Collingbourne Ducis - Everleigh - Collingbourne Kingston

COURIER

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The Courier

The COURIER Office, and Editorial address for contributors:
c/o 4 Sunnyhill, Collingbourne Ducis, Marlborough SN8 3EP

Contact Details:

ADDRESS for Contributions ONLY: **cdkecouriercontribute@gmail.com**
ADMINISTRATION: Sandra Fisher (850363) **cdkecouriersec@gmail.com**
ADVERTISING/FLYERS/LEAFLETS:
Simon Gilford **cdkecourieradvertise@gmail.com**

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Collingbourne Ducis Parish Council



Chairman John Wood Writes:

Councillor Steve Lyons would like to thank all the volunteers who turned out on Sunday 5th November to help with the Collingbourne Ducis village litter pick. The team got lucky with the weather as the village was bathed in sunshine for the duration. A total of thirteen bags of rubbish were collected from around the village, which included a car exhaust. Special thanks go to the Tipple Inn for providing the refreshments for the team on completion. The Village Steward continues to be active in the village clearing pathways and alleyways and can be tasked by using the form on the village website. The next village event is the Collingbourne Ducis Christmas Brunch which will take place at 10 am on the morning of Sunday the 10th December in the Village Hall. There will be a face painter, balloon sculpture and a raffle, along with the usual teas, coffees, and brunch. Please come and join us for a get together in the lead up to Christmas, all are welcome.

We are actively looking for willing volunteers to join the Speed Watch team. If you feel you want to contribute to the traffic calming effort now is a good time to complete the training, please contact the Parish Clerk for details. The more observant of you will have noticed that the virtual footpath on the Cadley Road has at last been repainted and at the last Council meeting in October the subject of the overweight HGVs using the Ludgershall Road was discussed. The advice from Wiltshire Councils representative, Councillor Chris Williams is to photograph the offending vehicles and forward them to the Police who will take the appropriate action.

There have recently been a number of senseless acts of vandalism in the village which have included the smashing of windows in the

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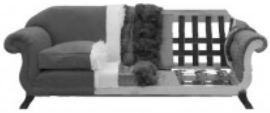
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village bus shelters and more recently damage to ornaments that had been left on a child's grave in the Burial Ground. The local area Police have been made aware of these incidents. Please remain ever vigilant and if you witness any form of vandalism, please do not hesitate to contact the Police and or the Parish Council through the Parish Clerk. The windows in the bus shelters can and will be replaced, the psychological effects caused by the damage to the ornaments on a grave will prove more difficult.

Our next Parish Council Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 16th January 2024 at 7 pm at Collingbourne Village Hall. Parish Council meetings are open events, which members of the public are more than welcome to attend. If any parishioners wish to get involved in any of the activities, including Speed Watch or just want to contact with the Parish Council, do feel free to email the Parish Clerk, Mr Phil Gill, **parishclerk@collingbourne-ducis.com**

The View from Everleigh



Denis Bottomley, Chairman, (01264 852731) writes:
A village litter pick took place on Saturday 21st October. Many thanks go to the eleven volunteers who took part and collected six bags of rubbish, which is less than normal, (fourteen bags on previous litter picks). Everleigh appears to be getting cleaner!

The Everleigh Bonfire Night took place on Saturday 4th November at Jubilee Field. The event had all the ingredients for a great evening: spectacular fireworks; excellent refreshments and a high turnout from both Everleigh and neighbouring communities. Many villagers pulled together to produce an excellent joint community event, with the Collingbourne Cricket Club providing drinks, including beer and

lovely mulled wine. This was again one of our most successful bonfire nights, requiring much preparation, enthusiasm and hard work. It was a strong Team Everleigh effort, with close support from Collingbourne cricketers.

We will be planting a Christmas tree in Everleigh Centre in early December and a Christmas Carol Service will take place at St Peter's Church on Saturday 9th December at 5 pm. This is a good opportunity for the village to get together at this festive time of the year, to hear the Christmas story and to sing traditional carols. We will also be laying on mulled wine and mince pies after the service. We look forward to seeing you there.



Wiltshire Council have a clear procedure for reporting infrastructure faults or issues, such as an inoperative street light, fallen trees, potholes or blocked drains/gullies. There are several reporting options: by phone **0300 456 0105**; on line at **www.wiltshire.gov.uk/mywilts**; or use the MyWilts app on a smart phone. Any resident may report any fault direct; please do not think that this is the sole preserve of the Parish Council. However, if residents need Parish Council support on infrastructure issues, then please contact Councillor Kim Wheeler-Mallows, telephone **01264 850303.**

There may be some minor changes to waste collection dates over the Christmas and New Year period. Residents can check their waste, recycling and garden waste collection online at **www.wiltshire.gov.uk/WasteCollectionDays.** Revised Household Recycling Centre (HRC) timings for the Christmas/New Year period are at **www.wiltshire.gov.uk/household-recycling-centres**

The next Parish Council meeting will take place on Tuesday 9th January 2024 at 7 pm at the Collingbourne Ducis Village Hall. Everyone is welcome to attend. The minutes of our last meeting are available on village noticeboards and the Everleigh web site at **www.everleigh.org**

Finally, we would like to wish all readers a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Collingbourne Kingston Parish Council

Richard Semple, Chairman, writes:

I write this update as we have just commemorated Remembrance Day at St Andrew's Church, Collingbourne Ducis, as well as admiring the splash of red poppies against our spruced-up war memorial in Collingbourne Kingston. Reminders to us all how lucky we are to live in this peaceful corner of the Wiltshire countryside.

At our last Parish Council meeting, we took the opportunity to review the latest road traffic data, collected by our volunteer Community Speed-watch Team. The average number of vehicles speeding along the A338 through our village remains high at 7.8% as compared to an average figure of 3.2% across Wiltshire. Thanks to the vigilance of the Team, nearly four thousand letters have been issued by Wiltshire Police to speeding motorists, including a sizeable number to repeat offenders. The Police have also continued to run their own speed-traps, issuing penalties where appropriate. I am pleased to say that some of the worn out 30 mph signs have now been replaced with new legally compliant ones but unfortunately, our speed indicator device at Aughton has been stolen so we are in the process of getting it replaced. We also received an update on Wiltshire Council matters from Councillor Chris Williams, including

a briefing on 'Warm and Safe Wiltshire', which I commend to you. This is a service provided by both Wiltshire and Swindon Councils, in partnership with the Centre for Sustainable Energy. It provides in-depth telephone support and home visits to help people save money on their gas and electricity bills, and to get funding for heating and insulation improvements in their homes. The help available includes free and impartial advice on:

- Understanding fuel bills and tips on simple ways to save energy and lower your bills
- Guidance on heating systems and controls
- Eligibility for heating and insulation grants and fuel vouchers
- Issues with damp and condensation
- Fuel debt advice
- Switching energy suppliers and fuel tariffs
- Signing up to the Priority Services Register
- Discounts and support with water bills

More information is available at:
www.warmandsafewiltshire.org.uk

Having started this update with a look back to Remembrance Day, I would like to finish by looking forward to Christmas and the New Year. I wish all Parishioners an enjoyable festive season and a prosperous 2024. If you would like to know more about Parish Council activity or want a raise an issue, do come along to our next meeting, which will take place in the Ruth Fisher Room, Collingbourne Kingston Village Hall, at 6.30 pm, on Wednesday 10th January 2024. We also have vacancies for Parish Councillors, if you would like to contribute directly to the village.

COLLINGBOURNE C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL

Harriet Phillips, Headteacher, writes:

Remembrance Day

On Friday 10th November the whole school walked to the war memorial where Reverend Jo led a short service of remembrance and some of our older children read the roll of honour to those lost from the villages of Collingbourne Ducis, Collingbourne Kingston and Everleigh.

Communi-tea

Our next Communi-tea will be held on Friday 15th December at 10 am when our younger children will share some of their Christmas songs.

Shoebox collection

This year we collected 41 shoe boxes stuffed with some lovely goodies to donate to the Andover Foodbanks Christmas appeal. The Shoeboxes will be given to Young Carers in the area.

Christmas Elf Trail

You may remember last year we had a number of elves pop up around the village, the families that took part really enjoyed a walk around the village to collect as many Elf names as possible. The winner received a hamper of goodies and tickets to a local attraction. We are looking forward to running this event again. If you would like to house an elf in your window and you live in Chicks Lane, Gilberts Piece, Bourne Rise, Sunton, Saunders Meadow, West Farm Close, Saxon Rise or Riverbourne Road we would love to hear from you. The elves will be decorated by the children at school and

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delivered to you to display from the 1st December. The trail will run from 1st-18th December. Trail sheets can be purchased for £2 from the school office from Monday 27th November.

Clerk to Governors

We have a fantastic opportunity for a clerk to governors, this is a paid role. If you are interested in supporting your local school please do contact Mrs Nicky Bamford through the school office on **01264 850346.**

The Collingbournes And Everleigh Magazine Association
Notice of the Annual General Meeting

David Puttock, Courier Chairman, writes:

Notice is given that the Annual General Meeting of the Collingbournes and Everleigh Magazine Association, which produces the Courier, will take place on Friday 19th January 2024 at 8pm in Collingbourne Kingston 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 2023, consider any motions put forward and elect the Committee and Officers for 2024.

All motions should be sent to the Hon. Secretary, Sandra Fisher, Staddlestones, Aughton, Collingbourne Kingston, by 29th December 2023. 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 Community Support Officers can be contacted on 101

Collingbourne Ducis Village Hall Draw

Humphrey Sheppard notifies us:

Winners in the November Draw

£50 Tanya Hogg	75
£25 Jim Plenderleith	20
£15 Rachel Douglas	261
£10 Angela Ward	272
£5 Sean Larkin	152



Congratulations to all the winners.

We will have a table at the Village Brunch on Sunday 10th December when we will make the December Draw and the Christmas Bonus Draw for £100. If you'd like tickets, please call or email me, or join us at the Village Brunch, contact details below. If you want any information on the draw, please call Humphrey Sheppard on **07791 760241** or e-mail on **cdvhdraw@gmail.com**

The draw is open to anyone (over the age of 18) who wishes to take part.

Dauntsey's Choral Society Christmas Concert

Caroline Haywood, Secretary, Dauntsey's Choral Society writes:

Dauntsey's Choral Society presents an evening of traditional Christmas Carols and music on Friday 8th December, 7.30 pm at St Matthew's Church, Rushall, SN9 6DR

Free Admission!

Let us help you get in to the festive spirit with an evening of traditional Carols and Christmas music. A retiring collection will be made in aid of Church Funds and Dauntsey's Choral Society. Refreshments will be served after the concert.

Collingbournes And Everleigh Gardening Club

Patti Marsh (Secretary) 01264 850319 writes:



Our October speaker unfortunately cancelled leaving us very little time to find another one so we held a quiz and social evening in Kingston Hall where members were also asked what events and speakers they would like to hear in the future.

With the cold and very rainy weather it is difficult to find the enthusiasm to get out in the garden but we can always start planning and choosing seeds to plant for next year's crop – and plant a few extra for our Plant Sale in May.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday 25th January 2024 when our Annual General Meeting will be followed by a presentation of Photographs of Wiltshire by Alan Benson. We start at 7.30 pm and welcome old and new members to the meetings.

If you would like further information please contact our chairman, Jane Crook, on **01264 850436** or me.

Cancer Charity Bingo Night in Remembrance of Pam Stone (Brave Owl)

Natalie Williams writes:

I would like to invite everyone to come along to the Christmas Charity Bingo Night being held on the 12th December at Collingbourne Kingston Village Hall, doors opening at 7 pm for 7.30 pm start.

There will be many prizes to win, a raffle and also refreshments. Don't forget to bring your friends and come along to join in with the fun.

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Cancer Charities Curry Lunch

Humphrey Sheppard writes:

In early September 2023 (yes that is the one that has just gone) I telephoned Carol Chandler and asked if the annual Cancer Research UK Curry lunch was going to happen in October. Unfortunately, the Committee that usually organized the event had for many reasons disbanded and I said that someone needs to organize it. To which her response was 'Who?'

'Who else but you and me!'

The first response was 'You are joking?' quickly followed by 'Let's do it!' And we did. In five weeks, we booked the Goa Balti, organized raffle and silent auction prizes, sold tickets and held the event.

Forty-six people attended the event on Sunday 15th October and raised in total £772, donating £386 to The Countess of Brecknock Hospice and £386 to Cancer Research UK.

Everyone seems to have had a really good time and we are committed to holding the event again next year.

The planned date, subject to availability at The Goa Balti, will be Sunday 20th October 2024.

Save the date and we look forward to seeing many of you there.

Penultimately our thanks go to Hasan and his team at The Goa Balti for laying on an excellent meal, and for their patience with a stressed organizer.

Many thanks to all those who bought tickets, raffle tickets and silent auction bids.

And finally, my thanks to my Co-Conspirator, Carol and her lovely family who were all very helpful and supportive throughout.

I must also say thank you to my wife Jeanette, who when I announced what I was doing also said 'You are joking' but then proceeded to organize raffle prizes and sell tickets.

If anyone would like any further information about The Cancer Charities Curry Lunch, or the charities we support do please contact Carol on **07941 583795** or Humphrey on **07791 760241** or email us at **cancercharitycurrylunch@gmail.com**

Collingbourne's Shortmat Bowls Club

Humphrey Sheppard writes:

What do you do on a Wednesday evening between September and April every year? We play Bowls! We play at Collingbourne Ducis Village Hall from 6.45 pm until 9.25 pm every Wednesday without exception throughout the winter. We also run Sunday afternoon sessions from 2.45 pm to 5.15 pm. The dates in December are Sunday 3rd and 17th December. Our membership ranges over 69 years from 19 to 88. It is a social event around the game of bowls indoors. You need no specialist equipment except FLAT AND CLEAN SHOES.

We have Woods to be borrowed and we have all the equipment needed. It must be expensive I hear you say and if you consider two hours of fun, laughter, friendship and gentle exercise for £2 a session as expensive, then you are correct! Would you like to know more? Then call me on **07791 951396** or email on **collingbourneshortmatbowls@gmail.com**

Clive Barnard

Grateful thanks to all who have supported me and brought beautiful sprays of flowers and sincere cards following the passing of my dear Clive, after fifty-seven years of a blissful marriage.

Iris

Collingbourne Kingston WI Report November 2023

Sandra Fisher {01264 850363} writes:

January always seems to be such a long way away when the December issue of the Courier comes out but make a note of this date on your new calendar, or in your diary, as the January W.I. meeting will be very interesting we feel. On Thursday 11th January Maggie Forbes will present her talk, 'I Sew, Therefore I Am'. Maggie is a creative stitcher who after leaving school joined John Lewis in their workshop and then in the bridal department doing wedding alterations. Currently she does a lot of recycling of jeans and other clothes to re-design and make new garments and handbags. Nothing goes to waste, which chimes with the Reduce, Re-use, Recycle attitudes of today. The talk should be fun and encourage us to look at the older clothes in our wardrobes in a new way.

Visitors are always welcome, for a donation, and the Kingston Hall doors open at 7 pm for the start of the meeting at 7.30 pm.

Although the numbers were down to twenty members at the November meeting, due to holidays and other commitments, the 'Christmas Wreath Making' talk by Sara Willman was much enjoyed. It was fascinating to watch Sara making a wreath while telling us what she was doing and why, talking also about using sustainable methods and products, such as avoiding traditional flower foam. Sara donated the finished wreath as a raffle prize, thank you Sara.

We are looking forward to the Christmas Party on 14th December which will be held, as last year, at Tidworth Golf Club.

The W.I. wishes all members, and readers of the Courier, a very happy Christmas and a healthy and happy New Year.

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Cornish Heavy (Hevva Cake)

Simon Gilford writes:

It's kind of an appropriate time to share this recipe, as we've just returned from a trip down to Cornwall to visit our daughter Emily. One of her friends shared this recipe with her and I've been given strict instructions not to share it further – so don't tell anyone, especially Emily. I have to say that based on the ingredients, I really wasn't expecting much when I made it, but I was in for a surprise – it was delicious, even if I do say so myself. I used a 20cm x 18cm (5cm deep) lined brownie/roasting tin.

Ingredients:

500g self-raising flour.

250g unsalted butter (cold), cut into small chunks.

360g raisins (I used mixed fruit, which worked well).

180g caster sugar.

150ml milk.

Method:

1. Set your oven to 190C.

2. In a large mixing bowl, rub the butter into the flour until it has the texture of fine breadcrumbs.

3. Add in the sugar and fruit and mix well. Add the milk and mix to a soft, stiff dough. You might need to add more milk a splash at a time if it is too thick.

4. Press into the lined tin, ensuring you push firmly into the corners. Smooth the surface with a wet palette knife. Score the top with a sharp knife diagonally to make a diamond pattern.

5. Bake on the middle shelf of the oven for 30-40 minutes, until it is golden brown and a skewer inserted into the middle comes out clean.

6. Allow to cool (a little) and brush the surface with some milk and sprinkle with some sugar

7. Allow to cool, cut into large slices, and then eat cake!

I had butter on mine which made it even better.

Andover Chamber Choir Christmas Concert

Veronica Bacon, Andover Chamber Choir, writes:

Andover Chamber Choir returns to St Mary's Church, Andover on Saturday 16th December for their annual Christmas Concert. This year's programme is entitled 'The Holly Bears a Berry' and aims to evoke the spirit of a traditional village Christmas.

The music includes many popular carols such as The Holly and The Ivy, Good King Wenceslas and Harold Darkes beautiful setting of In the Bleak Midwinter. Less familiar items such as Down in Yon Forest and The Wexford Carol plus selected readings will transport us back to days gone by. There are carols for the audience and a lively medley in which the audience will have fun seeing how many carols they can recognise!

The concert starts at 7 pm and tickets are £12 at the door or £10 if purchased in advance from the Lights or Newbury Building Society. There is no charge for under 16's. The ticket includes interval refreshments and profits will be donated to Andover Food Bank.

SPTA

The SPTA newsletter can be found at the following web address: **www.gov.uk/government/publications/salisbury-plain-training-area-spta-newsletter**

The Film Place

Jim Plenderleith writes:

Showing at THEFILMPLACE on Friday 26th January 2024 is **The Great Escaper** starring Michael Caine and Glenda Jackson.

Michael Caine and the late Glenda Jackson bring their A-games to this true-life heart warmer about the 89-year-old second world war Royal Naval Veteran Bernard Jordan, who in 2014 jauntily sneaked out of his seaside care home (where he lived with his wife Irene) on a secret mission to get aboard a cross-channel ferry and attend the 70th anniversary celebrations of the D-day landings in Normandy - having failed to get included on an official group excursion. He was dubbed 'the great escaper' in the press.

Caine is Jordan, of course, bringing plenty of droll and lugubrious spark to the role, shuffling up and down the seafront, grumpily denouncing the trendy cyclists almost running him over on the pavement as 'tossers' and letting the air out of their tyres. But he is arguably upstaged by Jackson as Irene, or Rene, who is sarky and sardonic to everyone, including her care worker Adele (an excellent performance from Danielle Vitalis). There's a huge amount to enjoy from these legendary performers.

Doors open at THEFILMPLACE in Collingbourne Ducis Village Hall at 7 pm for pre-film drinks and refreshments, the film show starts at 7.30 pm. Tickets are still only £6 and are available now from Collingbourne Ducis village shop or by telephoning Jim Plenderleith (Ducis) **07906 593668**. Tickets will also be available on the door, if not previously sold out. It is your monthly film show. Please keep giving us your feedback personally or by email to the following:- **thefilmplacecd@gmail.com**

THE BOURNE COMMUNITY CAFÉ ANNUAL REPORT – 2023

Alex Gumn writes:



The Bourne community café, so named following a vote after a public questionnaire, has now been running for eight months on the second Saturday of each month. We were blessed with some great donations of two coffee machines from some lovely neighbours, numerous cups, mugs, tea towels, aprons, and tablecloths, for which we are very grateful. Beerfest gave us a donation of £400 to purchase a more advanced coffee machine and a thermal jug for Americano and flat white coffees. When we started, we were struggling with what the café should be, how it should work and where everyone would fit, but I'm pleased to say that those initial crinkles have been ironed out and I believe we now have the right structure and all of us work really well as a team. That's not to say that further suggestions wouldn't be welcomed and considered.

During this time, we have managed to have several themed months and a craft fayre. We've been through Easter and Wimbledon with the latest theme being Halloween with pumpkins adorning the tables and most recently Armistice Day with hand crocheted red and purple poppies scattered, we are also pleased that each month has seen seasonal flowers from our gardens, making it all very welcoming.

We now have banners announcing our opening Saturdays and this seems to have prompted a goodly attendance for October and November although this of course could be coincidence. We also offered soup for these months so that could have been the draw!

We have some very regular attendees, visitors and new village families – it is nice to see families bringing along their own weekend visitors as well. It has become a really comfortable and social space,

and we are encouraged by those that stop and play the games provided and the children that partake of the crafts available.

I would like to say a huge thank you to all our regular volunteers, and the families they have dragged along with them, because as most of us know these things don't just happen, it takes more than turning up on a Saturday morning. We have some dedicated bakers, bunting sewers, shoppers and those that round up all available help and of course the washing-up, we have become a well-oiled machine; the setting up and break down of the event now takes half the time than when we started. It takes a minimum of six to run, but that makes it a little manic so ideally, we would like at least eight and we are always looking for more volunteers so that those that give their time regularly can have a month off occasionally.

I also need to thank you, the supporters, there would be no point in doing all of this unless there were people to serve, and we have made some new acquaintances and friends through doing it.

The December café will run on a very busy weekend for the hall. We have Bingo on Friday, Café on the Saturday, with the village Brunch on Sunday. The café will be having a range of craft stalls for the three hours on that day, so Christmas shopping can be attended to at the same time as having coffee and cake, what could be better?

We look forward to seeing you all in December.

Mobile Library Service

Wiltshire mobile library service is operating a normal schedule in all three villages.

Information about the mobile library service is available online at **https://apps.wiltshire.gov.uk/librariesinformation/Library/Mobiles**


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TURN OFF CHRISTMAS LIGHTS AT NIGHT AND WHEN YOU ARE OUT OF THE HOUSE.
AVOID BUYING CRACKERS. They contain plastic toys.
INSTEAD:
MAKE YOUR OWN CRACKERS.

Burbage & District Model Railway Club (BDMRC)



Sonny Hamid (01672 811933) writes:

It was a slow start to our November meeting as we explored different options for the layout, and other construction details, for the new layout we are constructing for the Inter-County Exhibition at Fordingbridge, Hampshire next March.

After much 'blue sky' exploring, our thoughts did eventually start to converge and by the end of the session we all came away with assignments to be undertaken over the next few weeks. These included; location and construction of buildings, finalising track layout, electrical circuit design and a whole host of other items related to the design and construction of the layout.

We were very fortunate to have received donations from a local resident which will enable us to part-finance our project for Fordingbridge. Sadly, we still require more resources so if you are in a generous mood, and can donate anything, that will help us to continue financing the project and will be gratefully received.

In addition to donations of cash or kind, we are also seeking the loan of a small storage space to house our past layouts. The space needs to be dry and secure so we welcome any suitable offers.

At our next meeting, we will continue with construction of our current project for Fordingbridge exhibition. Our next Club session will be Monday, 18th December, 2023 commencing at 19:00 hours.

We can arrange availability of working layouts and demonstration of modelling techniques at local village fairs and other Community gatherings. Organisers are invited to contact us regarding their requirements.

The Club welcomes new members so, if you would like to try your hand at this hobby please feel free to contact us.

Helping Hands Needed in Julia's House Charity Shops

Laura Shack writes:

Are you looking to get out and about and make some new friends? Would you like to support your local community? Are you seeking a fun and busy work experience placement? Volunteers are being called on to join the Julia's House team and help out at the local charity's high street shops across Wiltshire.

Julia's House is Wiltshire's Children's Hospice, looking after the most seriously ill children and their families in the local community and at the charity's hospice building in Devizes. The charity relies almost entirely on donations to provide its vital care, so the funds raised by its shops make a huge difference and it's only thanks to the charity's team of volunteers that the doors can stay open and welcome shoppers regularly throughout the week. Helping hands are needed on the tills and behind the scenes, sorting donations in many of the charity's shops, including Chippenham, Devizes, Salisbury, and Warminster.

Liz Thompson, Volunteer Co-ordinator for Julia's House, said, 'We're lucky to have an incredible team of volunteers of all ages, and we're looking for more people to join us. Volunteering has lots of benefits, from building confidence and gaining work experience, to making friends and having fun. It's also a great feeling to be supporting your local community and your help will make all the difference to the seriously ill children and families we care for locally.'

She added, 'There are lots of volunteering roles and new ones coming up all the time, so we'd love to hear from anyone who has a few hours to spare. And you don't have to have experience to be a

volunteer at Julia's House, as we provide all the training you'll require.'

If you are interested or would like more information, please pop into one of the Julia's House shops, or get in touch with the Julia's House volunteer team at **volunteer@juliashouse.org** or telephone **01202 644220**. You can also find out more at **www.juliashouse.org/volunteering**

Mince Pie Recipe

Caroline Bouwens provides a seasonal recipe:

Ingredients:

120g unsalted butter – chilled

180g plain flour

40g icing sugar

Salt

1 egg yolk

Mincemeat

2-3 tsp water

Eggwash (1egg beaten with a splash of milk) for glazing

Method:

Place butter, flour, icing sugar and salt in a bowl and rub to fine breadcrumbs. You can also blitz in a mixer.

Add the egg yolk and water and mix to form a dough. Knead lightly and wrap in cellophane and put in fridge for an hour.

Take out and roll on a floured surface to 2-3mm thickness and cut out to suit your mince pie tin. Allow enough to make lids!

Fill with mincemeat, being careful not to overfill.

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We also have our very own friendly Knit & Natter Club which is free to join and meets each Saturday, between 10am and 12 noon at The Barleycorn Inn, in 'the Cwtch'. Come and join us while we spin some new yarns.

Phone : 01264 850 367 **www.wgwoollies.co.uk**

Wiltshire Green Woollies is a member of the Knitting & Crochet Guild

COURIER

Wishing all our readers and advertisers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Brush the edges of the lids with eggwash and press gently into place.

Brush the mince pies with eggwash and make a hole tin the top with a small knife.

Bake at 200 C/gas mark 6 for 10 – 20 minutes depending on the size of your pies. Check regularly to prevent over cooking.

To serve – sprinkle with icing sugar.

Makes twelve generous mince pies.

Happy Christmas!

SAVERNAKE TEAM LETTER



Rev Michael McHugh, Savernake Team Rector, writes:

Coincidence and Arrogance

I am aware that what we commemorate and look forward to at Christmas is something that has already changed the face of human nature. It is an ability to see the changes that sets us apart in our lives.

Whilst attending a funeral service recently we prepared the ashes plot to bury a man with his wife. Her name was Debbie, she liked wet and windy weather, and we interred her husband during storm Debra. An amusing coincidence making a casual connection between the three.

The mistake is to step from the casual to the causal. The 'expert' in Sally Clark's conviction spoke outside their area of competence to everyone's cost.

A friend was recently told that religion is a load of nonsense. The critic was speaking outside their area of competence. Most believers

would love the certainty, but doubt is a virtue in a living faith that grows through challenges. Doubt is also consistent with logic and rational thought.

Belief is based on experience and logic. Belief seeded scientific method in our various cultures arose from a plethora of religious scholars. It never admits to certainty. It only admits to 'best explanation at the time.' Newton replaced Aristotle, Einstein replaced Newton and so forth. That inquiry-based scholarship drove the three wise men to Bethlehem and hopefully will drive us this season.

We can seek connections, or we can be certain, harming ourselves by intransigence. As we approach Christmas, we have a multitude of opportunities to suspend dis-belief. To break with plus and minus, black and white. The great thing is that the fruits of 'love based' logic are joy and wonder. Can we link ideas and see 'storm Debra' in the events around us?

What bigger sign of hope is there than the birth of a refugee child who survives the threat of death? Let's try to work out what we can do to change our world in the coming months! Join us and enjoy the experience of being with others to celebrate hope even if you are not convinced by belief.

Happy Christmas, *Michael*

St Mary's Church, Collingbourne Kingston



Stephanie Daubney PCC Member writes:

Another month has passed and we have seen November come and go! Armistice Day was on 11th November with Britain and our local areas stopping to observe the two minutes silence to remember all those who lost their lives in both World Wars and other conflicts.

After a good clean at the War memorial by St Mary's Church, wreaths of poppies were laid on Armistice Day at 11 am. These wreaths were laid on behalf of the Parochial Church Council of St Mary's Church, the Parish Council and also Collingbourne C of E School.

The service of Remembrance took place the following day at St Andrew's Church, Collingbourne Ducis conducted by Reverend Jo Reid and was well attended by local residents from the Collingbournes and Everleigh. There were sixty people in attendance.

We are now into December with preparations for Christmas well under way as we prepare to celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus on Christmas Day. Collingbourne School will be celebrating with their Carol Service taking place at 2 pm in the church on Wednesday 20th December. St Mary's will be holding their candlelit Carol Service on 22nd December at 6.30 pm.

The PCC of St Mary's would like to take this opportunity of thanking the flower ladies for the wonderful pedestal arrangements that are regularly displayed in the church throughout the year. Thank you for the extra time involved by the ladies to make the church look so beautiful at Easter, Harvest and Christmas festivals.

Thanks are also passed onto others who are involved in the 'behind the scenes' running of St Mary's throughout the year.

Wishing everyone a peaceful, enjoyable and relaxing Christmas and New Year.

The service times for December and January are located at the back of this magazine. The service times are displayed on the church notice board weekly.

The Collingbournes, Chute and Everleigh LINK SCHEME

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We help to keep our local community connected to vital services, by linking up volunteer drivers (using their own cars), with local residents.

Help is available for:

- medical and related appointments
- collecting prescriptions
- collecting or taking you shopping
- visiting a friend or relation in hospital

If you have any other needs, or think **LINK** can help you please call our co-ordinator (anytime - always answer phone) on:

01264 850807

Please give as much notice as you can, (at least 48 hours), before your appointment / request.

Volunteers needed

We need more drivers to fulfil the increasing demand from our clients.

Please contact the number above, if you are interested in making a difference in your local community by becoming a volunteer driver, (mileage allowance available).

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St Andrew's Church, Collingbourne Ducis

Churchwarden Tish Leigh (01264 850867) writes:



The countdown to Christmas is underway now. In the Christian Church Advent is a time of longing, hoping, waiting and preparation for the celebration of the birth of Jesus on Christmas Day.

As promised, I can now report that the total profit made from our Harvest Supper held in October was £345.93 A super amount that will be a much- needed boost to church funds. Many thanks again to everyone who helped to provide the food and helped in any way and to all those who came and helped make it such an enjoyable evening.

On Friday 10th November a Remembrance Service was held at the War Memorial in Collingbourne Ducis, with children from the school. Three children read the names of the men from Everleigh and the Collingbournes, who gave their lives during both World Wars. The children's quiet, respectful behaviour during the two-minute silence was as impressive as ever.

Starting on Monday 4th December, and for the following two Mondays, Collingbourne Primary school will have their Advent services in church starting at 9.15 pm. Their fourth Advent service will be held on Wednesday 20th December at 9.30 am, after which the school will walk over to Court Farm to receive their traditional annual bun and penny from the Gordon family. You are welcome to join us for all or any of the Advent services.

If you would like to join in the preparations for Christmas in the church, please join us on Saturday 16th December from 10 am – 12

noon, when we will be decorating the church with greenery and candles. We will also be decorating our Christmas tree.

We will be holding our Carols by Candlelight service on Monday 18th December starting at 6.30 pm. Join us for this special service, which will be a wonderful way to begin your Christmas and stay afterwards for a chat, mulled wine, and mince pies.

On Thursday 21st December, the Phoenix Brass band will provide music for 'Brass and Carols' at the Tipple Inn, starting at 7.30 pm. A cash collection will be made which is donated to the band as thanks for their entertainment! Come along and get in the Christmas spirit by singing your favourite carols, while enjoying mulled wine and mince pies. We will be outside, so wrap up warm and bring umbrellas if necessary – and please remember to bring some cash for the band.

On Saturday 23rd December from 10 am until 12 noon in the church, we will be making eighty or so Christingles; extra pairs of hands joining the production line would be very welcome. Refreshments will be provided. Our annual 'Come to Bethlehem' and Christingle service will take place starting at 3 pm on Christmas Eve. This service has become a traditional part of the Christmas celebrations in the Collingbournes and Everleigh. Whether you are one or one hundred years old or any age in between, come along and join in the fun. Come dressed as a shepherd, an angel, a wise person, a traveller or inhabitant of Bethlehem, a sheep or even a donkey! Join in to help tell the story of the first Christmas, no previous acting experience, or rehearsals necessary, just a sense of fun. This service is also followed by festive refreshments. All donations at this service go to the Children's Society.

On Christmas Day there will be a Family Service of Holy Communion at 9.15 am. If you come to this service, please bring, or wear a Christmas present which you would be happy to talk to everyone about.

As you can see, there are a lot of events planned for the Advent and Christmas season, so please make sure to take note of all the dates for the various events and services. Pin up the enclosed flyer with details of all the events and services. It will be wonderful to see 'old' and new faces at all or any of our services during the Christmas Season.

At this special time of year, let us try to remember why we celebrate this 'most wonderful time of the year'. After all, Jesus is the reason for the season! So please do join us, your church family, at the festive services. We would love to see you there and celebrate with you the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. Hopefully, the church bells will have been repaired and re-installed in time for Christmas. It will be wonderful to hear them ringing again – hopefully at some point during the Christmas Season.

I am expecting the turret clock and clock face to have been dismantled and removed from the church before Christmas. Repairing and restoring both is a skilled and intricate job, so it maybe some time before the clock and clock face are reassembled and restored to the church. As with everything these days, the cost of both the repairs to the bells and the clock have increased from their original quotations.

Addresses for the village websites:

CD:	**www.collingbourne-ducis.com**
CK:	**www.collingbournekingston.org.uk**
Everleigh:	**www.everleigh.org**

We have been offered grants towards these projects: however, the additional costs will mean that the PCC bank account will be virtually empty. We would be very grateful for any donations at the Carol Service and on Christmas Day to help pay for the repairs and maintenance of the church going forward. If you will not be in church during the Christmas period but would like to make a donation you can donate on St Andrew's Just Giving page at: **https://www.justgiving.com/standrews-collingbourneducis.**

Looking forward to the New Year, the PCC are already beginning to plan fundraising events to happen during 2024, to help towards replenishing PCC funds. As this is the final report of 2023, the PCC and I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has helped in church during the past year: setting up services, reading a lesson, being a DJ, serving refreshments, arranging flowers, cleaning the church, tidying the churchyard etc. Your help is invaluable and very much appreciated.

Finally, the PCC wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy and peaceful New Year.

The Courier Team
wishes all our readers
a Merry Christmas and
a Happy New Year

St Andrew's Church, Collingbourne Ducis

Services in December 2023

Sunday 3rd December	Evensong 6 pm
Sunday 10th December	Holy Communion 9 am
Sunday 17th December	Family Service 11 am
Monday 18th December	Candlelit Carol Service 6.30 pm
Christmas Eve (Sunday)	Come to Bethlehem 3 pm
Christmas Day (Monday)	Family Holy Communion at 9.15 am
Sunday 31st December	Team Service of Holy Communion 11 am

Services in January 2024

Sunday 7th January	Evensong 6 pm
Sunday 14th January	Holy Communion 9 am
Sunday 21st January	Family Service 11 am
Sunday 28th January	Holy Communion 11 am

St Peter's Church, Everleigh

Saturday 9th December	Carol Service 5 pm

St Mary's Church, Collingbourne Kingston

Services for December 2023

Sunday 3rd December	9 am Holy Communion
Sunday 10th December	11 am Holy Communion
Sunday 17th December	6 pm Evensong
Wednesday 20th December	2 pm School Carol Service
Friday 22nd December	6.30 pm Carol Service
Sunday 24th December Christmas Eve	11.30 pm Midnight Communion
Sunday 31st December	11 am Team Service at St Andrew's, Collingbourne Ducis

Services for January 2024

Sunday 7th January	9 am Holy Communion
Sunday 14th January	11 am Holy Communion
Sunday 21st January	9.30 am Holy Communion
Sunday 28th January	6 pm Evensong

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