

# COLLIER STREET NEWS

APRIL/MAY 2025



## THIS ISSUE:

Words from Father Paul  
and Justin Elks

Ramblings

Parish Council Minutes

Woodpeckers

School Report

Jacqui Bakes

Hello from Katie Lam MP

History Society

Poem by Skye

# COLLIER STREET

## PAPER DELIVERY

There is a paper delivery service to the village at around 6am every morning. It is supplied by Jackie's News Limited based in Tenterden, they can be contacted on 01580 763183. Cost of delivery is £3.51 a week.

## Waste and Recycling Service

From Monday 25th March, Maidstone Council has made changes to some waste and recycling collections and your bin day may have altered.

Collection weeks may have altered too.

For more information, please visit 'bins and recycling' on the MBC website.

[www.maidstone.gov.uk](http://www.maidstone.gov.uk)

## CUTE PET OF THE MONTH - AMBER



## Defibrillators

There are defibrillators available at St Margaret's Church, Collier Street and The Woolpack, Benover Road. These are life saving devices so it is important that as many people as possible are able to use them.

Defibrillator training is available for anyone to undertake via the website below:

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



## Village What's App Information Group



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

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

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

### Terms and Conditions

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

**COPY DEADLINE 20TH OF THE MONTH**

# Medieval Fayre 12th April 11.00—16.00

Brenchley Gardens, St Faith's Street, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1LH

Come and meet a host of re-enactors who will bring traditional crafts and skills to life with talks and demonstrations including spinning, woodworking and calligraphy, as well as a barber surgeon and a blacksmith working at his forge.

Discover more about medieval crime and punishment or learn about childhood toys and games, then meet the beautiful owls and birds of prey from Kent Owl Academy, before undertaking some Knight and Princess training!

Entry is FREE and, with something for all the family, it makes a great day out.



## CONTACT DETAILS FOR OUR MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

Please contact her if you have any issues:

[katie.lam.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:katie.lam.mp@parliament.uk)

01580 388 344

## FLY TIPPING AND POTHoles

Did you know that anyone can report pot holes or fly tipping in the village.

Please go to the Maidstone Borough Council website and click on the "Report It" tab.



## **We're not worthy**

On a rainy Sunday afternoon a few weeks ago, I sat down to watch the 1992 US comedy film "Wayne's World" for the first time in a while. One scene stood out for me. Our heroes Wayne and Garth have been given all access tickets to an Alice Cooper concert in Milwaukee. They are confronted by their hero Alice Cooper. Alice asks Wayne and Garth to hang out with him and the band. Wayne and Garth drop to their knees and bow down, repeatedly saying "We're not worthy! we're not worthy!".

Alice Cooper and his band aren't what they expect – they were probably expecting partying and rock 'n' roll decadence. Perhaps they also expected Alice and his band to treat them with contempt - as unworthy fans, and not at the same level, as inferior. However, they treated them as equals, as fellow travellers in life, as neighbours.

While I think we all like to think of our society as being one where all people are equal, that's not always how people behave towards their neighbours. I have had and heard of encounters with celebrities and even people in the Church, who perhaps can politely be said to have had a very exalted sense of their own importance. A number of recent disgraces in public life have illustrated how bad behaviour is often tolerated or even facilitated by others.

There are many examples in the Bible where prophets and disciples are struck with the contrast between their position and that of God and feel unworthy. For example, Isaiah (6:1-8) sees God in all his glory, and he feels the contrast with his own position, his uncleanness. He feels like he is not worthy.

Similarly, in Luke's Gospel (5:1-11) Simon (Peter) sees Jesus perform a miracle and realises his lack of significance compared to Jesus' ministry. He knew Jesus had healed the sick and driven out demons. He too feels like he is not worthy. He is amazed that Jesus cares about his day-to-day struggles and understands his everyday needs. In this story, Jesus meets the disciples at their level, in their lives and their work. Having been met this way, they leave their nets and remain with him, leaving their past lives behind.

The ending of the "Wayne's World" film is unusual. Dissatisfied with the lack of a happy ending, Wayne and Garth turn to the film's audience and restart the film several times, ultimately finishing with a "mega happy ending". Cassandra successfully signs a record contract and rekindles her relationship with Wayne. A reformed Benjamin learns that money and good looks do not necessarily bring happiness.

None of us are worthy – not politicians, bishops, celebrities or even residents of Yalding, Laddingford, and Collier Street. We're not worthy of God's love of us, we're not worthy of Jesus's sacrifice for us. All of us need God's forgiveness, mercy and help in our lives. Just like Wayne and Garth at the end of Wayne's World, Jesus reaches into our everyday lives, cares about the ending and has the power to change the script of our lives.

The seasonal spiritual message of sacrifice and resurrection reminds us that we are both loved and forgiven and that the power of that love is greater even than death. The script has already been changed – it's up to us to act out the ending. Happy Easter!

Justin Elks

Licensed Lay Minister

**“The Lord sustains them on their sickbed and restores them from their bed of illness.” (Psalm 41:3)**

Wherever I have been this last Winter, people seem to be suffering from some sort of virus. “There’s a lot of it about,” they say. Conversations about the weather are eclipsed by conversations about general health and the degree of suffering in between a light case of the sniffles and full-blown man ‘flu, often with demonstrations for more effective communication in word and infection.

Jesus spent a lot of time healing people, something for which they were doubtless grateful – not just the headline cases of those who were able to see and walk again (e.g. Matthew 21:14) or released from the grip of mental health crises (e.g. Luke 4:35), but probably also a lot of more minor but nonetheless debilitating physical failings (e.g. Matthew 4:23).

In this ministry, sickness is often used as a metaphor for sin (e.g. Mark 2 or John 9) a reminder of unseen internal malaise to go with the obvious external symptoms, though a distinction is always drawn – sickness is not caused by sin, only indicative of our wider need for healing within as well as without. And curing is not necessarily the same thing as healing. Taking away the symptoms may not necessarily make us at peace with the underlying cause, which is, of course, mortality, amounting to all our imperfections in body and soul.

Now we enter into the season of Lent in anticipation of and preparation for the great festival of the Resurrection at Easter. Lent is a time for internal reflection and personal repentance to accompany the coughs and sneezes, each one a reminder that we cannot heal ourselves of either physical or spiritual affliction, and that treating symptoms is not a permanent solution.

Best advice? Meet people in well-ventilated spaces, wash our hands often, stay at home when we are ill to avoid spreading the germs, and recognise that we are not perfect. It is the recognition of vulnerability which causes us to seek greater strength and protection, as it is the recognition of personal shortcomings that causes us to seek forgiveness, and therein lies our true strength when we see that we need help and are willing to accept it.

We might go to the doctor or the chemist for remedies, but we need also to pray - either to worship with others or to spend some quiet time with God. When we open our eyes to the need for healing then we open our hearts to the Love of God shown in the events of Holy Week and the glory of the Resurrection, and our lives can be transformed through the power of Redemption in the sacrifice of Jesus in the Cross.

That way, Winter leads into Spring as Lent leads into Easter, from darkness to light, from sin to forgiveness, and from death to life. There’s a lot of it about.

**“That is why for Christ’s sake I delight in weaknesses ... for when I am weak, then I am strong.” (2 Corinthians 12:10)**

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "St. Paul". The script is cursive and somewhat stylized, with a large initial 'P'.



# Collier Street Pop-In Get Together 2025

## St Margaret's Church

Margaret, Jacki, Christine, Jo and Lorna  
invite you to come along and enjoy: home-made cakes and savouries, friendly company and a raffle.

2 - 4pm the second Wednesday of the month:

The dates for this year are:

9th April, 14th May,  
11th June, 9th July, 13th August,  
10th September, 8th October, 1  
2th November and 10th December  
Come and join us

### I AM THE BOY

By Skye Davis

I am the boy who  
Dances with the wind's whispers  
Freedom in my steps

I am the boy who  
Paints dreams with colours unseen  
Imagination

I am the boy who  
Finds solace in nature's arms  
Earth's gentle embrace

I am the boy who  
Sings songs of hope and laughter  
Melodies of joy

I am the boy who  
Chases stars across the sky  
Dreamer of the night

I am the boy who  
Seeks love in every heartbeat  
Heart full of passion

I am the boy who  
Walks the path of endless dreams  
Future yet unwritten

<i><b>Yalding Garden Society 2025/6 Diary</b></i>	
<i><b>Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> May</b></i>	<i><b>Visit to Hyde Hall by Coach</b></i>
<i><b>Monday 9<sup>th</sup> June</b></i> <i><b>5.30 to 8pm</b></i>	<i><b>Summer Picnic</b></i>
<i><b>Monday 7<sup>th</sup> July</b></i> <i><b>2.30</b></i>	<i><b>Summer Outing-</b></i>
<i><b>Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> August</b></i>	<i><b>Autumn Show</b></i>
<i><b>Friday 5<sup>th</sup> September</b></i>	<i><b>Outing to Restoration Garden,</b></i>
<i><b>Monday 6<sup>th</sup> October</b></i>	<i><b>Talk</b></i>
<i><b>Monday</b></i>	<i><b>Talk</b></i>
<i><b>2026</b></i>	
<i><b>Monday 1<sup>st</sup> December</b></i>	<i><b>Christmas Party and Quiz</b></i>
<i><b>Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> February</b></i>	<i><b>Talk</b></i>
<i><b>Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March</b></i>	<i><b>AGM</b></i>

### **COLLIER STREET SIGN**

In 2009 the Collier Street Sign at the junction of Haviker Street was put up by John Collins and Brian Morrison. The idea came one Friday night whilst we were having our normal drink at the Woolpack. John had a piece of wood which was ideal for the sign, another friend offered to cut it to shape and supply the wording.

Unfortunately, the sign was knocked down by a car ploughing into the triangle and crashing into the tree last year. It was recovered by our neighbour, John Mitchell, who cleaned it up and varnished it ready to go back in place. This was done by Michele and myself in early March. Brian Morrison



Brian and John in 2009



The restored sign

# YALDING EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

## GRANTS AVAILABLE TO LOCAL ORGANISATIONS

The Yalding Educational Foundation is a charity of long standing whose roots go back the 1880's. The general aim of the Foundation is to benefit the education and development of the children of the parish [basically the area of Yalding, Laddingford and Collier Street].

Over the years this has been achieved in many and various ways. Some of the initiatives that the Foundation supports in trying to achieve this at present include:

- ~ gives annual scholarships to university students who attended local primary schools.
- ~awards grants to local Primary schools for an annual cultural/educational trip or event.
- ~awards grants to the youth sections of local sports clubs to help with the training of young coaches and officials.
- ~organises a spoken English competition in local Primary schools.

Currently the Foundation has some funds available upon application for organisations in Yalding, Laddingford and Collier Street that assist in the education and development of children in its broadest sense who are aged 18 and under. The maximum value of each grant is up to £2000. Organisations that apply must be non profit making.

Letters of application must include the following information:

- ~name of organisation.
- ~contact details of organisation.
- ~purpose of organisation.
- ~some idea of number of children involved and how often.
- ~what the grant would be used for.
- ~of what benefit it would be to the children.

Application letters should be no more than two sides of A4 paper and sent to the Clerk to the Foundation at:

Gary Atkins  
Clerk to the Foundation  
Hawthorns  
Laddingford  
Kent ME18 6BP

If applicants would like more information or wish to discuss their application please feel free to contact the clerk on 01622 873140.

The next meeting of the Trustees is in late June where the applications will be discussed. The closing date for applications is Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2025.



**YALDING POST OFFICE - MOST LOVED POST OFFICE IN KENT 2016 /17/18/19/20/21/22/23/24/25**  
**OUR PRODUCTS, LOCALLY SOURCED, LOCALLY SOLD**  
**APRIL 2025**

**Moneygram.** The Moneygram service from Post Offices has been discontinued. The alternative Western Union money transfer service is from Robert Dyas in Maidstone.

**Bakery price rises.** Unfortunately, due to the impending National Insurance and minimum wage increases Cranbrook Bakery have raised their prices. New prices for our customers started in mid-March.

**Royal Mail Price Rises from 7<sup>th</sup> April.** Sadly, yet another price rise from Royal Mail. First class stamp up from £1.65 to £1.70...Second class stamp up from 85p to 87p and international letter stamp up from £2.80 to £3.20. Most other services will also cost more. Many services will also face another price rise later in the year. If only the quality of the service rose proportionately to the prices?

**Easter Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> April...we will be closed that day.** Closed from 18<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> April.

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

**Shop & Local Produce.** Cranbrook bakery items on sale every day. Orders taken. Sourdough bread available by special order...**Croissants, Pain Au Chocolate and Pain Au Raisin available Saturdays only.** Cold drinks, unique greetings cards by local artists, Yalding honey, Joan's jams. Bit Spicy curry mixes, stationery, Yalding mugs, fresh eggs, (from genuinely free-range local chickens), Loddington Farm fruit juices & Oakapple Farm fresh produce – all in stock now. The Emporium is open every day and our stock is regularly restocked and refreshed by our ever-increasing army of local crafts persons.

New stamps set this month is the **Myths and Legends** Collection Other Philately products in stock or can be ordered on request

**Foreign Currencies.** We maintain a stock of Euros and US Dollars... POL have informed us that credit on Travel Money Cards can be encashed at all branches in UK currency.

Your Post Office offers free cash withdrawals with most debit cards, pay bills, top up gas and electricity cards and keys, pay in cheques and cash to most banks using your debit card. We do phone Top-Ups... And, of course...we sell stamps and send parcels and letters all over the world. A list of nations that cannot accept mail at this time is on the Royal Mail website. **Mail to Russia, Ukraine and Syria are currently subject to restrictions**

Our opening hours are 9.00am to 1.00pm. 2.00pm to 5.30pm. Closed on Sundays.

Early closing on Wednesdays and Saturdays  
(12.30pm Saturdays). Telephone...01622  
814327.

Hello! I'm Katie, and I'm now the Member of Parliament here in the Weald of Kent. I represent our area in the House of Commons, acting and advocating on behalf of all my constituents. I'll be writing in here every now and then to keep everyone in Collier Street up to date with what I'm working on.



Right now, I'm very focused on transport. As you'll know, getting around our beautiful rural home isn't always easy. All too often our roads and pavements are closed for works, or there are big lorries on inappropriate country lanes, or there's no longer a bus route where we need it. We rely on the roads to get to work, school, the shops, GP appointments, to see friends and family — everything! The state of our roads and our bus services is fundamental to how well we can live our lives.

But the problems we have seem to be sidelined in Westminster. This is a very urban Government and urban Cabinet, and when I see taxes on farmers and millions of pounds being given to big city councils, I worry that the countryside just isn't that important to them. We deserve better.

That's why I've joined the Transport Select Committee — a cross-party group of MPs in Parliament who work to scrutinise the Department for Transport and all sorts of other relevant bodies and organisations. I successfully pushed for the Committee's first enquiries to be on bus services in rural areas, and "street works" (when utilities companies dig up the roads) and the disruption they cause.

I want to know exactly how people find the roads and buses — and anything else transport-related — around here to inform my work in these inquiries and beyond. So I'm sending out a survey to every home, asking your thoughts on local transport. You can fill it out and post it back to me when it arrives through your door, or complete it online using the QR code below (or by going to [www.katieforkent.com/transportsurvey2025](http://www.katieforkent.com/transportsurvey2025)). It only takes 5 minutes!

I'm looking forward to hearing from you and reading your survey responses. If there's anything else you'd like to speak with me about, don't hesitate to get in touch. You can email me at [katie.lam.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:katie.lam.mp@parliament.uk), or speak to me on 01580 388344).



## A BIG THANK YOU

Thank you everyone who helped with the village clean up. What a great effort by so many people. We are all so pleased with the results, all the roads look so clean. I know so many people go out all year picking up the litter, which is wonderful. I am sure that Maidstone Borough Council is grateful for all our hard work. To add to the normal rubbish, this year we had at least four loads of rubbish dumped across Longends Lane, Haviker Street, Forge Lane and the triangle at the end of Jarmons Lane. This regular occurrence causes a problem for cars and lorries. The Council did eventually clear it all away, only to be replaced by yet more fly tipping.

Once again, thank you to all those who helped with the clean up:

Nichola and John, Roger Hart, John Gillard, Brian and Vicky George, Michelle Morrison, Jacki Fogg, Malcolm Tickner, Maureen and Richard Barrett, Sue and her husband, David Goff, Chris and Pauline Bailey, Mandy and Kevin Stewart, Zsa Moncreiff, Steve Barham, Dawn, Charles and Carly Read, Gay Jenner, Teresa Dobin, Erica, Margaret and Stephane MacKay, Dave Sealey, Jane and Clive Richardson and Lorna Fidgeon. Apologies if I have missed anyone!

A special than you to Jack Highwood who collected all the bags from the side of the road ready for collection by the Council.

Margaret Ashworth

**P.S. from the editors: Thank you Margaret for arranging and co-ordinating this annual event.**



The Longends Lane clean-up team



Fly tipping in Longends Lane



## School Report

### Spirituality Day

On Friday 14<sup>th</sup> March, St Margaret's held a Spirituality Day. Each class enjoyed a variety of activities from mindfulness to listening to soothing music and watching amazing scenes from nature. Below is a taster of what each class did!

#### Discovery Class:

We began the day by exploring the idea of spirituality through video clips, images and discussion. The children wrote definitions. *"I think spirituality sets you free. It's like you're open to a whole new world. It gives you a chance to show who you really are. It gives you a chance to bond with nature."* Joseph

After that, we practiced mindfulness in the Spiritual Garden by focusing on a chocolate button slowly melting in our mouths. Needless to say – some lasted a lot longer than others! Back in the classroom, we studied the impact of plastic pollution on sea turtles. Our 'window' moment was appreciating the beauty of nature, but also sadness due to the negative impact of humans. Our 'mirror' moment allowed us to reflect on how we felt about that, and finally our 'door' moment was what action we want to take to address the problem and make a difference. *"I enjoyed the day and I learnt a lot more about spirituality."* Josh



#### Pippin Class



Pippin class had a wonderful day exploring the term 'spirituality' and what it means. We began the day sorting the physical things, for example material possessions from the spiritual things, for example happiness and calm.

*"Spiritual things are in our heart"*. Alex

*"Spiritual things are important in life. Material things we can live without."* Lillie

The children then looked at variety of pictures of nature that amazed and filled them with wonder – 'Window Moments'. Carefully they sketched their favourite nature picture using a window frame border.

Our Mirror Moments were looking at ourselves and reflecting how we wish to behave, and finally our 'Door Moments' were reflecting on ways we embrace the new opportunities we face and how we make contributions to others by helping people, fundraising and changing our behaviour. For example, buying Fair Trade goods, supporting Comic Relief and raising money for solar panels.





### Russet class



Russet Class started off the day looking at mirrors. We read a book called 'In You I can See' that looked at all the different things that make us unique. We then made sun flowers with our face in the middle and wrote words about what makes me who I am.

Then we went into the Spiritual Garden experienced the world around us and listened to the song/story, 'It's a wonderful world'. We came back to class and talked about the wonders of the world and what we might see from a window looking out. We painted part of our wonderful world.

After lunch we had a yoga session and then thought about how we can step through a door and make the world a better place. How can we change it? Our activity was focused on our wider school and how we could make it even better. We carried out some jobs including litter picking, sweeping and tidying in our outdoor space and the wider school.

### Bramley Class:

We read 'The Invisible' by Tom Percival and discussed the key themes and messages of the story. We reflected on our own experiences of feeling lonely and invisible. We thought about how being lonely made us feel, this helped us to have empathy with the character in the book.

Some of our reflections:

*"I think we should help someone if they are lonely by asking them what they would like to play."* Brooke

*"This story has made me think about how important my actions are. We could give food to the homeless, say 'good morning', smile or donate money to charities."* Felicity

*"It is important to play with a range of people and ensure no one is left out."* Flavia

Bramley Class also enjoyed time exploring the Spiritual Garden. We used our senses to connect with nature. It was lovely to feel the warmth of the sun on our faces and to spend time noticing the beauty of the surrounding garden.



### Worship

Our day ended in Worship Time, where we celebrated what an enriching day we had shared!







## Woodpeckers— Leaves Everywhere

The February gathering saw a concerted effort in raking up the last of the fallen leaves, which proved to be quite a task as they were very wet and starting to decompose.

Stephane and David Goff were away sunning themselves in the Caribbean so David Head took the lead and everyone rallied and did an excellent job.

Anthony and Astrid Robson joined the group for the first time and returned in March, which was great.

March was much more relaxed with not too much being required. But the grass was mown, paths swept, weeds sprayed and flower beds dug over. Such a good job was done by so many that we went home after our refreshments.

As usual, tea and coffee was provided and delicious cakes and savouries had been made and were enjoyed. A great amount of chatter and laughter could be heard as everyone relaxed and enjoyed their refreshments.

We hope you all agree that the church yard always looks very neat and well kept so a big thank you to everyone who gives up two hours each month to keep it looking that way.

Woodpeckers is not just about keeping the church yard tidy but also a social gathering. Two social events are always arranged every year, organised by Stephane and Margaret MacKay, for which we are all grateful.

Why not come and join us?

The next sessions will be 10.00—12.00 on Saturday 5th April and 3rd May. You would be warmly welcomed.





Powering Brighter Futures



# ST MARGARET'S COLLIER STREET SCHOOL



Help us  
**GO SOLAR!**

Donate from  
24th March



Look us up on the  
**Aviva Community Fund!**

**Goal**  
**£25,000**



**Matched**  
**donations**  
**for 6 weeks**

**St Margaret's Collier Street School, Collier Street, Tonbridge TN12 9RR**

\* Should circumstances beyond our control prevent the solar project from proceeding, all funds raised will be redirected to other FoCSS initiatives, in line with our constitution.\*



## COLLIER STREET LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

### BEFORE THE FEW

On Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February, we hosted the very first screening of Phillip Day's latest film in his THE FIELDS AND THEIR SECRETS collection. St Margaret's Church was filled with around 200 visitors to see a 90-minute documentary about three young airmen:

George Arthur Patrick Manwaring, Ian MacPhail and David Beatty Murphy.

George was baptised in the same church and grew up in Collier Street. Ian came from Ramsgate and David hailed from Belfast. Together, they were the crew of a Bristol Blenheim of 235 Squadron. Piloted by George, it took off from Detling on 29 May 1940 and was shot down over the Channel later that day. All three men were declared missing, which gave their families hope that they may return or be reported as POWs.

Sadly, their bodies were recovered in the coming days and weeks. Each of them has a Commonwealth War Grave; George and David at Sage War Cemetery in Germany; Ian in Ramsgate. George's sacrifice is further commemorated on the Second World War Memorial inside St Margaret's and on a family memorial stone in the graveyard to the right of the church entrance.

The film placed their last mission within the context of the war in France up to and including 29 May 1940. They had been sent to assist in defending the British Army on the beaches of Dunkirk on the fourth day of the evacuation. Using archive footage and AI generated images, the action scenes were intense and portrayed the true nature of air combat. More than that, Phillip took us into the world of being a crew member of a Bristol Blenheim. The plane presented the team with challenges enough of its own – and they were then put into combat against Germany's top fighter plane, the Messerschmitt 109.



But we were given so much more than 'just' a war story. Thanks to intensive research, a feature of all Phillip's films in this collection, we 'met' George first as a youth, then a young man and a husband. Access to family photographs, letters and other documents (including the 'Missing In Action' telegram) brought 'Wiggs' and Zena into sharp focus as actual people. The same treatment was given to Ian and David, though far less material has been discovered relating to them. At the film's end, the silence and subsequent applause from all corners of the building recognised their combined sacrifices and Phillip's extraordinary ability to bring the facts to life.

The result was that, nearly 85 years after their deaths, three names on war graves and flight records became real to the audience. That achievement was made more poignant by our being honoured to welcome more than twenty descendants of George Manwaring and Ian MacPhail to this first showing of the film. We were very pleased that they were able to make the trip from various parts of Kent and South London to our village to witness this tribute to their family members.

Donations amounting to over £600 show how well attended the event was. It will also help with the upkeep of the Church. For the members of CSLHS, to still be there an hour after the film ended, talking to people about their family connections to the film and Collier Street was an extra treat.

Now we start planning **our Autumn event** in more detail:

**An Exhibition dedicated to Collier Street School since it opened in 1858:**

**Date to be announced.**

And please do remember all contributions of your memories of anything Collier Street related will be gratefully received. No memory you are able to share is too small or trivial in our eyes. It's from them that we can help bring more of the past to life in the future.

collierstreetlhs@gmail.com

# Jacqui Bakes

## Cheesy Apple Scones

Last week I was mowing the lawn in short sleeves, this week I'm doubling up on socks! I found this little gem of a recipe in the Waitrose magazine, one of my all time savoury treats, warm cheese scones with sea salted butter, I grate a little Gruyere cheese on top (I am a cheese monster) also enjoyed with some homemade chutney. Sun is shining this morning but there's a chilly wind.

### Ingredients

250g plain flour, plus extra for dusting  
1 tbsp baking powder  
1 tsp sea salt flakes  
120g mature cheddar, cubed into 1cm pieces  
1 apple, peeled cored, cubed into 1cm pieces  
120g butter  
100ml buttermilk  
20g Dijon mustard  
Gruyère cheese grated (optional)

### Method

Line a large baking sheet, mix flour, baking powder & salt. Add cheddar & apple, toss to coat.  
Grate the butter into the bowl & coat with the flour mixture.  
Whisk the buttermilk & mustard together in a jug.  
Pour into the flour mixture, stir & knead briefly until mixture forms a dough.  
Turn the dough out onto a floured surface, Pat into an 18cm circle about 3cm deep.  
Divide into 6 even wedges. Place on baking sheet, chill for 20mins.  
Preheat oven to 200 degrees. Brush scones with buttermilk, sprinkle with grated Gruyère if using, bake for about 22 mins, until golden & cooked through.  
Cool for 5 mins, allow to cool on a wire rack or enjoy warm, with sea salted butter.

Enjoy!



## Collier Street Ramblings : 'The Red Deer'.

I was pleased to see that a deer stag and a few does were seen in the fields around Haviker Street and I became curious about the UK's deer population. It was quite surprising to find that there are six different deer species now populating parts of the UK, they are: Chinese Water Deer, Fallow Deer, Muntjac Deer, Red Deer, Roe Deer and Sika Deer. They make a useful contribution to the UK's bio diversity.

The Chinese Water Deer are mainly in Cambridgeshire, Norfolk and Bedfordshire where they find their favoured habitat of reed beds, river shores, woodlands and fields. They are only about 50cms tall and weigh no more than 18kgs. Their hoof print is only about 4cms long. They have a hard pad in the mouth, instead of a top set of incisors, to tear at the desired vegetation they feed on. It is such a small population they don't really impact on their habitats. They would have arrived in the 1800s from China or Korea after accidental or deliberate releases into the wild.

Fallow Deer are much taller at just under a meter and weigh up to 93kgs. They can be a variety of colours from fawn with white spots to dark brown and even a very pale, almost white. Identification is made easier by a distinctive black horseshoe mark on their rump and a longer tail with a black stripe. Male three to four year old fallow deer will have antlers up to 70cms long and their hoof prints are about 6 cms long. As grazers they tend to eat mainly grasses but they need careful management as they can cause severe damage to young trees and crops. Desired for their venison they are popular for hunting and are likely to have arrived with the Normans in the 10<sup>th</sup> Century. Fallow deer are increasing in population, mainly in England, where they inhabit broadleaved woodland and low vegetation.

Muntjac deer are small, about 40/50cms, but stocky. Russet brown they turn dull grey in winter and are easy to recognise with a rump higher than their shoulders and a wide flat tail. Their hoof prints are only 2.5 cms, although active mainly at dusk or dawn they can be seen throughout the day. They like to eat herbs and shrubs, a diet which could become more problematic if their numbers increase, currently they are more of a concern for road users. Originally in South East Asia, they were brought here by the Duke of Bedford at Woburn Park Bedfordshire in the early 1900s.



Red deer are Britain's largest land mammal, fully grown males (stags) weigh between 90 to 190kg and stand at up to 1.37m tall at the shoulder. The Red deer living in open upland habitats tend to be smaller than those living in more wooded lowland areas. Red deer are a rusty red colour turning to a brown winter coat and only the young are spotted. A 'stag's' antlers are highly branched with multiple points on each antler. The antlers are cast during March/April and begin to regrow to be fully formed and clear of velvet in August/September. Red deer hoof prints are large measuring 8-9 cm in length. Similar to Fallow Deer they prefer grazing on grasses and dwarf shrubs associated with moorland such as heather. Red deer stalking is now an important commercial business which also keeps the population manageable while ensuring they

remain healthy. Red deer can cause problems for forestry and agricultural crops but produce good venison and are kept as ornamental animals in historic parkland landscapes. They are mainly found in Scotland, the Lake District and Exmoor having migrated to Britain from mainland Europe some 11,000 years ago.

Roe deer are pretty medium sized deer about 0.60 to 0.75m tall at the shoulder weighing up to 25kg. They vary in coat colour throughout the year, bright rusty red in summer to dull grey in winter. They have a prominent white rump and no tail, but females have a tuft of hair during the winter. Their antlers are heavily textured with lots of nodules. Their hoof prints are 4cms long and they enjoy herbs, cereals, hedgerow plants, heather, and young trees as well as some garden plants. Like other small deer they have an upper hard pad to tear the vegetation instead of teeth. They can damage plants in their grazing areas but are another popular source of venison. Records of them date back to before the Mesolithic period (6000 to 10000 years BC). Roe deer are particularly associated with the edges of woodlands and forests. Although less common in the Midlands they are to be found all over Britain in areas with copses, scrub and hedgerows and agricultural fields. However, they are increasingly entering areas closer to our towns and cities as they take advantage of more urban habitats.

Sika deer are a medium to large sized deer that stand up to 0.95m tall and can weigh up to 70 kgs. They look similar to Fallow deer in colour varying from pale yellow/brown through to red/brown with white spots in the summer months to dark grey and black in the winter. Often they have a distinct dark coloured stripe running the length of the back. There are noticeable white glands on the hind legs and a white rump. They have a maximum 8 points on their antlers. At 7cms long the tracks are similar to the Red Deer but are narrower. Sika deer are grazers preferring grasses, and dwarf shrubs such as heather, sometimes tree shoots and bark tearing at the vegetation with the upper hard pad in the mouth. Originally from Japan they were introduced to Brownsea Island off the Dorset coast in 1860, as well as into parks and collections across the country from which many escaped. They are mainly found in Scotland.



**MINUTES PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF, COLLIER STREET PARISH COUNCIL**  
Orchard Room, St Margaret's School , Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> MARCH 2025 commencing at 19.00PM

In attendance

Cllr Andrew Papas [AP] Chair	Parish Clerk – Michelle Rumble [MR]
Cllr Jack Highwood [JH] Vice-chair arrived at 19.15pm	
Cllr Deborah Papas [DP]	Borough Councillor – Claudine Russell [CR]
Cllr Charlie Cooper [CC]	Borough Councillor – Mike Summersgill [MS]
Cllr Kelly Rigden [KR]	Borough Councillor – Grace Couch [GC] left the meeting at 19.30pm

**APOLOGIES** County Councillor Lottie Parfitt-Reid

**DECLARATION OF INTEREST** There were not any Declarations declared in any item on the agenda

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 3<sup>RD</sup> FEBRUARY 2025 TO BE APPROVED** It was **RESOLVED** by all members present to accept the minutes as a true and accurate record of the meeting, they were therefore signed by the Chair of the meeting

## **EXTERNAL REPORTS**

**MBC Members Report from Cllr Claudine Russell Dated: March 2025**

### **Budget**

Our budget amendment failed, and we were subjected to calls that we didn't value Violence against women and girls as we sought to remove the money from the citizens assembly. Nothing could be further from the truth; we have other current ways within the council to debate and investigate subjects such as the overview and scrutiny committee, so we didn't see the need for the new citizens assembly at this time as we move forward towards a unitary council.

Car parking charges in Maidstone are set to rise, Mote Park car parking charges will raise by 50%. There will be the creation of a citizen's assembly, and the money put towards the evidence gathering and reports that would be required in order to start thinking about the Leeds Langley Relief Road has been removed from the capital budget. The new Leisure Centre capital budget has been kicked into the long grass and no clear commitment to the rebuild of this facility in Maidstone is now shown

### **Ward Work**

COLLIER STREET – I have been assisting with planning queries and fly tipping reporting

As always, if you need my help, please do not hesitate to email me at [claudinerussell@maidstone.gov.uk](mailto:claudinerussell@maidstone.gov.uk)

### Green Party Councillors' Report of February 2025, for Marden & Yalding Ward Parishes –

In a very busy period within the Borough Council, the Budget for 2025/26 and the new Corporate Strategy were 'signed off' by Full Council on 19<sup>th</sup> Feb, with a debate taking place on three amendments to the Budget (which were not passed). Matters continue being complicated by the new Government, as it seeks to introduce significant Planning changes (with more housing numbers) next month and the 'surprise' news that there would be KCC elections in May. This means that, with election 'purdah', some Borough business has to be completed through Cabinet next month, or it waits until June. Only the monthly Planning Committee and a Scrutiny committee will meet in April.

At Cabinet on 5<sup>th</sup> February, the medium-term financial strategy through to 2030 was discussed, but little other new business; the Cabinet Agenda for 19<sup>th</sup> March is much longer as it is including some items that would have gone through to April. Within that Agenda are Mike's projects on the updated Biodiversity & Climate Change Strategy (now split into two strategies) and an update on Biodiversity Net Gain sites in the Borough; the Decarbonisation project is being costed and reviewed.

With the Budget for 2025/26 now set, there will be new matters coming forward, including a Citizens' Assembly on the topic of Violence against Women & Girls (VAWG), and a Nature Recovery Fund has been set up to improve our green spaces and potentially add new ones. There are already works going on in Jubilee Square in town to improve and 'green up' the environment. Grace has been liaising with Marden Wildlife and Natural England about improving the rural environment too.

## Updates for Newsletters/Sharing with Residents:

Covid Memorial Tree Planting MBC is planting 633 trees on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> March to commemorate the number of people who died across the borough of Maidstone because of Covid, five years ago. The trees will include a combination of Oak, Birch, Hawthorn & Field Maple and will be placed in a variety location across Maidstone including Allington Open Space, where people can visit, stop, remember and take time to reflect on those impacted since the pandemic started. Maidstone residents are being invited to volunteer and take part in the tree planting to be part of the commemoration.

Maidstone's 'Big Day Out' Maidstone Borough Council (MBC) is inviting everyone to get out and enjoy our amazing parks and open spaces, and to be part of the first community-led 'Big Day Out.' Being held on Saturday 14 June 2025, this inaugural one-day festival is celebrating outdoor areas to be found across the borough.

Organisations, local businesses, Parish communities and all the residents of Maidstone are invited to take part in the 2025 festival and register their interest by emailing: [Maidstone@BigDayOut.info](mailto:Maidstone@BigDayOut.info)

To find out more about the Maidstone Big Day Out, to register your event as part of the day and how to take part, please visit the website: <https://bigdayout.info/>

### Parish Matters –

**Collier Street** – nothing to report, apart from noting a couple of new planning appeals in the Parish.

Borough Councillors Grace Couch & Mike Summersgill – 28<sup>th</sup> February 2025

Emails: [michaelsummersgill@maidstone.gov.uk](mailto:michaelsummersgill@maidstone.gov.uk), [gracecouch@maidstone.gov.uk](mailto:gracecouch@maidstone.gov.uk)

**HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS** [DP] The Give way sign opposite the school is down to be re-painted. Also, the repeater signs along Green Lane have also been reported to Highways. Cllr Barham also asked if there was an update on the Longends Lane. [DP] stated that there was no update.

Green Lane will be closed from the 17<sup>th</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup> of March – diversion in place

There were no further reports.

**CIL MONIES**[DP] updated that amount of CIL Monies available is £34,516.31 - £16,132.05 must be spent by 06/11/2025. No income received since the last meeting.

### **RECREATION FIELD & CAR PARK PLAY AREA INSPECTION**

The Clerk forwarded the latest Play Inspection to all Councillors prior to the meeting and discussed the Medium Risk items in the Report.

Cllr Rigden will seek some quotes for the new surface for some of the play equipment and will also look at what Grants might be available for this and report back to the Council.

### **MAINTENANCE AND INSPECTIONS**

Cllr Highwood stated that Adam one of his employees would be interested in attending a Play Equipment Inspection course when it was available. The Play equipment would need to be inspected every week. This item will be added to the next agenda.

### **CAR PARK**

#### **Description of the Works to be carried out by UK Power Networks:**

Installation of a new two or three phase 100-amp underground supply connected from an overhead pole.

Excavation and reinstatement of the trench with new cable installation Unmade.

Excavation and reinstatement of the trench with new cable installation.

Road closure for the duration of work.

The charge for a temporary traffic regulation order (TTRO).

Installation of parking cones for the suspension of areas not officially designated as parking bays.

Notification of work on the highway to neighboring residents

New cable installation within an existing trench.

It was **RESOLVED** by all members present to accept the above work and the quote below. The Clerk will inform the contractor.

For the purposes of the Terms and Conditions the following elements of the Works are "Diversionary Works"	
Total Excluding VAT	£8,743.00
VAT @ 20%	£1,748.60
Total (including VAT)	£10,491.60

**FLOODING UPDATE** [JH] gave an update on Flooding.

Cllr Highwood has been in contact with the Southeast River Trust, and they are in process and working towards restoring ponds and ditches in Collier Street.

The Upper Medway have carried out a lot of work with the ditches in Longends Lane.

USEFUL CONTACT DETAILS			
<b>CHURCH</b>		<b>DOCTORS</b>	
Reverend Paul Kish	01622814182	Burgess Bank Surgery	01622 814380
	<a href="mailto:Vicar@YaldingChurches.co.uk">Vicar@YaldingChurches.co.uk</a>	Marden Medical Centre	01622 831257
Church Warden tbc		<b>PADDOCK WOOD COMMUNITY ADVICE</b>	
Sec to PCC Evie Cummins	<a href="mailto:M.slater@outlook.co.uk">M.slater@outlook.co.uk</a>		01892 838619 info@pwadvice.org
<b>PARISH MAGAZINE</b>		<b>VILLAGE HALLS</b>	
Editors Jacki Fogg	01892 730869	Yalding Village Hall	01622 814163
Emma Howard	<a href="mailto:editorparishmag@mail.com">editorparishmag@mail.com</a>	Youth & Community Centre	01622 815498
Advertising Tracey Bentley	01892 730252	<b>COLLIER STREET PARISH COUNCIL</b>	
		Clerk to the Council Michelle Rumble	07938 511974
<b>VILLAGE HALL</b>		<a href="mailto:Parish.clerk@collierstreetparishcouncil.co.uk">Parish.clerk@collierstreetparishcouncil.co.uk</a>	
Ben Ward Chairman	07976 277189	<p><b>Chair – Andrew Papas</b>  <b>Vice Chair – Jack Highwood</b></p> <p><b>Councillor – Ben Ward</b>  <b>Councillor – Charlie Cooper</b>  <b>Councillor – Deborah Papas</b>  <b>Councillor – Kelly Rigden</b>  <b>Councillor – Steve Barham</b></p> <p><b>All correspondence to be sent to the Parish Clerk:</b></p> <p>Michelle Rumble –  <a href="mailto:parish.clerk@collierstreetparishcouncil.co.uk">parish.clerk@collierstreetparishcouncil.co.uk</a></p> <p>07938 511974</p>	
<b>HELPING HANDS</b>			
Margaret Ashworth (Age Concern Representative)	01892 730323		
<b>SCHOOL</b>			
Headteacher Paul Ryan	01892 730264		
Chairman of Governors Sean Randall	01892 354736/07891 927684		
Friends of Collier Street School			
Chairperson Martha Montagne	<a href="mailto:chair@focss.org.uk">chair@focss.org.uk</a> <a href="mailto:info@focss.org.uk">info@focss.org.uk</a>		
<b>YALDING'S WOMENS' NSTITUTE</b>			
Chairperson Deann Stead	07920 402052		
<b>SCOUTS</b> (Beavers 6-8),0 (Cubs 8-10.5) Scouts (10.4-14) Sandra Grace	01622 200555	21	

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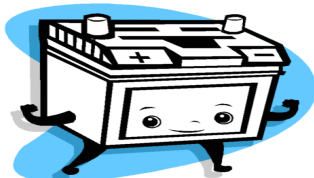
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