The Lost Thing – Writing at St Margaret’s Collier Street

After the success of last year’s whole-school writing project, we have once again started the year with all the classes studying the same picture book. This year’s focus was ‘The Lost Thing’ by Shaun Tan. The book is about a boy called Shaun who discovers a bizarre-looking creature while out collecting bottle tops on the beach. He tries to find out who owns the creature or where it has come from but is met with indifference by everyone else, who barely seem to notice its presence.



In contrast to the cold, grey and industrialized city, Shaun eventually locates a safe place for the Lost Thing to go. This place is bursting with colour and all manner of other ‘lost’ creatures. Russet Class described the place that Shaun found for the Lost Thing.

Florence E R: *‘There is flowers in the playground. There is a red swing. There is a red swing and the sun is shining. There is a yellow slide.’*

They also drew maps and used their phonic knowledge to label them. Here is Albie S’s map of



how to find the safe place for the Lost Thing.

In Pippin Class, the children created ‘Found!’ posters which described the Lost Thing they had discovered. Ellen S: *‘The large, strong, dark red lost thing scuttled slowly. It had large, sharp pincers and it moved slowly. It talks to people with bells. It’s a very cool, mechanical thing.’*

They then applied these skills to design their own lost things and describe them. Rosa M found her lost thing in the loft: *‘The Lost Thing is very different because it has 7 legs and a huge body and it’s made of hard rock. It moves quickly, scuttling with its long legs. Its long arms are like sharp crab pincers which help it to eat and break up its food. It has small delicate wings to help it fly.’*

Bramley Class studied the opening to ‘The Iron Man’ by Ted Hughes, before using the same structure to write their own prequels to ‘The Lost Thing’.

Arni: *‘Who built this machine? Nobody knows. Why was it built? Nobody knows. Is it safe? Nobody knows. This colossal thing’s eyes glowed red. It swiftly turned its head squeakily around left to right, left to right for a few minutes. Then a loud noise came from the sky, shattering him into bits. Falling into the sea, sinking down, down, down.’*

Emilia: *‘The Thing lay in the deepest crater of the moon. Where was he from? Nobody knows. How was he made? Nobody knows. How long had he been there? Nobody knows. In his maroon colour, the Lost Thing sank together in its tentacles. Its kettle-like body felt hopeless. His vermilion body slithered to the left, then to the right. His pincers opened and closed. He was hearing fire. Suddenly something hit his crater. It gave way at once. The Lost Thing glided into nothingness. Down, down, down he went. All the way to Earth.’*

Discovery Class imagined they were one of the people that Shaun visited for help with working out what the Lost Thing was and where it belonged. They studied the images and video of the Lost Thing and wrote their own scientific reports and observations on the creature. Year 5 and 6 worked hard to use formal and impersonal language and really channel their inner David Attenborough!



Leila: *'At an estimated height of 12 feet, it easily towers over a person. The creature appears to be a hybrid and is possibly extra-terrestrial. Its characteristics include six legs and two monochrome appendages along with other tentacles. Unlike a hermit crab, this unknown creature has adapted to live in a robotic shell-like machine. The 'mettalum marinous' (metal crab) has managed to create two jointed appendages. Its propeller seems to allow the juvenile to breathe.'*

Harry A: *'With its distinctive crimson red shell, it has protection from any predators valiant enough to face this 10-foot colossal creature. Its greyish, fleshy tentacles are about 6-feet in length and 3 to 4-feet wide. This towering machine scuttles in a way resembling a large hermit crab on its six appendages. The creature's utmost speed is approximately 3 miles per hour. The creature's playful attitude is as energetic as a juvenile dog.'*

Teddy: *'Communication and Interaction – One of the hatches leads to an unusual pair of eyes which enables it to inspect and see. It cannot talk in any way but has two bells on its pincers which may be a way to communicate or to wake it when it is in slumber.'*



COLLIER STREET HISTORY GROUP

Our first meeting of 2024 saw us choosing our next topic of research and the focus of the Exhibition we plan to run in the Autumn.

We have chosen a rather simple one:

THE PEOPLE AND PLACES OF COLLIER STREET

As you can imagine, this is a huge topic and will almost certainly take many years to research every record that captures the names of the inhabitants and the buildings, roads, fields, woods and other places they will have known.

Collier Street and the immediately surrounding area has been mentioned in records that date back over 700 years. That means there is a lot to look at and a lot of material that might be found to tell our village's story.

For this reason, we have decided to narrow this year's efforts to the following subjects:

The pubs

The people named on the memorials in the churchyards

The Grass Track races

More soldiers from the village

Collier Street Brownies

The people listed on the first pages of the Baptism, Marriage and Burial Registers

But it is very likely that something else will spark the interest of one of our members.

If you or anyone you know has any knowledge about the subjects above or has any other information about anything to do with Collier Street that can be brought to our attention, please do let us know.

Thank you

kevinstewart64@icloud.com

07904 113827

Collier Street Ramblings : getting the garden ready for spring.



As I sit writing this on a cold January day it is -7 outside and its hard to believe I will soon be very busy preparing the garden for Spring. The weather forecaster this morning promised much milder weather in a couple of days so I am hopeful that the dahlia tubers I have ordered will be able to be potted up when they arrive. There are some good reduced price seed deals around and it's not too late to buy.

Plants have been covered in early morning frosts caused by the damp atmosphere freezing as the temperature drops, the really delicate ones have been moved under cover of our car port. They still get the required amount of daylight there. Another option is to cover your outdoor beds and individual plants and there are a variety of plant covers available.

You can use horticultural fleece to provide a protective layer but must remember to weigh down the corners to prevent it from blowing away. Or you can use cloches, they can be glass or plastic and will act like a mini greenhouse, they can go over small plants and seedlings for frost protection. Another method is to use a mulch over semi hardy plants in the garden, this can be a mix of compost, wood chippings or manure; it just acts like another insulation layer.

If you haven't cleaned the greenhouse yet it would be a good time to do so, when the sun is out cleaning inside can be a pleasant task. I have tried over wintering many of my geraniums in the unheated greenhouse this year, fingers crossed.

Whenever possible I have been picking up the tree debris on my regular tidying walks around the garden and this helps reduce the risk of spreading bacteria from any diseased twigs and branches. We have also collected the last of the rotting Cox apples but throw them into the compost/bonfire area to give the birds a chance to eat them while food is scarce. As soon as we can get the mower on the lawn we will collect the leaves for the compost heap and attempt to scarify the surface hoping the lawn might become less waterlogged. Then we can roll the areas that have been churned up by our energetic Collie.

If I really can't do anything outside in the garden, perhaps on a stormy day, I will inspect the garden tools and get my husband to sharpen up secateurs, loppers and shears.

I have been so tempted to trim back the shrubs but this cannot be done with frosts still frequent. The flower beds can be tidied though and the dead leaves and old bedding plants can be removed from beds and pots. It's also enjoyable to plan the colour schemes and plants I would like to buy for the ornamental beds and pots.



Weeding is a real chore so I do a little each day when possible and just keep moving round the garden all year, the soil is far too cold to dig at the moment.

Most enjoyable of all I will delight in the sight of the snowdrops bobbing their 'heads' in the breeze and eagerly await the arrival of the crocuses, daffodils, narcissus and tulips that are already pushing through in spite of the harsh weather.

FAMILY EASTER EVENTS

1) Broadstairs Easter Food Festival – Victoria Gardens, Broadstairs, CT10 1QL

Friday 7th April – Sunday 9th April, 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM (5:00 PM close on Sunday 9th)

Broadstairs Food Festival brings together some of the finest food and drink producers of Kent and the neighbouring counties with over 100 stalls of food produce, home/lifestyle stalls, hot and cold food, and refreshment bars. This event is perfect for all ages, especially foodies! And don't worry, they provide a wide variety of products, including vegetarian, vegan and gluten-free options.

This Easter there will also be hands-on cookery sessions for children and families (at a pre-booked extra cost), plus live music on the bandstand and a £2 prize draw for the chance to win £500 worth of Flint and Flame stainless steel kitchen-ware or a stay at The Royal Albion Hotel!

Free admission all day.

2) The Bouncing Bunnies Easter Trail – Quex Adventure Farm Park, Birchington, CT7 0BH

Saturday 1st April – Monday 10th April, Park opening times: 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM

The Bouncing Bunnies Easter Trail is back for 2023! Children and families follow the trail through the Adventure Woods, collecting eggs and completing the 'Easter Bunnies Challenge' along the way. You'll have a chance to meet the lovely lambs, meet friendly characters and visit the daffodil patch where a treat may await between the plants. Once you've collected your eggs and completed your challenge, you'll head over to The Easter Bunnies Chocolate Factory to select your Easter treat!

All Easter tickets include an Easter egg, an Easter treat, bunny ears and access to Quex Adventure Farm Park including the Bouncing Pillows, so you can enjoy the rest of the park before and/or after your trail experience!

Pre-booking required. Adult ticket (16+): £6.00. Child ticket (1+): £16.50. (+ 50p booking fee). Free parking on-site.

3) Spring into Easter! At Kent Life – Kent Life Heritage Farm Park, Maidstone, ME14 3AU

Saturday 1st April – Sunday 16th April, 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Celebrate Easter and the baby boom that comes with Spring at Kent Life! Meet the new arrivals in the farmyard with lamb bottle-feeding demonstrations throughout the day, hop on a fun farm ride, and meet many more farmyard friends. The whole family can also enjoy indoor and outdoor play areas, visit the Big Top and catch one of the fantastic shows, and at small additional charges, get creative in the Paint-a-Pot studio to create Easter gifts or Teddy Parlour to make a cuddly friend to take away. [Learn more, download a free activity pack and book your tickets here.](#)

Pre-booking required. Adult ticket: £12.00. Child ticket (2-15): £12.00. Family ticket (2 adults & 2 children): £44.00. Under 2's enter for free. Free parking on-site.

4) Easter Bank Holiday Weekend at Canoe Wild – Grove Ferry Picnic Site, Canterbury CT3 4BP & The Drove, Canterbury CT2 0DE

Friday 7th April – Monday 10th April, 9:00 AM – 6:00 PM

Tuesday 4th April – Thursday 13th April, 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM (Young Paddlers Sessions)

Canoe Wild is the ideal place to hire canoes, kayaks, SUPs (Stand Up Paddleboards) and more to have a fun and memorable experience on the River Stour. All ages are welcome for various activities, courses and tours, so bring the whole family – you can even bring your dogs! During your hire/activity this Easter weekend, you can take part in an Easter Egg hunt down the river by following your provided spotter sheets and enjoying chocolate eggs at the end!

They will also be running four sessions across two weeks for Young Paddlers at just £15 per child per session (no extra hire fee). Children can learn to paddleboard and kayak, have fun and be safe on the water whilst making friends along the way. The sessions will be on Tuesday 4th April (Kayak), Thursday 6th April (SUP), Tuesday 11th April (SUP) & Thursday 13th April (Kayak).

Pre-booking preferred. Canoe hires start at £25.00 per canoe. Kayak hires start at £20.00 per single kayak and £25.00 per double kayak. SUP hires start at £20.00 per paddleboard.

5) Easter Family Fun at Hever Castle – Hever, Edenbridge, TN8 7NG

Saturday 1st April – Sunday 16th April, 10:30 AM – 6:00 PM

Make some special family memories this Spring with activities at Hever Castle. Kids can start by going on a quest to help the Easter Bunny find their sweet treats and receive a chocolate treat when finished! Little ones can also take part in an egg decorating workshop, and older children and adults can enjoy a walk around the castle while listening to an interactive audio guide.

For those with more energy, you can try the egg and spoon race and egg rolling on Half Moon Lawn and get your face painted! (Face painting is 12:00 PM – 4:00 PM, 7th – 10th April, costs £5pp, and needs to be booked outside the Hever Shop). Don't forget to enjoy the stunning gardens, challenging Yew Maze and delicious food & Easter goodies on your day out. [Learn more and book your Castle & Gardens admission here.](#)

Pre-booking optional. Easter activities included in admission price. Castle & Gardens Bookings – Online and on Admission: Adult ticket: £20.80-£23.10. Child ticket (5-17): £11.80-£13.10. Family ticket (2 adults & 2 children / 1 adult & 3 children): £55.00-£61.10. Free parking on-site.

Continued

6) **Easter Adventures at Scotney Castle – Lamberhurst, Tunbridge Wells, TN3 8JN**

Saturday 1st April – Sunday 16th April, 10:00 AM – 4:30 PM

Join The Great Scotney Easter Egg-stravaganza trail to find amazing egg-laying creatures, test your skills with family-friendly games around the garden, discover the natural play areas, get your face painted (Face painting is during the 7th – 10th of April and costs £2 per design), then head out onto the estate to see the spring lambs. At the trail's end, you can snap a family selfie in a giant nest, then receive a chocolate egg or vegan and 'free-from' chocolate egg!

Pre-booking for event not required. On-site parking bookings required. Parking costs £4.50 per car. General admission is free, with a £3.00 Easter trail charge per parking admission.

7) **Family Easter Quest – Leeds Castle, Maidstone, ME17 1PL**

Saturday 1st April – Sunday 16th April, 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM

This Easter, Leeds Castle invites visitors to join Lady Baillie's dogs, Danny and Boots and her beloved Great Danes on a whimsical Easter Quest through the great outdoors. As you venture through the estate, you'll be greeted with spring-filled Easter displays, with clues for little ones to find their favourite treats, and when you're finished exploring, you'll receive a delicious Easter treat reward!

After you've completed the trail, you can spend the day enjoying the picturesque gardens, meet the majestic birds of prey in the falconry arena, and visit the castle, which has been transported back to the 1930s! You'll be greeted as Lady Baillie's house guest and learn of her glamorous history and tales of the past.

Pre-booking optional. The Easter Quest incurs an additional charge of £2.00 during visit. Tickets are valid for repeat visits throughout the year after initial purchase. Online admission ticket prices: Adult ticket (16-64): £29.00. Child ticket (3-15): £21.00. Under 3's go free. Family tickets start at £70.00. Free parking on-site.

8) **Games in the Garden Easter Egg Trail – Ightham Mote, Sevenoaks, TN15 0NT**

Saturday 25th March – Sunday 23rd April, 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Explore the beautiful gardens of Ightham Mote with this year's fun-filled Easter Egg hunt. You'll complete ten fun activities using an Easter trail sheet, pencil and bunny ears to win a chocolate Easter Egg or vegan and 'free-from' chocolate egg! After completing the Easter Trail, why not pick up some tasty treats from the café, enjoy a picnic on the North Lawn, or discover the natural play area? Here children and families can practice balancing skills, race through the living willow tunnel, or create mud pies for kids to let their imaginations run wild.

Pre-booking not required. Easter event ticket price: £3.00. Adult admission ticket: £16.00. Child admission ticket: £8.00. Under 5's go free. Family admission ticket (1 adult, 2 children): £24.00. Parking on-site: £3.00 per car (coin payment only).

For more information visit: <https://www.kent-teach.com>

Village Clean Up

The time is fast approaching when we all get together to undertake the annual litter pick up in the village. We plan to do this on Saturday 9th March this year.

It is really encouraging to see so many people out clearing rubbish during the year `on a regular basis.

Please give me a call to let me know that you are available to help and I will co-ordinate the best place for everyone to go. I will have council sacks available.

Thank you all in advance.

Margaret Ashworth **01892 730323**



MARDEN WALKS IN FEBRUARY

LONG DISTANCE WALKS

The route chosen for the next walk is the Sussex Border Path, which is 141 miles in total and will be walked in 16 sections. Current plans are to start on 26th March and walk weekly until 8th August, with some over-night stops. For further details please contact Ian Balmer on 831578 or igbalmer@gmail.com.

SUNDAY WALKS

The next walk will be on Sunday 4th February and will be a new "Benover Walk" led by Ian. This is a 6 mile circular walk from Collier Street to Benover and back. Meet in the car park at 10.00 as usual and share cars to drive to the Collier Street car park.

SATURDAY WALKS

Weekly Saturday walks are continuing. All start at the Library at 2.pm and are approximately an hour long. However the routes of these walks will be flexible to take into account the weather and the state of the paths on the day. On the last Saturday of each month there is usually a car share to a venue outside of Marden.



Woodpeckers- *'Christmas Buffet.'*

Unfortunately the December session of The Woodpeckers churchyard tidying volunteer group had to be cancelled due to the extraordinarily wet weather. It would have been impossible to cut the grass and there was little point in everyone getting soaked trying to clear up leaves.

Both the churchyard and the graveyard down Green Lane are well maintained throughout the year by the Woodpeckers so we are confident that we will quickly catch up with all tasks when we meet again. Our first session of 2024 will be on Saturday February 3rd as long as the weather is ok.

We meet on the first Saturday of each month at 10am in the churchyard and catch up with each other's news as we settle to our 'jobs'. Many of the group members bring their own tools for the task they are most likely to do such as pruning, lopping or raking, some also use their own strimmers and chainsaws. However, we do have spare equipment for those volunteers who might need it.

After an hour or so we stop for a mug of tea or coffee and some home made cake before finishing off the tidying. We are usually packed up by 12 noon but helpers do not have to stay for the whole session if they are not able to.



Luckily the weather didn't affect our final get together of 2023 when about 20 of us gathered in The Woolpack for our annual Christmas buffet.

Renata provided a tempting buffet which we all enjoyed as we chatted in the warm and cosy pub.

Dates 2024 : Feb 3rd, March 2nd, April 6th, May 4th, June 1st, July 6th, August 3rd, September 7th, October 5th, November 2nd, December 7th.

Jacqui Bakes Lemon Velvet Cake

We love this take on the traditional red velvet cake, moist, light and airy, with it's gooey frosting. Lemon is a favourite in our house and it doesn't last long. It's been so chilly that having the oven on has made the kitchen warm and cosy and smell amazing.

Cake ingredients

350g self raising flour
2-1/2 tsp baking powder
1/2 tsp bicarbonate of soda
225g butter
350g caster sugar
3 large eggs
150g Greek yogurt
Zest and juice of 2 lemons

Frosting ingredients

225g butter
225g full fat cream cheese
540g icing sugar
2 tbsp lemon juice
1tsp vanilla

Method

Preheat the oven to 180 degrees, grease and line 3 loose bottomed cake tins.

Cream together butter and sugar until light and fluffy, add the eggs one at a time.

Add the dry ingredients and continue beating, once fully combined add the Greek yogurt, zest and juice of lemons.

Divide the mixture equally between the 3 prepared cake tins.

Bake for 25 minutes or until a skewer when inserted comes out clean.

Allow to cool fully.

Meanwhile, cream together the butter and cream cheese, slowly adding the icing sugar, once fully combined beat in the lemon juice and vanilla extract.

Once the cakes are cooled, sandwich the layers together with some of the frosting, cover the top and sides of the cake with the remaining frosting.

Put the kettle on and enjoy with a cuppa.



MINUTES

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
COLLIER STREET PARISH COUNCIL
Orchard Room, St Margaret's School
on Monday 8th JANUARY 2024
commencing at 19.00PM
In attendance

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Cllr Andrew Papas [Chairman] [AP] | Cllr Steve Sandys [SS] |
| Cllr Jack Highwood [JH] | |
| Cllr Deborah Papas [DP] | Cllr Deborah Papas [DP] |
| Cllr Kelly Rigden [KR] | Cllr Dave Sealey [DS] |
| Parish Clerk Michelle Rumble [MR] | Borough Councillor – Cllr Russell |
| | |
| Sue King (MBC ENFORCEMENT) | |

BOROUGH COUNCILLOR REPORT

Cllr Russell was present and gave the following report to all members.

MBC Members Report from Cllr Claudine Russell

Dated: January 2024

Rural England Prosperity Fund

A gentle reminder that the second phase of funding is now open and grants of £50,000+ are available for groups to apply for and I would encourage as many rural communities as possible to come forward and apply for an REPF grant which could make a difference to their communities to upgrade a facility and improve their local environment and sustainability, supporting the rural economy into the future. For help to apply contact climateandbiodiversity@Maidstone.gov.uk. The application window closes on the 24th of January 2024.

Events

There is a full programme of events planned for 2024 and we look forward to the herd of Shaun the Sheep that will be flocking to the town this summer. More details to follow.

Boundary Changes

Just a reminder that as we move into 2024, this will be the time that the new borough ward boundaries and MP constituency boundaries alter for the first time, and Maidstone Borough Council run all out elections for a 4-year term. Our ward remains Marden and Yalding and now will include the village of Hunton, whilst our MP constituency is now called "The Weald" and no longer includes the urban areas of Maidstone, instead covering rural villages and including three borough councils. On the borough ballot paper this year, you will be selecting three rather than the usual one candidate as our ward continues to remain a 3-member ward.

Out of Hours Emergency Contact

There have been a couple of things throughout the ward that people have asked for the out of hours MBC contact for, so I thought it was worth a reminder. The phone no: [01622 602000](tel:01622602000)

The message is below that gets played:

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- For matters where public safety is at risk, then please press 2.
- If you are living in a property owned or managed by Maidstone Borough Council and you have an emergency situation, please press 3.
- If you are calling regarding unauthorised encampments, then please press 4.

For everything else please listen to the following messages.

Budget

Shortly we will be finalising our MBC budget. Through prudent financial management we are predicting a balance budget position for 2024/25 but the following years get more difficult as KCC cuts to services that have to be met by districts, distinct national grant funding cuts and the increasing pressures on our temporary accommodation budget make for difficult future financial conditions.

As always, if you need my help, please do not hesitate to email me at claudinerussell@maidstone.gov.uk

THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 19.25PM AND IN CLOSED SESSION TO HEAR A REPORT FROM SUE KING IN THE ENFORCEMENT TEAM AT MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL.

THE MEETING THEN RESUMED AGAIN AT 19.52PM AND SUE KING LEFT THE MEETING AS DID COUNCILLOR RUSSELL

24.01.06

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were no members of the public present.

24.01.07

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD IN NOVEMBER 2023 TO BE APPROVED

Full Council approved the minutes of this meeting as representing an accurate recording of the said meeting. Cllr A Papas signed the minutes as a true and accurate record.

| |
|---|
| 24.01.08 CORRESPONDENCE AND ACTION POINTS None. |
| 24.01.09 CIL MONIES NO UPDATES AT PRESENT |
| 24.01.10 VILLAGE HALL NO UPDATES ON THE VILLAGE HALL AT PRESENT |
| 24.01.11 HIGHWAYS No updates this month |
| 24.01.12 FINANCE |

| |
|---|
| Copy documents sent electronically to all members in advance of the meeting. |
| 24.01.12.01. BANK RECONCILIATIONS – NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 2023 |
| For members approval. Cllr A Papas signed the Bank Reconciliation |
| 24.01.12.02. RECONCILIATION STATEMENTS – NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 2023 |
| For members approval and sign off – Cllr A Papas signed the Bank Statement |
| 24.01.12.03. RECORD OF PAYMENTS & RECEIPTS – NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 2023 |
| For members approval – It was RESOLVED by all members present to make the payments |
| 24.01.12.04. BUDGET REPORT YTD –NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 2023 |
| For members approval – It was RESOLVED by all members present to accept the Budget Report |
| 24.01.12.05. TRIAL BALANCE REPORT – NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 2023 |
| For members approval – It was RESOLVED by all members present to accept the Trial Balance Report |
| Copy documents sent electronically to all members in advance of the meeting |
| |

24.01.12.06

BUDGET 2024/2025

The Clerk and Chairperson had circulated the Draft Budget prior to the meeting. Budget Headings were. Then looked at amendments made; it was **RESOLVED** to increase the Marden Minors Pitch Fee to £250.00. The Clerk will let them know.

It was then proposed by Cllr Highwood and Seconded by Cllr Deborah Papas to set and increase the precept. For the year 2024/2025 to £21837, that is an increase of, and the Budget amendments were made, this will. Be circulated to all members. The Budget was then approved for the year 2024/2025

24.01.12.07

PAYMENTS FOR AUTHORISATION

It was **RESOLVED** by all members present to approve the payments below.
DECEMBER 2023.

| | | CSPC PAYMENTS - DECEMBER 2023 | | |
|------------|------|-------------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------------|
| DATE | | PAYEE | AMOUNT | NARRATIVE |
| 04.12.2023 | BACS | MICHELLE RUMBLE | £825.50 | CLERKS SALARY |
| 04.12.2023 | BACS | MICHELLE RUMBLE | £330.00 | NALC BACK PAY AWARD 2023/24 |
| 04.12.2023 | BACS | MICHELLE RUMBLE | £110.28 | CLERKS EXPENSES |
| 04.12.2023 | DD | HSBC | £8.00 | BANK CHARGES |
| 04.12.2023 | DD | IONOS | £21.60 | EMAILS |
| 04.12.2023 | BACS | CAPEL GROUND CARE | £48.00 | OUTDOOR PLAY EQUIPMENT INSPECTION |
| | | TOTAL | £1,343.38 | |

JANUARY 2024

| CSPC PAYMENTS - JANUARY | | | | |
|--------------------------------|------|------------------|------------------|--------------------------------------|
| DATE | | PAYEE | AMOUNT | NARRATIVE |
| 08.01.202 | BACS | MICHELLE RUMBLE | £825.50 | CLERKS SALARY |
| 08.01.202 | BACS | MICHELLE RUMBLE | £98.96 | CLERKS EXPENSES |
| 08.01.202 | DD | HSBC | £8.00 | BANK CHARGES |
| 08.01.202 | DD | IONOS | £21.60 | EMAILS |
| 08.01.202 4 | BACS | CAPEL GROUNDCARE | £48.00 | OUTDOOR PLAY EQUIPMENT INSPECTION |
| | | TOTAL | £1,002.06 | |

24.01.12.11 – FINANCE CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk circulated to all members the Council Tax and Precept Letter from Maidstone Borough Council For the year 2024/2025.
This was noted by all members

23.11.13

RECREATION FIELD

LITTER BIN

It was **RESOLVED** by all members that another litter bin will not be placed at the entrance to the Car Park, this. Item will now be removed from the agenda.

PLAY AREA INSPECTION REPORT

This was circulated to all members and items highlighted for repairs in the report, the Clerk had obtained a Quote for the repairs which had been circulated which was as follows:

To replace 27 missing bolt caps

To replace the bushes on both swing sets

To replace the missing roof section on the Multi Play unit – This quote is on the understanding that the roof.

Panels and timbers are still in the Parish Councils possession and are intact.

TOTAL COST £ 301.56

It was **RESOLVED** by all members to accept the quote

24.01.14

FLOODING UPDATE

Cllr Sandys gave his report.

24.01.15

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Parish confirmed that the next full Council meeting will be, in The Orchard Room, St Margaret's School on MONDAY 5th FEBRUARY 2024

There being no further business the meeting closed at 21.10PM

Prepared by | MICHELLE RUMBLE | Clerk to Collier Street Parish Council

USEFUL CONTACT DETAILS

CHURCH

Reverend Paul Kish 01622 814182
Church Warden

Jo Doctor 01892 730489

Sec to P.C.C.

Evie Slater 01892 732278

R.C Priest

Father Victor McLean 01580 211267

PARISH MAGAZINE

Editor

Jacki Fogg 01892 730869

Emma Howard 01892 730245

Tracey Bentley (Advertising) 01892 730252

Email: 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

Sean Randell 01892 354736/07891 927 684

Friends of Collier Street School

Chair Person: Kelly Rigden

email 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

Paddock Wood Community Advice Centre

01892 838619

Email address: info@pwadvice.org

COLLIER STREET PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk to the Council

Michelle Rumble 07938511974

parish.clerk@collierstreetparishcouncil.co.uk

Dave Sealey

dave.sealey@collierstreetparishcouncil.co.uk

Jack Highwood, **Vice Chair**

jack.highwood@collierstreetparishcouncil.co.uk

Steve Sandys

steve.sandys@collierstreetparishcouncil.co.uk

Steve Barham

steve.barham@collierstreetparishcouncil.co.uk

Andrew Papas , **Chair**

andrew.papas@collierstreetparishcouncil.co.uk

Deborah Papas

deborah.papas@collierstreetparishcouncil.co.uk

Kelly Rigden

kelly.rigden@collierstreetparishcouncil.co.uk

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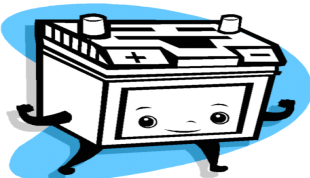
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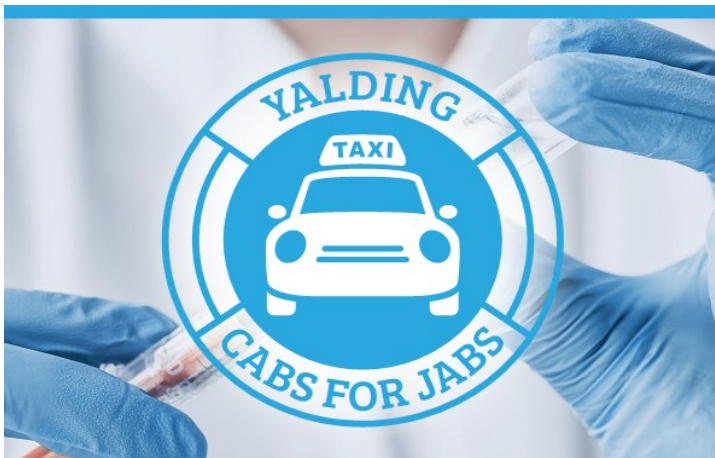
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