

COLLIER STREET NEWS

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2025



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COLLIER STREET

PAPER DELIVERY

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

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

CUTE PET OF THE MONTH - THOR



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

COLLIER STREET PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

All members of the public are welcome to attend and are reminded that this is a Parish Council meeting held in public, not a public meeting.

The meeting will be adjourned to allow members of the public to ask questions. Anyone wishing to address the Council on any subject, should note the following details:

- Any question must be sent as a transcript, at least seven days prior to the meeting, to the Clerk at clerk@collierstreetparishcouncil.gov.uk
- If more than one person wishes to speak about the same item, a spokesperson must be nominated
- All questions should be courteous, and the speaker must not deviate from the subject
- This is an opportunity to ask questions, not to raise complaints against the Council or any Councillor
- Councillors may decide to answer the question at the meeting, or add any item to the agenda of a later Parish Council meeting

CONTACT DETAILS FOR OUR MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

Please contact her if you have any issues:

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.



Love is a lesson

Music plays an important role in our lives, and our memories are often entwined with the songs that accompanied important events. During the Second World War, songs like We'll Meet Again and the White Cliffs of Dover became anthems of hope and resilience for people. These songs then took on a more positive meaning after the end of the war.

A recent Radio 4 series considered the impact songs have on people's lives. One episode, covering the song "May You Never" by John Martyn, had a particular impact on me. There is a great contradiction between the life and work of John Martyn. His music is about love, passion and romance, and he had a love of nature; but his life was chaotic, marred by drunkenness and addiction. He could be nasty, aggressive, violent and coercive.

The song May You Never, his most well-known song, is in part about his damaging behaviour and the impact of it. The chorus lyrics are:

May you never lay your head down without a hand to hold

May you never make your bed out in the cold.

In the radio programme, the song was a thread through a man's relationship with his brother. In trying to not to enable a heroin addiction, he didn't feel able to offer his brother a place to stay. The lyric took on more significance as he worried about him making it through the night.

A mother recalled hearing the song when her baby was born. She fell very ill after the birth and was separated from her baby for close to two months. She felt a wave of relief when she felt the connection and love for her baby, linking her feelings to another repeated lyric:

Love is a lesson to learn in our time.

For the mother, the lesson was that her love for her son couldn't be broken by separation. For the brother, the lesson of love was of loyalty and friendship; when his brother was dying, he made sure his brother had a hand to hold as he passed away.

John Martyn's life was the life of someone who has walked through the darkness, but who sought to keep a focus on love. His song doesn't shy away from the fact that life will be full of difficult times - after all, the song's lyrics talk of being stabbed in the back, and of bar room fights - but holds onto the hope that love and kindness are what are important in the end.

By Jesus's actions on the cross, none of us have to lay our heads down without a hand to hold. We will face difficult times, we will suffer; but our relationship with God can't be broken.

The journeys of the disciples through the New Testament show us people transformed by the love of Jesus. Over time, they learn the lesson of love from Jesus's life and have a profound impact on our world. I hope we too can see love as a lesson to learn in the time we have in our lives. I hope that how Jesus lived his life can help us to grow in love. To focus on how we live and how we behave. To think about the impact we have on the lives of other people, and how this demonstrates the lesson of love we have learnt from Him.

Love is still a lesson we need to learn in our time. I hope, as we celebrate the 80th anniversary of the end of the Second World War, it inspires us to pray and work for peace and goodwill in our communities and in the world.

Justin Elks

Licensed Lay Minister

“My strength was sapped as in the heat of Summer.” (Psalm 32:4)

A few years ago, I returned to West Kent from a holiday in a hot place, to find that the weather was even hotter at home, only without a convenient pool to hand. For a week or so we had a scorcher by day, and sultry hot nights of tossing and turning in the still warm and humid air. Cold drinks and a considered seeking of shade barely saw us through the heatwave, and I resolved to ask Santa for a ceiling fan, which arrived wrapped for Christmas.

An unhurried installation with screwdrivers and smugness led to eager anticipation of a repeat performance the following Summer, and it turned out that the weather was rather more temperate the next year. But there were more Summers to come. In due course, the heat returned, and I was ready for it, sleeping soundly with a cool breeze (and self-satisfaction), dreaming of visits to Miami and Madagascar, memories of Cannes and Colombo.

It's less of a surprise these days when a warming climate gives us hotter weather than we would like. Storms, flash floods, drought, and sunburn are not so much unexpected and extraordinary events, but something of an annual expectation. This is what we have to live with. Get used to it. Get ready. Get a water butt. Get your own fan.

The same might be said for our own social and spiritual lives. In a complex and complicated world, life is not so straightforward as it might have been in previous generations. International news and events come to our doorsteps, communication is instant and extensive, and information is plentiful and not always what it seems to be. It can be difficult to make sense of who we are in the place where we live, and relationships can be hot and testy, even stormy, with little understanding for other people and their own struggles.

Jesus observed this about the people of his day: they could see the signs of changes in the weather (Luke 12:54-55) and they acted accordingly, so they ought to be able to respond appropriately and intelligently to hard times and social unrest instead of just arguing among themselves and blaming each other (Luke 12:58).

Good decisions are essential, and they come from living in harmony with our environment and with our neighbours instead of rash and thoughtless grumbling into our cups of tea and wishing that things were different. Life isn't always easy. It never has been. It's not all holidays by a pool or exotic adventure. Sometimes it's hard work, hot and difficult, and requires of us greater depth of patience than we might be used to.

But there are solutions if we look for them. There are times of quiet and prayer if we seek them. And there is respite from the heat of the day in the shade of a life shared in care and concern for others if we can lift our gaze beyond our own concerns and enjoy the gentle breeze of our collective spiritual flourishing..

The choice is ours (Luke 12:57). Choose well. Enjoy the weather.

“It will be a shelter and shade from the heat of the day, and a refuge and hiding place from the storm and the rain.” (Isaiah 4:6)

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "J. Paul". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.



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 sav-
ouries, 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*

Wanting The Most

The still pond mirrors sky so deep,
A single lily, fast asleep.
I watch it drift, a porcelain boat,
And long for things I cannot quote.

Not gold, nor fame, that burns so
bright,
Nor love's embrace in darkest night.
But silence deep, a hollowed stone,
Where even echo fears to roam.

I crave the void, the absent space,
A washed-out smile upon my face.
To feel no pull, no heavy chain,
No whispered promise, no sharp pain.

The lily sighs, a gentle breeze,
Stirs up the shadows 'neath the trees.
The water shifts, a subtle gleam,
Reflecting back an empty dream.

By Skye Davis

ST MARGARET'S DAY

On July 20th, the congregation from St. Margaret's Horsmonden joined us at Collier Street to celebrate our joint Churches feast day with a service followed by a picnic lunch. Unfortunately the weather meant we had to be inside but everyone still enjoyed themselves with lots of delicious food.



Who Are The Paddock Wood & District Lions?

Ever wondered who brings the community together with the annual Paddock Wood Carnival Weekend, creates Christmas magic with Santa's Sleigh gliding through our streets, or hosts the quirky and fun Duck Race that sees hundreds of little plastic ducks battling it out in a stream? That's us – the Paddock Wood & District Lions!

A group of friendly, local volunteers who are part of the global Lions International network. Our mission? To give back to our community, helping those who need it most, and having fun while doing it.

What We Do: We raise funds that go straight back into the local community. Whether it's supporting the food bank, helping vulnerable individuals who have nowhere else to turn or providing school uniforms for families in need – we're here to make a difference.

How We Work:

Social Events: From bowling nights to barbeques, we believe volunteering should be rewarding – and fun!

Flexible Commitment: Whether you can spare a few hours a month or more, we value any time you can give.

Monthly Meetings: To brainstorm fundraising ideas, discuss local issues, and decide how to distribute funds.

Why Join Us? You'll meet wonderful people, make a real impact in your community, and have lots of fun along the way. Every idea, helping hand, and moment of your time helps us do more for those in need.

We Need You! We're looking for new members, fresh ideas, and extra hands to make even more magic happen. Let's chat over coffee – we'd love to tell you more about what we do and how you can get involved.

Contact us on 0345 833 9564 or enquiries@paddockwoodlions.co.uk to find out how you can make a difference.

Together, we can make our area an even brighter place to live.



The Collier Street Local History Group

Presents:

*A History of
St Margaret's School, Collier Street*

A free exhibition in the School Hall

Saturday 15th and Sunday 16th November

10.00am to 4.00pm

Refreshments available



Drawn by Paul Richardson, (age 10) in 1993

TIME TO APPLY FOR THE YALDING EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION HIGHER EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIPS

The Yalding Educational Foundation has existed for many years (going back to the 1800's) and its purpose is to encourage the education of the children and young people of our local community.

Currently this objective is achieved in many ways. The YEF each year sponsors Spoken English competitions in the Primary Schools of Yalding, Laddingford and Collier Street. The YEF provides funding annually for each school to give the pupils a 'cultural or educational' experience. The YEF has also recently awarded grants to Yalding scouts, the youth sections of both Yalding football and cricket clubs, the local forest school, Yalding library childrens section, and the three local primary schools for projects they wish to pursue.

*Finally, **scholarships** are provided to assist in the **Higher Education** of pupils of these local Primary Schools. These annual scholarships are currently available for up to three years of a University or College course. To qualify, students must have attended one of the local Primary Schools mentioned above for a minimum of two years and be aged over 18 years.*

If you qualify please take the time to apply. Last year successful applicants were each awarded £200. The level of these annual awards does, however, depend on the number of applicants and the funds available.

Applications in respect of the academic year 2025/2026 are now invited by **letter** only to:

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

*Applicants should state which Primary School they attended and when, brief details of the University or College course they are following and their home and term time address. Applications must be **signed** by the applicant. If an email address is included, applicants will receive an acknowledgement on receipt of their application and a date by which the Trustees will be assessing applications so that awards can be paid. **All applications should be submitted by September 30th 2025.***

An update from Katie Lam MP



As everyone in the Weald gears up for garden parties, village fêtes, strawberries and cream – and perhaps a glass (or two) of English wine for the more indulgent among us – it feels like summer is finally here.

Come rain or shine, it's been another busy few weeks both in Parliament and across the constituency. It's a real privilege to meet so many people quietly doing extraordinary things.

I've had a great time visiting various primary schools over the last few months. It seems like everywhere I go the enthusiasm of the pupils and dedication of the staff are clear to see. I want to visit every school in the Weald, so if I owe you a visit please get in touch. I usually speak a bit about being an MP and answer any questions about my role, our political system and public service more generally.

It was a pleasure to join the Big Cat Sanctuary's 25th anniversary festivities in Headcorn. A bit different from the farm animals I usually meet – but just as impressive! A big thank you to the Managing Director Cam Whitlock for showing me around. It's a brilliant day out.

In Westminster, I was joined last month by some fantastic work experience students: Imogen, Alex, and Perla. It was encouraging to see such switched-on, engaged young people asking thoughtful questions and sharing their ideas. They also had the opportunity to ask me whatever they wanted, from how I got my start in politics to my dog Bailey's favourite activity!

I'm always on the lookout for young people interested in politics. This summer, I have a great group doing voluntary placements in my Campaign Office in Tenterden. This role would suit someone keen to gain hands-on experience in a political office and on the campaign trail.

You can join me for any or all of July, August, and September. If you, or anyone you know, might be interested, please get in touch with my Campaign Manager Alex at campaigns@katieforkent.com as soon as possible.

And finally, I was proud to speak up in Westminster for English wine production, in the middle of English Wine Week. Kent's vineyards are world-class, and I'll keep pushing for the recognition and support they deserve. I hope you'll join me in supporting our Kentish producers over the summer by buying local wherever possible!

Jacqui Bakes

Cherry & Almond Loaf Cake

In typical British style the weather has changed, just as we have broken up for school, 30 degree heat to heavy showers, oh well at least the garden will look fresher. If you love a Cherry Bakewell as we do, this is a must to bake. I took this and a caramel banana loaf to school on the last day and didn't bring any home, much to the family's disgust!

Ingredients

225g butter
225g caster sugar
2 tsp baking powder
4 large eggs
200g glacé cherries, halved
100g ground almonds
25g flaked almonds
2 tbsp milk

Or the icing

175g icing sugar
2-3 tbsp milk
25g toasted flaked almonds



Method

Preheat oven to 180 degrees. Line a 2lb loaf tin.
Cream together the butter and sugar until light and fluffy.
Add eggs one at a time, mixing well.
4) Fold in the flour and baking powder.
5) Stir through the cherries, ground almond and milk until combined.
6) Spoon the mixture in the loaf tin.
7) Bake for 50 mins or until when a skewer is inserted comes out clean. Cool in the tin for 10 mins, then turn on a wire rack until fully cooled.
8) Once cooled, mix the icing ingredients, adding the milk as you go until you achieve a smooth glossy consistency.
9) Drizzle the icing generously over the cooled cake and sprinkle with the toasted almonds.

Slice and enjoy with a cuppa tea ☐



St Margaret's Collier Street School A Fond Farewell to Mr. Paul Ryan – Celebrating 20 Remarkable Years!

On Friday 18th July, the St Margaret's Collier Street community came together to bid a fond farewell and wish a happy retirement to Mr. Paul Ryan, who has led the school as



Headteacher for the past 20 years. The occasion was marked with a joyful gathering beneath the oak trees, where former colleagues, current staff, governors, families, and friends enjoyed a cream tea in celebration of Mr. Ryan's long and distinguished career.

The afternoon was filled with warmth, laughter, and reflection, as stories and memories of Mr. Ryan's time at the helm were shared. Chair of Governors, Sean Randall, spoke of Mr. Ryan's dedication and outstanding service to the school, including his

recent and well-deserved recognition as **Kent Headteacher of the Year 2025**. Under his leadership, St Margaret's has seen four successful OFSTED inspections and has been awarded two consecutive 'Outstanding' SIAMS judgments — a testament to the school's flourishing under his guidance.

Adding a personal and colourful touch to the event was the colourful 'tie' bunting, made by the children in honour of Mr. Ryan's famously vibrant tie collection. The children also gave a heart-warming musical tribute, performing a specially written song about their headteacher to the tune of *Any Dream Will Do*, which was met with great applause and affection.



Gifts were presented to mark this special milestone: from pupils and their families, a handsome teddy bear lovingly created by Mrs. Lawson Wood from St Margaret's school uniform, and a generous £600 gift to enable Mr. Ryan to purchase a new weather station for his garden — a nod to his well-known love of the outdoors. From the staff and governors came two further gifts: a Bramley apple tree to maintain a living connection to the school, and a stunning stained-glass commemorative panel crafted by local artisan Roy Fairweather. Of his creation, Roy said, *"The design aims to capture the essence of Paul's guiding influence and contribution to the education and development of the children in Collier Street and the surrounding area."*

The celebration also marks a time of transition for our Year 6 pupils, who are preparing to begin their secondary school journeys. As parting gifts, all the pupils contributed to a scrapbook of drawings and messages presented to Mr. Ryan during his final Worship. Here are just a few of the heartfelt reflections shared by our leavers:

"Thank you for guiding the school for so many years. You are such a key part of my life and school won't be the same without you."

"Thank you for helping me to flourish into the person I am today. You fought for me when I needed it and helped me go to my dream school."

"You took a main role in me and my brother's time here... You are the heart of the school."

As the summer term draws to a close, we prepare not only to say farewell to our Year 6 pupils but also to Mr. Ryan, whose legacy will remain deeply woven into the fabric of our school. St Margaret's Collier Street will always hold a special place in the hearts of those who move on, and we look forward to welcoming **Mr. Tristan Wyatt-Hughes** as our new Headteacher this September.

Learning as we grow. Growing as we learn. Rooted in Jesus.



Steve Man and Boy 'you could smell the seasons back then'

Steve remembers all the different farmers and farming families since the 50s and 60s when the land in the whole area was used for fruit, cattle, sheep and hops.

Cherry orchards in Claygate Road were owned by the Gardeners who had land stretching down Claygate Road from Forge Lane as far as Laddingford in the 1950/60s. Their land ended where the cattery now is, the property there used to be Laddingford Forge; there were many forges serving the area because they had so much work at one time. The use of horses to work on the land was dwindling but there was still a need for skilled blacksmiths to shoe the horses and to keep the cartwheels in good order. More forges were situated up on the corner of Forge Lane near the Woolpack, In Yalding High Street, in the middle of Marden and in the outskirts of Collier Street towards Horsmonden. The Gardener's cherry orchards were grubbed out and Worcester apples were planted instead.

There were standard apple trees on the land along the other side of Claygate Road, these taller trees would require longer ladders for fruit picking. Up Gain Hill the Highwoods had over a hundred acres of apples. Steve says you could 'smell the seasons' first the blossom, then the fruit and then the hops.

The fruit pickers used to come and live in 'hoppers huts' in areas known as 'the common'. From August it was fruit



picking time and that was swiftly followed by hop picking. It seemed to Steve that half of London was down here, he describes it as 'movement of people everywhere'. It is thought that a workforce of 80,000 came from London each Autumn when hop picking was at its peak. The picture shows a typical family enjoying the hop picking together. Hops were grown all along the right side of Darman Lane from Laddingford it was all hop gardens, the hoppers huts along there were actually under the wires in the hop garden. He remembers the atmosphere was brilliant, everyone got to know one another. As a young boy he enjoyed the company of the youngsters and when he got older he met and married Barbara, one of the young ladies that came with her family from Philpott Street, Stepney in London.

He remembers there being around 200 huts in the Gain Hill area with the Huts situated on Highwood Common at the top of the hill and down the bottom. This massive influx of labour kept the local shops and pubs busy. The Kings Arms on the corner of Pikefish Lane and the Engineer Pub along Claygate Road were crowded with drinkers spilling outside. They would be drinking by the light of old style paraffin Tilley lamps as there was no electricity in the area back then.

The little shop where Wolsey House now is on Claygate Road would sell paraffin from a big tank. Mrs Brenchley was always behind the counter where they sold all sorts, but mainly sweets. You could also get cheese and ham cut off the bone, and cakes. There is a post box still in use on the front wall of the property but Steve does not believe it was ever a post office.

Steve remembers this area of Kent being self sufficient with so much produce but believes the restrictions resulting from joining the common market was the beginning of the end for all the growers.

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
AUGUST 2025

WE ARE RETIRING. We have set the date of our retirement from running the Post Office. Wednesday June 10th 2026 will be our last day. We will have been in post for nearly 15 years. As it stands there is nobody standing in the wings ready to take it over from that date. If anyone is interested, please come and talk to us. If nobody takes it over then the branch will likely close for good. What would happen then is the Post Office will arrange for an Outreach Service to come into the village maybe once or twice a week for a few hours. We will keep you up to date with any further developments.

US Tariffs...Some customers sell goods to the USA that may attract an extra cost due to Mr Trump's new tariff regime. Please make your American customers aware that they may be charged an extra fee for imported goods from the UK. I still await further information from UK Authorities on how this will affect small exporters. Gifts should not be affected.

International Money Orders. Since the demise of Moneygram services from Post Offices the only availability for this is the Western Union desk at the Robert Dyas store in Maidstone.

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...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 and plants – all in stock now. **The Made in Yalding Emporium** is open every day and our stock is regularly restocked and refreshed by our ever-increasing army of local crafts persons. **STRAWBERRIES FROM OAKAPPLE FARM AVAILABLE DAILY.**

New stamps set this month is **The Peanuts** 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 and Ukraine are currently subject to restrictions**

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

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

COLLIER STREET **LOCAL HISTORYGROUP**

This issue of Collier Street News carries an advertisement for our 2025 Exhibition:

ALL ABOUT COLLIER STREET SCHOOL

The advertisement was created by a former Teaching Assistant from the school, Janet Richardson, and includes a very impressive illustration of the school as it was seen by one of its pupils, Paul Richardson, in 1993.

If you follow our Facebook page, Collier Street Local History Group, you will have seen another item created by former pupils: self-portraits of the whole school from 1990.

These add to newspaper articles, plans and photographs we have that show the life of the school since it opened in 1858, but there is one more thing we really want for the Exhibition:

OUR HISTORY GROUP NEEDS YOU(R) MEMORIES

If you, your children, parents, nieces, nephews, friends attended Collier Street School at any time **PLEASE could you ask them to **contact us** and/or answer as many questions as they can from the following sheet (also on our Facebook page) and, by **31st October**, send their answers to:**

collierstreetlhs@gmail.com

SCHOOL QUESTIONNAIRE

Where was your classroom? Was it warm in winter?
Who was your teacher? What were they like?
Who was The headmaster or headmistress? What were they like?
Who were your best friends at school?
What was the school uniform?
Did you have to go to a special shop to get your school uniform?
Was there a library in the school?
What did you eat for school dinner?
How did you get to school?
What games did you play at playtime?
What school teams were there? Where did they play and against which schools?
Where did you go on school outings? How did you get there?
Which school did you go to after Collier Street?
Did you stay in Collier Street once you finally left education?
What jobs have you had?
At what age did you leave school?
Where did you learn to swim?
What books did you read at school?
Did you go to Sunday school at St Margaret's (or elsewhere)?
What shops were there in Collier Street when you went to school there?
What did your parents do when you were at Collier Street school?
What was grown in Collier Street's fields? Were there more apples, hops or other crops?
Do you have any memories of hop-pickers coming to Collier Street?
What did you do in the school holidays?
Did it snow often when you were at Collier Street school?
Did it flood often when you were at Collier Street school?
Was the school ever closed because of the weather, or any other reasons?
What pets did you have while you were at Collier Street school?
What was in the playground at the school?
What events did you have at the school e.g pet show, school fete, sports day, Christmas shows? Do you have any special memories of these events?
What was the funniest thing that happened to you at school?
What was your favourite subject at school?
What punishments were used whilst you were at Collier Street School?
Have you visited the school since you left? If yes, how has it changed and what was still the same?
How many classes were in the school when you were there?
Did you used to use public transport to get to the shops?
Where did you go shopping?
Did you have class photographs when you were at Collier Street school?
What was your last day at the school like?

Please return answers to collierstreetlhs@gmail.com

Thank you!



Woodpeckers—

On June 7th the volunteers met to carry out the usual tasks with some concentrating on weeding between the growing saplings in the newly planted hedgerow at the Green Lane graveyard. Fortunately the saplings were growing well in spite of the dry weather but so were many weeds and the ground was hard.

A month later, on Saturday July 5th, the graveyard was once again the focus of attention. The existing hedge bordering Green Lane had become very overgrown and it needed a thorough trim. David Head and Stephane used their hedgecutters to cut the prickly hedge on both sides while Margaret, Frances, Jo, Barbara, Michelle, Ann and Dave Sealey transferred the cuttings to the trailer, raked the ground, swept the road and generally tidied the graveyard.

We all met back at the church to enjoy some lovely cakes baked by Frances while we had a good chat and a cup of tea or coffee.



If you would like to join us please come along on the first Saturday of each month between 10am and 12 noon. You don't need to be a skilled gardener, just enthusiastic about helping to keep St Margaret's Church grounds looking neat and tidy.

MINUTES
PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF COLLIER STREET PARISH COUNCIL
Orchard Room, St Margaret's School
Monday 7th JULY 2025, commencing at 19.00pm
In attendance

Cllr Andrew Papas [AP] Chairman	Cllr Ben Ward [BW]
Cllr Jack Highwood [JH] Vice-chair	Cllr Charlie Cooper [CC]
Cllr Deborah Papas [DP]	Borough Councillor. Mike Summersgill [MS] arrived at 19.30pm
Cllr Steve Barham [SB]	
	Michelle Rumble – Clerk [MR]

To receive apologies and reasons for absence.

Apologies were received from Cllr Rigden, Borough Councillor Russell and Borough Councillor Grace Couch

To receive declarations of personal, prejudicial, and disclosable pecuniary interests on items on the agenda and updates to members' register of interests.

None declared from any member

Public Forum – Time limit 15 minutes

No members of the public present

County Councillor and District Councillor Reports.

Borough Councillor Russell was not in attendance, but their report was circulated prior to the meeting. Borough Councillor Mike Summersgill and Grace Couch also sent a report prior to the meeting

MBC Members Report from Cllr Claudine Russell

Dated: June 2025

Council

The leadership at MBC are determined to spend a large amount of money – now £7.7million to refurbish the Maidstone House offices. I fail to see how this represents value for money on a number of reasons, notably it is more than the asset is worth. I have called the item in to Overview and Scrutiny for proper consideration.

Overview and Scrutiny

We have chosen the topics that we will be starting with this year, namely an empty property review, an exercise in examining public trust of MBC and to pick up a review of the CIL charging schedule as the leadership have decided not to review this now COLLIER STREET – No casework this month

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

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

Things continued to be busy again within the Borough Council after the (KCC) election 'purdah', and Cabinet have been rapidly catching up with projects and proposals that had been 'on hold' during that period, setting out the priorities for Year One (April '25 – March '26) that needed to be emphasised from our approved Programme for 2025-29, so they are addressed right now and don't fall victim to any central government 'halt' to forward financing of projects (which could happen!).

We had a public Cabinet meeting on 18th June, after three Policy Advisory (PAC) reviews earlier in the month (Grace is vice-chair of one of these), and that looked at last year's financial outturn (a £100,000+ surplus, unlike last year's deficit), took forward the future budget planning, looked at community safety activities, approved Mike's Action Plans for Biodiversity & Climate Change up to 2030, and also discussed a project to refurbish Maidstone House (which has been 'called in' for more scrutiny). The next Council meeting is due on 16th July, which will be chaired by the new Mayor, Cllr. Martin Round of Headcorn (who was this weekend hosting the Battle of Britain festival at the aerodrome); after that, another Cabinet meeting is being held on 23rd July with none due in August

Updates for Newsletters/Sharing with Residents:

Please check out www.visitmaidstone.com/whats-on for details of things happening in and around the town; there is an Arts Carnival on 12th July, with a town procession and a musical event in Brenchley Gardens and a new Titanic exhibition at the Museum from 12th July. Do not forget the River Festival in town on July 26th, and there will be Bandstand concerts on Sundays from 20th July, and Art in the Park on Fridays, in Brenchley Gardens all Summer. For other musical interests, there is the Maid of Stone rock festival in Mote Park and Blue Reef in Linton, both in July

Collier Street – All Councillors (+ MP) had an email from resident about problems on Benover Road
Borough Councillors Grace Couch & Mike Summersgill – 29th June 2025

Approval of minutes

To approve the minutes of the parish council meeting held on 2nd JUNE 2025 as a true record. Resolved: as proposed by DP, seconded by JK, and reached unanimous approval the minutes were approved

25.07.08 Finance items for decision

25.07.08.01 To receive the bank Statements for May and June 2025

25.07.08.02 To receive the bank reconciliations for May and June 2025

25.07.08.03 To receive the RBS finance reports for June 2025

25.07.08.04 To note Income received since the last meeting.

Bank Interest Money Manager £255.62

Parish Services Scheme first instalment £1048.60

25.07.08.05 Payments made since the last meeting.

Payment list for July 2025

25.07.08.06 Email received from HSBC to state that the £8.00 monthly fee has now been removed from the account.

Resolved: as proposed by DP, seconded by SB, and reached unanimous approval the updated June 2025 payment list and the July 2025 payment list were approved.

Policies

The Clerk circulated prior to the meeting the social media Policy and the Guidelines, this a NALC Standard Policy.

SB stated that the Policy did not really fit with the Parish Council, and he will amend this and circulate prior to the next meeting in readiness to be adopted at the September Meeting.

HIGHWAYS – HIP and GENERAL

- Two large 7.5t vehicle restriction signs made for each side of the Bridge for Long ends Lane have commenced

- Signs erected but they are width restrictions instead of weight limit

- Two damaged reflector posts on B2162 (southbound) just before Haviker Street

- Works completed

- Post and sign bent / twisted on B2162 northbound before car park

- Works under investigation

- Two reflectors bent and flattened on B2162 northbound just before car park

- Works under investigation

It was also noted that Greg McNichol the contact for the HIP is leaving and his replacement will not be in post until September

Recreation Ground and Car Park

25.07.12.01

Village Green Electrical Connection

Report from Cllr Ward, he stated that Road Closure notice has been submitted again to Kent County Council as the first one was refused. If it is approved UK Power Networks will carry out the works from the Monday, the 15th of September to Friday the 19th of September.

Cllr Ward has also got a quote from Parker Building Supplies for the concrete slab which the Electrical Box needs to be placed on this must be completed before the connection is complete.

JH stated that as this is coming from CIL Monies we need more than one quote and that applies to all purchases from CIL Monies

Play area update on repairs/replacements and on Playground Inspections going forward.

The Clerk emailed the Playground Inspection Template report, the Councillors will use this to do a monthly inspection and forwarded to the Clerk.

There is no other update on the moment on the Play Equipment repairs/replacement.

BW then asked the question if the Parish Council would require planning permission to relocate the play equipment to another part of the Field. He will look at the Planning on this

It was noted that the ROSPA Annual Inspection will be carried out in July/August

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Monthly Meeting Monday, 1st September 2025 at 7pm

Please note there is no meeting in August

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

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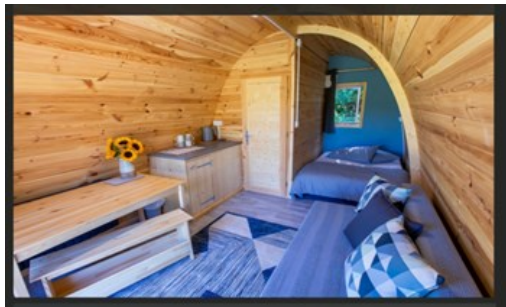
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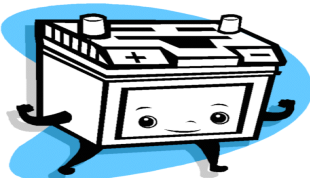
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