

Collingbourne Ducis - Everleigh
Collingbourne Kingston



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Santa Robin Brings Good Wishes

A BIT FROM THE EDITOR

The Editor writes:

I can see that I shall not have much room for my greetings, so I had better get on with them:

a very *Happy Christmas* and New Year to all our readers. Actually, I wouldn't mind at all if even

non-readers had a good time. That's probably a much better idea, now I think about it, so Universal Good Wishes to everybody, including the peculiar ones. See you in February, by which time the weather will probably be even nastier. All contributors are awarded at least one free holly leaf, and Festive Holly is on pages 10, 24 and 33. Thanks to Natalie Williams and Laurence McGowan this month for all the excellent photographs..



THE COLLINGBOURNES AND EVERLEIGH MAGAZINE ASSOCIATION

Jackie McGowan (CD 850749) writes:

Notice of the Annual General Meeting

Notice is given that the Annual General Meeting of the Collingbournes and Everleigh Magazine Association which produces the COURIER will take place on Thursday 21st January 2010 at 8 pm in Collingbourne Ducis Village Hall. All residents of the villages of Collingbourne Ducis, Collingbourne Kingston and Everleigh, over the age of sixteen, may attend and vote. The meeting will receive reports on the COURIER's activities during 2009, consider any motions put forward and elect the Committee, Officers and Editor for 2010.

All motions should be sent to the Hon. Secretary, Sandra Fisher, Staddlestones, Aughton, Collingbourne Kingston, by 31st December 2009. Nominations for Officers and the committee may be submitted in advance, but will also be accepted from the floor.



**IF YOU CAN POSSIBLY COME ALONG PLEASE DO.
IT IS YOUR CHANCE TO VOICE AN OPINION ON
YOUR MAGAZINE.**

Our LINK Co-Ordinator's Number is CD 850807
Please try to give him at least 48 hours notice to find a volunteer

COLLINGBOURNE KINGSTON PARISH COUNCIL

Gill McIntyre, Parish Clerk (CD 850761) writes:

Report of meeting held on 10th November 2009.

Welcome. The meeting was pleased to welcome Wiltshire Councillor Charles Howard and five members of the public.



Allotments. The meeting received a list of residents who are interested in the potential for creating allotments in the village. The main requirements are a suitable site and to cover all legal, health and safety and other considerations. It was agreed that the Clerk would carry out some research into how to proceed. Contact will be made with officers at Wiltshire Council and, if appropriate, an invitation to speak at a future Parish Council meeting will be tendered.

Community Area Grants. Councillor Charles Howard and Councillor Mike Holt reported that applications for grants in the current year are still welcomed by the Tidworth Area Board. Applications must be made before 31st March 2010, although early applications are encouraged to take account of 'lead time' for projects.

Community and Voluntary groups in the Tidworth Community Area can apply for funding for capital projects. Grants of up to £5,000 are available, although projects applying for more than £1,000 must find 50% of the total project cost themselves, known as 'match funding'. Grants of £1,000 or less will have no match funding requirement. Visit:

<http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/communityandliving/areaboards/areboardscommunitygrantsscheme.htm>

for more details. Wiltshire Councillor Howard indicated that he would be pleased to provide assistance in the process if required. Please contact him on **CD 850933**.

A New Councillor. Following the retirement of Councillor Bill Lewis, notices were posted advertising the vacancy. The requisite number of eligible voters did not make representation to Wiltshire Council requesting an election and the Council was therefore notified that it was able to co-opt to fill the vacancy.

Mrs. Anna Saunders expressed an interest in joining the Parish Council and was duly co-opted by a unanimous vote.

Castledown Radio. The meeting welcomed Mr. Mike Giles of Castledown Radio who gave a short presentation on the future of the radio station following the demise of Tidworth Development Trust. A fundraising

campaign is underway to keep the station running, at the lowest possible cost, for the benefit of local residents.

Following the adjournment, Councillors discussed the options presented to them and agreed to make a one-off donation of £350 to cover the cost of a sign, advertising the station, at the Northern edge of the broadcast area.

Bill Lewis. The meeting received a letter from Barbara Burke, Area Rights of Way Warden, thanking Bill Lewis for his hard work reporting on footpaths and rights of way in the Parish during his years as a Parish Councillor.

In recognition of his work the meeting agreed to make a gift of book tokens which he assured Councillors would be most welcome.

Next Meeting. There are no Parish Council meetings during December. Therefore the next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Tuesday 12th January 2010. We wish all residents a *Happy and Peaceful Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.*

COLLINGBOURNE DUCIS PARISH COUNCIL

Philip Gill, Parish Clerk (01264 398534) writes:

Report of the meeting held on 12th November 2009

The Chairman drew attention to Wiltshire Council's document 'Wiltshire 2026 – planning for Wiltshire's future' which refers to proposed limited development in Collingbourne Ducis.

The Parish Council were presented with certificates from the CPRE for the Best Kept Village competition. This is the fifty first year of the competition and Collingbourne Ducis had come First in the District round and Fourth in the county.

Policing. PCSO Downham reported a number of crimes in the parish ranging from poaching and damage caused by a runaway car, to a domestic incident and problems with mini mopeds. She reported that illicit door-to-door salesmen were operating in the area and asked residents to be on their guard. She had checked, with the help of another officer, vehicle speeds through the village over one hour. This had mixed results because of drivers warning one another.

Wiltshire County Councillor. Wiltshire Councillor Charles Howard sent reports regarding the integration of the previous District Councils into Wiltshire Council and also the Council's planning strategy document and 2010 budget. He noted that Wiltshire intend to sell off ninety seven



premises, and that government grants to Wiltshire could be cut back in the 2010 financial year, leading to a cut in services and/or increased Council Tax.

St. Andrew's Clock. A grant application for 50% of the clock overhaul will be considered at the Area Board on 16th November. It was agreed that, following that Board meeting and subject to the Parish Council having project management responsibility for the work, the necessary order be placed.

Planning. There were no new applications. None had been refused. Results of the ongoing appeal at Acorns are awaited.

Recreation Ground. A letter from the Cricket Club, requesting permission for them to carry out tree work and the removal of a tree adjacent to their practice nets, was discussed. It was noted that the Club has an on-going project to refurbish the nets area. After discussion, the work as stated in the letter was approved, subject to the Parish Council being indemnified by the Cricket Club, confirmation to the Clerk that their chosen contractor carries suitable insurance, and that the removed tree is replaced with two saplings of suitable variety and reasonable size (say, three metres).

It was agreed swings will be included in next year's budget.

Benches. It was agreed to delegate to the Clerk, ordering, finalising positioning and installation at Knapp Hill.

Recycling skips. Skips for plastic and cardboard waste will be at Station Approach on Wednesday 16th December 2009 between 10 am and 12.30 pm. A full list of dates has been posted on <http://www.collingbourne-ducis.com>

Wiltshire Council Parish Steward Scheme. The date of the next visit is 2nd December, and Councillor Bale should be notified of any work needed in the Parish as soon as possible.

Chicks Lane Footpath. The work should be carried out before the Christmas holiday.

30 mph Wheelie Bin Stickers. The Chairman is to raise this at the Area Board as it is an issue the Board might want to take on across the community area.

Community Outreach. The Chairman reported that the LINK scheme had recently had a presentation from Help the Aged about the switch-off of the analogue TV transmitters. Unfortunately, Parish Councils are not

within their brief. However, it was reported that some parts of the village, who receive from Mendip, will have analogue TV switched off during 2010, at which time the digital terrestrial TV signal will be increased significantly (currently it has been capped at 20% of its full power). Most of the rest of the village is affected in 2012 when the Isle of Wight analogue transmitter is switched off and the digital signal similarly increased.

Co-option of Councillors. One vacancy remains as a result of a resignation and anyone interested in becoming a councillor should contact the Parish Clerk for details.

Date of Next Meeting. The date of the next meeting was confirmed as 7.30 pm on Thursday 3rd December 2009 in Collingbourne School.

EVERLEIGH PARISH COUNCIL

Philip Gill, Parish Clerk (01264 398534) writes:

Meeting held on Monday 2nd November 2009



Public Questions. A member of the public raised the issue of the parking of a water tanker, during filling, in a location that he considered to be unsafe. The Chairman agreed to raise the matter with the Police as causing an obstruction on the highway in contravention of Act of Parliament.

Wiltshire Constabulary. PCSO Royston reported in a written report that, unfortunately, no police representative was available to attend the meeting, but she was hopeful that a representative would be available to attend the next meeting. She reported that PC Graham Wilkins has now left Wiltshire Police and has joined Hampshire Police and that PC Mark Randle no longer works in this area. She reported the following incidents of note that had happened in the area: a parachute accident, a loose cow in East Chisenbury, a motor car stopped and searched, concern for an elderly lady of which the local doctor was made aware, a burnt out vehicle was found, three incidents of hare coursing, one vehicle stopped with two persons arrested, and a neighbourhood dispute. Although the members found the report useful they expressed their dissatisfaction at the lack of a police representative and directed the Clerk to write to Inspector Sweet on the subject.

County Councillor. Councillor Howard provided the following update on progress to integrate the operations and services of the four former District Councils and Wiltshire County Council: A process known as

'Workplace Transformation' is now taking place and a summary is as follows:

Wiltshire Council's offices will be concentrated on four 'Hubs' as follows:

Trowbridge - County Hall, covering the former West Wilts area

Salisbury - in the newly reconstructed Bourne Hill offices

Devizes - at Browfort covering the former Kennet area

Chippenham - at Monkton Park covering the former North Wilts area.

The number of office premises in Wiltshire will be reduced by ninety four to just the four hubs, plus peripheral contact points at seventeen other locations in public libraries and leisure centres etc. The surplus office space will be sold off, and this will largely offset the additional costs of upgrading the four hubs. Council staff will enjoy better working conditions in the new hubs, and should be able to work more flexibly and efficiently than at present. These changes only apply to Council offices, and do not affect the Council's many other premises such as schools, road maintenance depots etc. The anticipated annual cost savings are substantial, to which can be added increased efficiency and improvement in staff working conditions.

Property. Councillor Bradford confirmed that the Parish Council had been offered a Playbuilder grant of £5,000 and that the Play Area working group had met recently to consider, amongst other things, the best way to move forward the identification of the Phase Two play needs. They had concluded that it would be best to conduct a survey of the villagers. The Chairman explained that the possible land purchase was a 'slow burn' item and that Community First is looking to run a pilot scheme which may involve the Everleigh Play Area. Councillor Bradford reported that he and Councillor Wheeler-Mallows had carried out repairs to the bus shelter roof. During this repair work it was noticed that the roof will probably need to be replaced in the next financial year at a cost of around £500.

Finance. Having considered the proposed precept as set out in the agreed budget, Members resolved not to raise the level of the Precept from the financial year 2009-10 and therefore to set the financial year 2010-11 Precept at £3,100.

Village Events. Getting To Know You. Councillor Bradford reported that those that did not come to the event missed out on hearing the exploits of Jim Stoodley during the Second World War. Given the diminished level of support for this event he suggested that another event

should replace this one. Members resolved to thank Councillor Bradford for the hard work she had put into making the event happen.

Fireworks Event. Councillor Copp reported that to date he had received requests for forty four tickets. The issue of inclement weather was discussed and it was agreed that it was unlikely that there would be a repeat of last year's downpour. However, Councillor Copp would need to be prepared if the same situation arose.

Retirement of Chairman. The Chairman informed the Members that it was his firm intention to retire as both Chairman and Councillor at the next Annual Meeting of the Parish Council in May 2010.

Date of future meetings. The next meeting was confirmed as 7 pm on Monday 4th January 2010 at The Crown Hotel.

COLLINGBOURNE KINGSTON VILLAGE HALL EVENTS DECEMBER 2009

Karin Watts (CD 850175) writes:

Beavers – Mondays 5.30 pm (term time)
Contact Natalie Williams CD 850566 or
collingbourne7@yahoo.com



Brownies – Tuesdays 5.45 pm (term time)
Contact Natalie Williams CD 850566 or collingbourne7@yahoo.com

Cubs – Wednesdays 6 pm (term time)
Contact Natalie Williams CD 850566 or collingbourne7@yahoo.com

Scouts – Fridays 7.15 pm (term time)
Contact Natalie Williams CD 850566 or collingbourne7@yahoo.com

Yoga – Tuesdays 9.15am
Contact Lizzy Hawnt 07821 396430 and 01672 841553 or
hawnted.house@btinternet.com

Line Dancing – Tuesdays 7.30 pm
Contact Sarah Gregory CD 850712



Coffee Mornings – Wednesdays 2nd Dec & 16th Dec 10.30 am
Contact Jill Stevens CD 850217

CASTLEDOWN RADIO: DUE TO THE HIGH WINDS BREAKING OVER HALF THE GUY WIRES HOLDING THE STATION'S AERIAL MAST, IT HAD TO BE TAKEN DOWN. WE HOPE TO BE TRANSMITTING AGAIN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

Quiz – every 3rd Thursday in the month. 17th Dec 8 pm
Contact Laurence McGowan CD850749 or potteringabout2000@yahoo.co.uk

WI – 2nd Thursday in the month 14th Dec 7.30 pm
Contact Rosemary Hosier CD 850331

ALL BOOKINGS ARE NOW HANDLED BY KARIN WATT on CD 850175 or karinwatt@hotmail.com for any inquiries. Please put on the subject line 'Village Hall' or your email will be lost in my junk box.

VIEW FROM EVERLEIGH

David Beaton (CD 850457) writes:

At the Parish Council meeting held on 2nd November, and reported on elsewhere in this edition of the Courier, concern was raised by a member of the public about the continuing obstruction of a water bowser being regularly filled at West View. The Police have been advised and it is hoped that the matter can be resolved amicably with the farmer involved.



St. Peter's Church, Everleigh

The meeting agreed that there would be no increase in the Parish Precept next year.

Fireworks and a barbecue at The Crown were a great success again. Several people turned up assuming that they could have the barbecue without having obtained tickets in advance. This was despite reminders on flyers delivered to every household and the sandwich board positioned at the end of The Street. As it happened, most of those who wanted food did get some, but it would be helpful if, in future, we know in advance who is attending an event so that we can cater accordingly.

There will soon be a vacancy on the Parish Council and anyone who would like to take up this rewarding work should contact any member of the Parish Council.

FESTIVE FUN WITH COLLINGBOURNE PRIMARY

Pauline Thomas writes:

Advent Services. There will be three Advent Services this year held on Monday 30th November and Monday 7th and 14th December. All three will take place at St Andrew's Church from 9.15 am.



Christmas Performances. The Children will be performing 'Humph The Camel'. There will be two performances this year: Monday 14th December and Tuesday 15th December. Both will be held at Collingbourne Ducis Village Hall from 1.30 pm.

Carol Concert. Our annual Carol Concert will be taking place at St Mary's Church on Wednesday 16th December from 2.30 pm.

Library Bus. The Wiltshire Mobile Library Bus calls at the School on alternate Thursdays from 12.15 pm to 12.50 pm and is open to the community as well as the pupils of Collingbourne Primary.

Bus Timetable. Thursday 3rd December 2009, Thursday 17th December 2009, Thursday 31st December 2009.

CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS

*Karen Bolton, School Business Manager,
Collingbourne CE Primary School writes:*

Would you like to help run a new weekly Youth Club in Collingbourne Ducis for local children aged between ten and thirteen? If the answer is 'yes', we will be holding a planning meeting on Tuesday 19th January 2010, 7 pm - 8.30 pm in Collingbourne School. Refreshments will be available, and people attending the meeting will be:



Mark Hobbs-Shoulder, Quality & Development Co-ordinator, Wiltshire Council; Emma Lamb, Extended Schools Co-Ordinator; Jeff Mason, Head Teacher, Collingbourne Primary School; Karen Bolton, School Business Manager; Steve Crawley, Community First Volunteers.

If you have any queries or would like more information please contact Collingbourne CE Primary School on **CD 850346**.

COLLINGBOURNE KINGSTON WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Pamela Cogdell (CD 850601) writes:

At the November meeting the Secretary's notes were read by Pauline Smith as Sarah was unwell – we all wish her a speedy recovery. The President announced that the Christmas meal, booked locally, would be three courses plus wine and a tip – total cost £20. The Christmas Carol Service at Salisbury Cathedral on 10th December will be from 2.30 – 4.30 pm and will round



off the Ninetieth year WI celebrations. Members attending were given their tickets. The Christmas meal will also take place on 10th December in the evening at a local restaurant. Members agreed to continue with the exchange of presents.

Mr Ashley Smith from the Weyhill Hawk Conservancy was then introduced and gave a fascinating slide-lecture on its history. His great-grandfather ran Sarsons Farm on the site in 1949, and was involved in broadcasting and recording taped interviews with country people. He and his wife also looked after sick and injured birds and small animals, and he was involved in the TV How programme and Blue Peter programmes. On the occasion of looking after an albino badger, two hundred and fifty people visited the farm. In 1965 Weyhill Park was opened with a small coffee shop, donkey rides and fun-fair side-shows for the children. There were also deer and seals. In 1976 the first bird demonstration took place and in the 1980s heron were flying in to be fed from the local heronry. Birds gradually took over and in the 1980s the Hawk Conservancy was founded. There are now five staff, some of whom have been at Weyhill for many years.

In 1995 Mr Smith's Dad died and a seven acre field was converted to a flower meadow in his memory, and called 'Reg's Meadow'. In 2002 a Board of Trustees was set up which included Chris Packham, the well known TV wildlife presenter, a catering agent, and a conservation officer.

It is now a Conservation Trust with over two hundred sick or injured birds (mainly hawks and owls) cared for every year. A modern hospital block is able to deal with emergencies and the Trust works abroad on projects linked to the protection of threatened species. A current vulture programme is looking into the wholesale poisoning of these birds in Pakistan. Courses are held for volunteers, and children and visitors are encouraged to fly and handle the owls and hawks. Flying displays take place several times a day, most of the year (1st November to 14th February, weekends only). Ferret races and runner duck races are held on special days. There is a souvenir shop, a cafe serving light lunches and snacks, and free parking.

Mr Smith took questions and was warmly thanked for a most interesting talk by the hostess, Pamela Cogdell. A raffle and refreshments concluded an enjoyable evening.

10th December Carol Service and Christmas Lunch. 

COLLINGBOURNE DUCIS VILLAGE HALL DRAW

Lindie Rogers (CD 850272) writes:

November's Lucky winners were:-

£50 S Rolls 30

£25 Y Oats 171

£10 M Evans 82

£5 P Marsh 26

R Larcombe 22

T Nichols 237

M Bailey 48

M Doherty 74



Congratulations to all the winners and many thanks to all the collectors who brave heatwaves and winter storms to 'keep you in it to win it'!

The next two prize draws will be made at the Blue Lion at 8.30 pm on Tuesday 1st December 2009 and Tuesday 5th January 2010.

We still have plenty of room for new participants. How do the numbers 144, 275 or 78 sound to you? They could be your lucky number for just £1 (one pound) per month in our monthly fundraising draw. Give me a call on **CD 850272** to hear what other numbers are available!!

COLLINGBOURNE DUCIS VILLAGE HALL - SERVING THE COMMUNITY FOR 25 YEARS: 1985 – 2010

Lindie Rogers (CD 850272) writes:

Our Treasurer, John Dowsett, reported to our Annual General meeting that the Draw raises over £1,000 a year for Hall funds while making people in the community smile. We pay a licence fee of £20 per year and prizes of £1,320.



John was pleased to report a healthy balance at the end of year to 30th June. We are currently applying to Wiltshire Village Halls Association for grant aid to help with some repairs to mortar and roof leaks.

The AGM on 16th November re-elected the Committee from last year. Lindie Rogers continues to combine Booking Manager with Chair of Management, Margaret Allcorn remains Secretary and John Dowsett,

Here are the addresses of the village websites:

Collingbourne Ducis: <http://www.collingbourne-ducis.com>

Collingbourne Kingston: <http://www.collingbournekingston.org.uk>

Everleigh: <http://www.everleigh.org>

Treasurer. The named Trustees are Julian Price, David Paterson, John Dowsett and Lindie Rogers.

Regular activities at the Hall include Dragonflies pre-school, who meet daily, and the Collingbourne Toddlers who meet on Monday morning in school term time. Collingbourne CE Primary School uses the main hall daily for music and PE. Our evening groups include Monday Dog Training, Tuesday Yoga, Wednesday Short Mat Bowls and Thursday Gardening Club. The Collingbourne Cricket Club uses the Hall and changing facilities throughout the season, from April to September, and the Football Club uses the changing rooms from September to April. If you would like to book the facilities for your family party or fund-raising idea, please don't hesitate to call the Bookings Manager to discuss dates and hiring costs : **CD 850272** or email **lindierogers@hotmail.com**

Our next Management Committee meeting takes place on Monday 25th January 2010 at 8 pm at the Hall. Regular user groups have a representative on this committee and we are very excited to be rolling out a special 25 year celebration programme which will include Bingo, Board Games, Bridge for Beginners, Collingbourne's Got Talent, Ducis and Everleigh Show, Duck Races, Fireworks, Fun Run, *Jeux sans frontières*, Music for All, Open Gardens, Outdoor Skittles with Pétanque, Treasure Hunt and Quiz. Let us know if you think we are missing something old or something new or just something you've always wanted to do!!

It is hard to believe that the Hall has been running so well for twenty-five years. We hope that you will find something to interest you in the programme which celebrates a quarter of a century of serving the community.

Friday 29th January 2010 will be Bingo at the Hall. Entry from 7 pm, eyes down at 7.30 pm. All welcome with a raffle and tea, hot chocolate and coffee or soft drinks. Friday 26th February will be Quiz Night, details in the February Courier. Duck races will take place if and when the Bourne flows adequately and safely!

Collingbourne Ducis Village Hall Trustees and Management Committee wish you all a *Cracking Good Christmas* and hope to happily share fun and fundraising with you in 2010!

COLLINGBOURNE PRIMARY SCHOOL, BY ONE OF THE GOVERNORS

Laurence McGowan writes:

Apart from its duty to provide the best possible start in the education and welfare of our young people, our School on the hill is a rather smart, welcoming building providing airy, light and friendly surroundings in which to teach, be taught or simply be a visitor.



Quite rightly, central government has recognized the under-use of what is, after all, a very costly community resource and has informed all schools that they have an obligation to open their doors for use by the wider population. As a first step in this direction the School has opened a new library just inside the front door with the intention of making it available to other community users. Do pop in and have a look at the inviting, well stocked area that has been created.

After-hours use of the school by outside groups has obvious and very considerable health and safety, security and resource implications which will need to be resolved but do look out for further developments about the way in which we hope to make further use of the School.

There has always been a standing invitation for everyone to come and join us at the School's special occasions such as the Christmas celebrations and Carol Service, the End of Year Concert, the Leaver's Service and Bell Ringing Ceremony etc etc. You do not have to be parent or relative of a child to come, just someone who enjoys seeing our youngsters blossoming, taking responsibility, acquiring confidence or who just want to wish them well.

In that light, I will take this opportunity to thank all those who came to join the children at the recent Harvest Festival celebration and at the Act of Remembrance on the 11th November when the whole School gathered at the Ducis War Memorial to observe the Two Minute Silence, hear the Roll of Honour and lay a wreath of poppies. Our request for volunteers to listen to the children read was well received and indeed resulted in some new recruits so further thanks to them and to all the 'older hands' who continue to give their time and invaluable support. We are now looking for adults to visit the School and talk about their jobs, why they chose them, abilities needed etc so that the children will have a better understanding of the working world and the possible life skills they will

need. Please give it some thought, you will get a great welcome. Ring CD 850346 and speak to the School Secretary.

I am also delighted to report that the School continues to add to its activities in providing yet more exciting and enriching items to the curriculum. Having got off to such an encouraging beginning with the teaching of French we are looking forward to having a teacher from The Wellington Academy coming. She will be with us each week to introduce the Year 6 pupils to the German language. As part of their study of the Romans, there was a Year 3 & 4 trip to Bath recently which Years 5 & 6 hope to copy soon. Apart from the amazing scale and survival of the Baths to consider, dressing up in togas and tunics, was, as you might imagine, probably the highlight for many.

The School lays great emphasis on developing the childrens' awareness of and their understanding of the needs of others through informed fundraising for Dr Barnardos and Children in Need. By the time you read this the School will have held a money raising dancethon, dressing up in all ways spotty and performing in classes in front of their parents and visitors

Saving perhaps the best bit till last, Collingbourne Primary School is very proud to announce that it now acts as a training establishment for students from Winchester University. Currently one such trainee is working alongside Miss Ingram in Reception/Class 1.

Lastly, a couple of reminders. First, don't forget to look at the Courier Photo Supplement page of the Kingston, Ducis or Everleigh websites where you can often see pictures of school activities, sometimes taken by the pupils themselves. Secondly, out of sight may well be out of mind so a reminder that the county Mobile Library parks at the School every second Thursday from 12 noon -1.30 pm. *[More colour photos in our Web edition. Ed]*

STOP PRESS Visit the Courier's photo page on your village website to see Pudsey's surprise visit to Collingbourne Primary School's Children in Need fundraising day.

CRICKETING COMMENT

Karl Rogers, Secretary (CD 850272) writes:

After twenty six years serving Collingbourne Cricket Club, since it was newly reformed in 1983, as Chairman and, more recently, President,



Roy Chandler has decided that it is time for him to step down. Roy's enthusiasm, commitment and contribution to the Club have been immense and we know he will continue to be a staunch supporter offering advice and help when needed.

At the time of compiling this report the Club is preparing for its 26th Annual Presentation Evening, when a special commemorative sweater will be presented to Roy as a token of the Club's appreciation.

The Club has been notified by the Wiltshire League that the wicket standard on the Recreation Ground has met the League criteria and as a result the First XI have gained promotion as champions from Division Three and will be playing in Division Two in 2010. Due to restructuring the Second XI will not be relegated and will retain Division Five status for 2010.

Grant applications are ongoing for the refurbishment of the Practice Nets on the Recreation Ground which the Club hopes to have completed before the start of the 2010 season.

Members and supporters of Collingbourne Cricket Club wish all Courier readers a *Happy Christmas* and a healthy and prosperous New Year!

COLLINGBOURNES AND EVERLEIGH GARDENING CLUB

Florabunda writes:

At our October meeting Ted Perrin, of Amport, talked about Dahlias. With the help of slides he showed us how he grows them from cuttings each year, plants them out against stakes, maintains and nurtures them through their early days, and then wins lots of prizes in local and national shows during the late summer. After the first frosts of autumn Ted digs the plants up, dries the tubers out and stores them in frost-free sheds ready to start his cuttings again in the early spring of the next year. During the winter months he digs the ground over to remove any weeds and applies well rotted manure in order to prepare the ground for the next year's plants. We have been invited to visit Ted's garden next autumn to see for ourselves his wonderful display of dahlias, and will include this in our 2010 programme.



On Saturday, 5th December at 7.30 pm we are holding our Christmas Party in Kingston Hall and the Annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday, 28th January 2010 in Ducis Village Hall at 7.30 pm. After the AGM business Mr Carl Sadler will speak about Trug Making.

If you would like more information about the Club please call either the Chairman, Pam Haverson, on **CD 850609** or the Secretary, Patti Marsh, on **CD 850319**. Visitors are always welcome to come along to meetings at a cost of £1.50 per person.

BROWNIES, BEAVERS AND SCOUTS

Natalie Williams (CD 850566) writes:

Brownies. In October the Brownies had a jumble sale to raise money for new equipment. Many thanks for all that supported and helped out on the day.



Brownies recently had a Halloween sleepover with all ghoulish things going on. The Brownies enjoyed trick 'n' treating all around Aughton (many thanks to those whom we dropped in on). All the witches and ghosts on the sleepover cooked, cleaned and had fun. The weekend ended in a large enrolment that all parents were able to be there to see it. Last term we have been talking about Asthma from how to tell if anyone has asthma to what happens if you have an attack. The Brownies have also seen some of the medication that asthma sufferers take. This term we are doing our fire safety badge, having a quiz night, enjoying a visit from a fireman to visiting Middle Wallop fire station. In December its Brownie Bingo night will be held which is always enjoyed by all that attend. There will also be Christmas cards on sale that the Brownies have coloured and designed themselves.

On Remembrance Sunday all the Brownies were very smart and so proud to remember with others all those who have fallen in wars.

Beavers. The Beavers have been working on their promise and friendship badge. They have written to Beavers in New Zealand hoping to end up with pen pals and also creating their own Beaver promise. We have recently had investments of new Beavers which every one took part in. Recently the Beavers designed the futures new Beaver uniform (full size designs done) and enjoyed doing them. The young Beavers were so very proud to be at the Monument with everyone else on Remembrance Sunday.

The Beavers have been enjoying designing their own Christmas cards with the hope in selling them throughout the group.

Scouts. The Scouts this term have been getting to know more about first aid. Evenings of quizzes, bandaging everyone up to making stretches out of what ever was around. This all come together in a timed relay race.

Many of the Scouts with the help of Cubs and Leaders met on 7th November to clean up the Monument and Ground of all the leaves so it was smart and tidy for Remembrance Sunday. They also helped out in the churchyard with Parishioners tidying up the fallen leaves. All the Scouts, Cubs, and Beavers were all so very smart and proud to remember the fallen heroes. [*Plenty of colour pictures of all this in our Web edition. Ed*]

POPPY APPEAL COLLECTION

Sandra Fisher (CD 850363) writes:

With Rosemary Hosier and Caroline Bouwens, I would like to thank all the residents of Collingbourne Kingston for the generosity of your response to the Poppy Appeal this year. I would especially like to thank the residents of Aughton for the warm welcome



I receive every year when I knock on doors and wave my box of poppies around. You are always generous, but this year you were magnificent, and we would like to thank you all very much, including the children who support the Poppy Appeal.

You make the whole exercise a pleasure, so thank you again.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOE BOX APPEAL

Olive Wilkins (CD 850605) writes:

Another good response to my shoe box appeal!

112 boxes have been collected, twenty five of these came from Collingbourne Primary School. One of the destinations the shoe boxes may be going to is Libya.



Over the last twelve years that I have been collecting the Shoe Boxes we have sent approximately 1,231 boxes.

Thank you so much for your boxes, and *A Very Happy Christmas* to you all.

Thanks to Alexandra Gumn for her festive
Santa Robin cover this month

NEIGHBOURHOOD NEWS

PCSO 6235 Philippa Royston, Ludgershall & Rural NPT writes:

Priorities. We are in our third month of this priority section. The priorities will last for 3 months, in which we attempt to address the problems below:



Anti-Social Behaviour – Ludgershall Recreation Field.

Young people are congregating, lighting fires and generally causing anti-social behaviour on the Recreation Field. This appears to have been resolved. However patrols will still be carried out on a regular basis.

Speeding – A345 Enford. We aim to have the speed gun out at various times.

Speeding – A338. This is occurring on the A338 through both Collingbourne Ducis and Collingbourne Kingston. We aim to have the speed gun out at various times.

Hare Coursing. We are currently experiencing a large case of hare coursing and lamping in and around Everleigh and Netheravon. Please call **999** to report any suspicious behaviour or **0845 408 7000** with information.

Door-to-Door Knockers. Please be aware that there has been a spate of people knocking on doors, trying to sell cleaning products. They usually do not hold a Peddler's Licence and may become pushy and intimidating.

Scam Telephone Calls. Residents have recently experienced telephone calls with people claiming they are from both land line and mobile phone providers. They are being told that they have not paid their telephone bill and they must pay immediately over the phone. This is a scam – never give any personal details out over the phone.

Burglary. Without wanting to worry you, we have had two reports of burglary in Netheravon: one garage, and one farm building where a lawn mower, chainsaw and quad bike have been stolen. A white van has been seen in the area with the words 'C J Brown & Son' written on it. Please report any suspicious activity.

Halloween and Bonfire Night. We would like to thank you all for your help and assistance with both of the above occasions. We had no reports

of any anti-social behaviour and criminal activity on either of these occasions!

Date of next Bluez 'N' Zuz Disco – 8th December 7 pm – 9 pm, at the Clarendon Club, Tidworth. This month is the Christmas Special. We are asking youths to bring an unwrapped present to the value of their choice or pay the £2 which we will buy presents with. The presents will all be wrapped at the Police Station and will be given to the Children's Ward at Salisbury District Hospital ready for Christmas.

Special Constabulary Recruitment. To achieve our goals Wiltshire Police need a strong, vibrant and motivated Special Constabulary. Special Constables are volunteers who, when on duty, have the same powers as their regular Police Officer colleagues. Wiltshire Police are recruiting new members as the Force has the challenging target of having 300 committed Special Constables by the end of 2010. So, can you help?

Being a Special Constable is a wonderfully positive way of contributing to your community. You will receive first class training and exposure to unique experiences that can only help enhance your personal/professional development and thus your employer.

Further details are available on the Wiltshire Police website or from the Human Resource Recruitment Team on **0845 408 7000 X 7202314.**

Meet Your Team. The aim of Neighbourhood Policing is to have dedicated officers in your community. We are here to work with you to tackle local concerns raised by you. We will work with residents and local agencies to improve your quality of life.

Police Community Support Officers – Maria Downham, Philippa Royston

Contact details: Ludgershall Police Station,
ludgershallruralnpt@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk

LOCAL WOODTURNER WINS PRIZE IN OPEN ART COMPETITION

Paul Johnson writes:

[Paul Johnson, from Collingbourne Ducis, has won the opportunity to use The Gallery space at The Fairground Craft & Design Centre, Weyhill as a prize in the 2008 Weyhill Open Art



Competition. The competition was organised and funded by the resident makers at The Fairground. Entrants were invited to submit images of their work. The organising committee then selected six artists for a month long show in The Gallery during August 2008. During the exhibition visitors were invited to vote for the piece they would most like to take home, Paul was very pleased to win this section of the competition.]

Entering the competition has been a really enjoyable experience for me. Firstly the opportunity for my work to be considered alongside that of many others artists, and not just other woodturners. I was surprised and thrilled to be selected for the Finalists' Exhibition, and to win the public vote was amazing.

This is my first venture into the wider craft world from the very insular woodturning scene. Now I have the challenge of organising the exhibition, I am determined to use the opportunity to test the market for my work. I will be maintaining my existing style but expanding the range of items.

Paul Johnson Exhibition of Work 10 am – 4 pm 7th - 13th December 2009
The Gallery, The Fairground Craft & Design Centre, Weyhill, SP11 0QN.

FAMILY HISTORY

Tina Barker writes:

I am trying to do some research into my family history. I know that my grandfather's family came from Collingbourne Ducis. The family name is Cottle. I was just wondering if you have any records going back over the past couple of centuries that may throw some light for me.



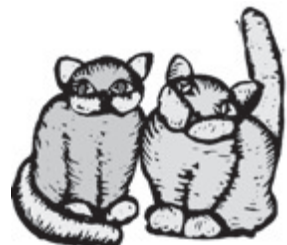
I know that I may be clutching at straws but perhaps you could give some advice as to where I could begin my research at the following address

Many thanks. Tina Barker barker640@btinternet.com

CATS' PROTECTION

Claire Bevan writes:

Christmas is fast approaching, and with it winter weather, so spare a thought for those cats which have no home. The downward turn in the economy is rendering people homeless, and



although they themselves may be re-housed, no allowance is made for their pets. The animal charities are being overwhelmed with desperate requests to take in homeless pets, and more and more are being abandoned.

Today an Andover vet called to ask us to take a cat found sealed in a cardboard box. Written on the box were his name and a message from the owner who could no longer care for him. He is one of the lucky ones. Tomorrow he will be in a warm pen with plenty of food and soon, hopefully, he will have new home. However, we only have a finite number of pens and can only take a cat if a pen is available. More loving homes are needed to welcome these unfortunate cats and enable us to rescue more from the street.

On Saturday 5th December we shall be holding our final stall of the year on Andover market. We need funds to continue our work. Please come and support us.

Tom and Gerry were kittens re-homed by Cats Protection nine years ago but, through no fault of their own, they have been back in care since the middle of September. They are large, happy, healthy cats who have many more years of life to look forward to, if only they can find a new home. They are friendly and placid and would be quite happy in a family environment. Enquiries **01256 892019** or www.andovercats.org.uk

THE STOCKMAN

Jim Fisher writes from Southern Ireland:

Of the six farms in our village one was owned by the May brothers. They had in their employ an old gentleman called Fredrick Smith. Fred's job was stockman in the winter and a sort of village caretaker in the summer, when the steers were out to pasture. Fred was the very picture of a countryman, trilby hat, moleskin/corduroy trousers, and Darby tweed weskit complete with hunter watch on Albert chain, hobnail boots and Harris Tweed jacket. He smoked a crooked shank pipe, and his face sported a marvellous display of fine white whiskers groomed to perfection.



As we bask in the twenty first century it is almost incredible to realise that Fred was a rifleman in the Boer war, and over one hundred years later I am sitting at my PC, a mere fifty-seven year old, having had the privilege to know this fine man with first-hand knowledge of the nineteenth century.

THE CHRISTMAS TREE (IN DOGGEREL)

Julian Wethered writes:

*Deep in the forest white with snow
Grows a tree which we all know
Its mighty branches tall and proud
Seek to reach the darkening cloud
The night is cold the reindeer shelter
And the wind drives helter-skelter
A famished wolf crosses the clearing
An Arctic Hare runs greatly fearing
Weaving tracks in the feathery snow
Confusing the wolf which way to go
The flash of a light the crack of a rifle
The wolf's carcass naught but a trifle*



*The blizzard abates the moon comes out
The shooter old, short, bent and stout
Stumbles off to check on his killing
A timber wolf large, blooded and chilling
With leering fangs yellow eyes staring
The old man stoops and hardly daring
Lifts the corpse of this hated marauder
Thanking God his farm's back in order
He buries it deep in the frozen earth
grateful now when the ewes give birth
No howl of a wolf on a moonlit night
Will presage a dawn of murder and fright*



*The point of the tale is to do with that tree
It also has something for you and for me
Because at Christmas it stands in a square
Along with Lord Nelson who also is there
Think of brave Norway during war years
Think of the wolf whom everyone fears
The wolf is the dragon slain by St George
evil is hammered on righteousness' forge
Now each Christmas Norwegians remember
By sending a Christmas tree here in December
Together we fought against evil and sin
Triumphant at last we were able to win*



Happy Christmas

TEAM LETTER

Mary Edwards, Team Vicar Savernake Team writes:

Presents and cards, trees, turkey and tinsel - we all get involved in many different time-consuming activities over the next few weeks! However, in all this we should try to keep our eye on the Christmas story – the story about a baby born in Bethlehem – the story we hear year by year in our Carol services and Nativity plays!



Focusing on that story, several threads seem to run through it, that the people caught up in this drama are all searching. We have the shepherds who are told to go to Bethlehem to search and find the child; we have the Wise men who are searching for a new born King, who mistakenly go to Herod's palace at first, but then continue their search for the child; we have Mary and Joseph who are searching for a place where the baby can be born.

Not one of them is on their own, left to their own devices; they are all being led. The shepherds have the angel's instructions, the Wise men are following the star, and Mary and Joseph are instructed to go to Bethlehem because of the Roman census.

They are all on a journey. The pregnant Mary, and Joseph are on a journey, not of their making, but they still have to travel to Bethlehem, a place little known to them. The shepherds leave their sheep on the hillside and journey into the town, and those Wise men leave their country and travel a great distance to find a baby. Not one stays still, not one stays in their place of safety, in their comfort zone!

The journey is a metaphor for life and particularly the Christian life: of searching and of being led.

Here in this area something exciting is about to happen, well, in about six months' time! It may involve us searching, it may involve leaving our places of safety and searching in the company of others. I hope that lives are changed and that it enables us to be better able to face the future together. Want to know more? As 'they' say: 'Watch this space!'

In the meantime we have Christmas. A time when too many people become so involved with the preparation that they forget what the preparations are actually for, and arrive at Christmas Day absolutely exhausted and rather short of money! Let us hope that this year we can truly focus on the message and meaning of Christmas, and are refreshed by the story which tells us that God loves us so much that he came to live among us. That we are refreshed for a new year when that message of peace, goodwill and justice for all means something in our lives and the life of the nation.

On behalf of all the Savernake Team Clergy I would like to wish you all a very blessed and peaceful Christmas. With my love in Christ, Mary

ST MARY'S CHURCH, COLLINGBOURNE KINGSTON 

Julian Wethered (CD 850043) and Charles Howard

(CD 850243), Churchwardens, write:

[Christmas. Admiral Sir Edward Evans, Sunday Express 24th December 1939]

'We had just crossed the Antarctic Circle. It was light all night and the look-out man struck eight bells when the watch changed. Thus Christmas Day 1902 was ushered in by a handful of sturdy Yorkshire seamen who marched aft and were greeted by the captain and officers of the little whaler, Morning, that eventually found Scott and the Discovery in her ice-girt winter quarters.



As the echoing clang of the bells died away the men sang "O come all ye faithful" and, when the last note of the hymn ceased, we shook hands all round, then we "spliced the mainbrace".

The sun was above the horizon and I felt the wonderful call of the Polar regions. There were two great icebergs in sight, sentinels to that cruel, silent land with which my life has been so closely associated.'

Christmas Services. This year there will be a Christmas Day Service starting at 11 am, with Holy Communion available to those who wish to receive it, immediately afterwards. Midnight Holy Communion will be at Collingbourne Ducis. The Parish Carol Service will be at 6 pm on Sunday 20th December, and the School Carol Service at 2 pm on Wednesday 16th December.

Christmas Cards. Church Christmas Cards are available for sale again this year in aid of Church Funds. The card shows detail of the Wilson Window in the Chancel of St Mary's, the work of John Hayward, in memory of the Wilson family who lived in Aughton and were generous benefactors of the village. A sample is on display in the Church, and cards can be bought from Charles Howard on CD 850243, price £2 for five.

The Vicar And PCC Wish You A Very Happy And Peaceful Christmas And New Year.



ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH, COLLINGBOURNE DUCIS

Richard Carter (CD 850260) and Mike Cox (CD 850360)

Churchwardens write:

In November the two Remembrance services reflected our villages' awareness and involvement both in past conflicts and those happening now. On the Sunday 8th November we ran out of almost everything, including seating and service sheets, but somehow it didn't seem to matter. And on Armistice Day itself, at 11 am, many grown-ups joined with the children from school for the short service at the War Memorial. Some big thank yous: to Xavi for playing the Last Post for us, to those from the Scout Group who cleared leaves on 7th November, and to those who spruced up the war memorial and the green.



Looking forward, some diary dates for Advent and Christmas:

Sunday 6th Dec. Advent Breakfast for all at 9 am in St. Andrew's, Ducis.

Wednesday 16th Dec. School Carol Service at 2 pm in St. Marys, Kingston

Saturday 19th Dec. Carol Service at 3 pm in St. Peter's, Everleigh

Sunday 20th Dec. Carol Service at 6 pm in St. Mary's, Kingston
(no service in Ducis)

Monday 21st Dec. Carol Service at 7 pm in St. Andrew's, Ducis

Wednesday 23rd Dec. Drop in for tea, chat and help with Christingle manufacture at St. Andrew's – tea and cakes from 2.30 pm for an hour or so

Christmas Eve. Come to Bethlehem (with those Christingles) at 3 pm in St. Andrew's, Ducis

Christmas Eve. Midnight Holy Communion starting 11.30 pm in St. Andrew's, Ducis

Christmas Day. Christmas Day service with Holy Communion at 11 am in St. Mary's, Kingston

Sunday 27th Dec. Quiet, reflective post-Christmas service at 11 am in St. Andrew's, Ducis

No excuse there for not getting to a Carol Service. Beat that for a combination of places and times! Come and sing your heart out! Why not go to more than one? Afterwards the kettles will be on, the mulled wine - er - mulled and the mince pies ready for eating.

An innovation this year is an Advent Breakfast, at the realistic breakfast time of 9 am, at the beginning of December. Come and join us for a very informal

occasion in the Advent season run-up to Christmas and bring the family (you can bring-your-own favourite cereal too if you prefer).

The School have their Advent services in St. Andrew's every Monday at 9.15 am from 30th November through to the end of term and these lead nicely into the Come to Bethlehem Service. The church kettle is on and biscuit tin open for half an hour or so before the children arrive, for parents, siblings and friends who want to join them for the service.

If you have not been to it before, the Come to Bethlehem service on Christmas Eve is a must. The Church will be full of families, children excited because it's Christmas and no-one really very sure what will happen next – least of all the Vicar. The Christmas story will be told by actors of all ages, there will be Christingles for children of all ages (even grown up ones) and, afterwards, mince pies in the oven.

For anyone who has never been to one of our Christmas services, there are some pictures on the parish website which could whet your appetite to join us – www.savernaketeam.org.uk and click on The Parishes and then Collingbourne Ducis and finally Picture Archive.

There will be no Pram Service in December. There will be excitement enough we think!


And Diary Dates in January:

Wednesday 27th January. Pram Service for babies, toddlers, mums, dads and grandparents 10.30 am.

Wednesday 27th January. Drop in for tea and a chat at St. Andrew's – tea and cakes from 2.30 pm for an hour or so.

The regular Midweek Communion on the first Wednesday of each month will be discontinued at the end of the year as there have been no communicants requesting it.

Some good news on the Church Clock: the Parish Council have agreed to have it overhauled. This means it will be removed from the tower, stripped down, rebuilt and re-installed ready for another 100 years or so. Work should start in the next couple of months.

And finally, thanks to a grant from the Tidworth Area Board, it now looks likely that work will start on our toilet extension in the New Year. This will be a milestone for St. Andrew's (we have managed without since before the time of the Domesday Book in 1086) and opens up many opportunities for using our lovely church building to the full. Watch this space - or, better, watch the north-west corner of the Church. 

SERVICES AT ST MARY'S CHURCH, COLLINGBOURNE KINGSTON

Services in December

6th	Family Service	9.30 am
13th	Holy Communion	8 am
16th	School Carol Service	2 pm
20th	Parish Carol Service	6 pm
25th	Christmas Day Service followed by Holy Communion	11 am
27th	Cluster Service at Ducis	11 am

Services in January

3rd	Family Service	9.30 am
10th	Holy Communion	8 am
17th	Holy Communion	9.30 am
24th	Evensong	6 pm
31st	Cluster Holy Communion	11 am

SERVICES AT ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH, COLLINGBOURNE DUCIS

Services in December

2nd	Midweek Communion	12.30 pm
6th	Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)	8 am
7th	School Advent Service	9.15 am
13th	Parish Communion	9.30 am
14th	School Advent Service	9.15 am
20th	No Service – but Carols at St. Mary's, Kingston	6 pm
21st	Carol Service	7 pm
24th	Come to Bethlehem (with Christingles)	3 pm
24th	Midnight Holy Communion	11.30 pm
27th	Quiet, reflective service	11 am

Services in January

3rd	Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)	8 am
10th	Parish Communion	9.30 am
17th	Evensong	6 pm
24th	Family Service	11 am
27th	Pram Service for babies, toddlers, mums, dads and grandparents	10.30 am
31st	No service – but Cluster Communion at St. Mary's, Kingston	11 am

SERVICE AT ST. PETER'S CHURCH, EVERLEIGH

Service in December

19th	Carol Service	3 pm
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