

Parish Council Report

Chris Flynn

It doesn't seem like 3 months has gone by since I was writing my last Parish report. Lots has gone on since then.

Napsbury Leisure

The biggest piece of news is probably that I have now signed the Licence for the leisure facilities at Napsbury. Our groundsmen will now take over the maintenance and bring them up to a standard comparable to the rest of our facilities in the village. The facilities on Napsbury have been long over due and will be a huge benefit to the residents of the village. We have already met with interested parties about forming a management committee for these facilities and now, with the paperwork signed, we can press ahead with opening up these exciting new venues to local users.

New Equipment

The council has purchased new grass cutting equipment and our playgrounds and play areas are now much improved with lots of favourable comments from members of the public on how nice everything looks. The groundsmen have also taken over the maintenance of the flowerbeds and troughs on the High Street, previously the responsibility of the County Council. I'd like to thank on behalf of the Council, Leigh, Steve, Mick and Matt for their continued hard work and commitment toward the Parish.

New Shelters

Bus users will have noticed the 2 new bus shelters on the High Street



Councillor Mary Crouch attending to the sixth cygnet, after its accident in July. Photo by Ken Peak, see story on page 9

and will be pleased to hear that 2 more are planned for Barnet Road once the road improvements are carried out. This is part of a rolling programme organised and joint funded by the Parish Council.

Action Plan

The Vice Chair, Ken Bowes, and his group continue to work on the Parish Environmental Action Plan (PEAP). This document identifies all our areas of natural beauty, sites, which need protecting and outlines a rolling programme of works to be undertaken.

Water Damage

The heavy rains we have experienced continue to create havoc on many local roads. The Parish Council has organised several meetings chaired by Parish Councillor Mary Crouch with residents of Cherry Tree Avenue and officers from County and District Councils to draw up action plans for that area. We are aware of the problems in other areas and will be taking these up with the relevant authorities.

>> 2

CONTENTS

- 1 Parish Council Report
- 3 Nature Watch
- 4 Womens' Institute
- 4 Copy Dates
- 5 West Herts Hospitals
- 6 World Wildlife
- 7 Gardening
- 8 District Council Report
- 9 Honours
- 9 Royal Garden Party
- 9 Swan Lake
- 10 Macmillan Coffee Morning
- 11 What's On - The Caledon Centre
- 12 Officially A Good School
- 13 Knowing There's Something Else
- 14 From St Peter's
- 16 British Legion - Womens' Section
- 17 10th Christmas Ball
- 18 Christmas Biscuits
- 19 Extended Schools
- 20 What's It Like To Be...
- 22 Greece
- 24 London Colney Collage

Elvis Lives

The Parish Council organised an 'Elvis night' on the 20th of June at the Caledon Centre. This was such a huge success we have had requests for more events to be held at the Centre. We now have 'Roy Orbison' on the 19th of September, 'Elvis' on the 14th of November and 'Neil Diamond'. – Date to be confirmed. Why travel to Las Vegas when you can see superstars at the Caledon Centre!! Tickets are available at £10 each from the Parish Clerk. Numbers are limited so if you're interested in going don't leave it to the last minute!

A diverse range of activities are planned at the Caledon in order to encourage as many residents to make use of the Centre as possible. Moneys raised from such events will go towards the £100,000 worth of work identified by the surveyor in order to bring the centre up to a reasonable standard, after many years of a lack of funding.

Larks

Larks in the Parks was one of the

best ever, with Elvis opening the event and Wally's tug o war to finish. A big thanks you to all who helped organise the event and to those who took part. The Events Working Party supported by Projects Manager, Linda are organising more seasonal activities including the Firework Display, a, Christmas light switch on, the Christmas Ball and Carol singing.

Community Spirit

There is a great community spirit in London Colney generated by the many people who give of their time and talents to make this a good place to live. On behalf of the Parish Council I thank you all.

The Caledon Centre, run by the Parish Council for the benefit of local people, now hosts regular events - reasonably priced entertainment on your doorstep. See page 11 for full details of all the autumn excitement. The Caledon Centre is also a 'One Stop Shop' for the Library and Parish Council Offices.

OVENMASTER HERTFORDSHIRE

Take the strain out of oven cleaning!!!!

Professional Domestic Oven Cleaning

We clean ovens, hobs, extractors and microwaves.

Low Odour, Minimum Disruption, Fully Insured

Local Family Firm

Free Quotations Tel: 01727 843950 or 07966 142012



Drive Thru MOT Ltd.



● All Vehicle MOTs ● Cars & Vans ● Light Commercial (up to 3.5 tonnes) ● Servicing & Repairs ●

GREAT INTRODUCTORY OFFERS

*Offers valid until November 2009

Cars & Vans

£37.50 FOR MOT

Light Commercial

£44.00 FOR MOT



MOT while you wait - Bookings available

Full service from £79.99 • Repairs • Call us now! 01727 858300

Unit 13, North Orbital Commercial Park, Napsbury Lane, St Albans, Hertfordshire AL1 1XB

Nature Watch

Robin Cooper

The commonest swan you'll see in Britain is the Mute Swan. Large white birds with orange beaks, they are called 'mute' because they are largely silent. They occasionally honk when flying, and if annoyed on the ground they hiss. A unique feature is you can hear the wing beats as they fly – which rumour tells us inspired Richard Wagner's 'Ride of the Valkyries'. Adult mute swans have a black knob where the beak meets the head and it is often difficult to distinguish their eyes because they are dark brown and lie at the end of a stripe extending from the bill.

gressive, particularly in the breeding season. Again, if they suspect you of carrying food they would like, they are quite capable of mugging you.

Occasionally you see swans with brown heads and necks. This is because they've been feeding where there's lots of algae or iron minerals in the water. Swans mainly eat water plants but are happy enough to come ashore and eat grass and leave lots of droppings meaning you have to be careful where you tread! They are also willing to take small mammals and are specially partial to frogs.

You will find swans everywhere in the UK because at one time they were kept for the kitchen. People ate their meat and their eggs but this has died out and all swans are the property of

swans by their orange beaks, black legs and a knob on the upper beak.

Bewick's Swan

There is another swan that comes to Britain but it normally prefers more northern places – the whooper or Bewick's Swan. The two sub species of bewick's Swan, almost identical, were first described by the bird artist Thomas Bewick. They have yellow beaks without a knob and, as they fly, they emit a bugle like call. Unlike the mute swan, their wing beats are totally silent.

Black Swan

In several places in Britain, especially along the Thames Valley, you will find black swans with red beaks and a white stripe near the tip. They breed



Swans...

1. Mute
2. Bewick's
3. Black

Mute swans have black feet: the cygnets are originally brown but as they grow, the brown feathers are replaced by white. However, in Poland the cygnets are born white. When you see swans swimming with their wings raised, this is their way of saying 'keep clear'. It is best to be always wary of swans. They are always a bit ag-

gressive, particularly in the breeding season. Again, if they suspect you of carrying food they would like, they are quite capable of mugging you!

Identification

Mute swans are very common all along the Colne. The only other large white birds with which they could possibly be confused are feral white geese. Remember you distinguish

the Queen, so if you kill one, expect a call from the 'men in blue'!

happily and live totally wild although they are descended from birds that escaped from wildfowl collections: just one more alien species that has found a happy home in Britain. They originally came from Australia. You might well come across white swans with black necks and heads – these are a South American species – I don't think there are any living wild although I've seen them in several zoos.

Beauty and Brains

Swan are quite intelligent – you notice if you go to places where people feed swans, the birds will often approach groups of children having learnt that they are more likely to give them food than full sized people. So when you go out and see swans, admire their beauty but feed them sparingly because bread is not their natural food. Any that falls in the water uneaten will rot and remove oxygen which is essential for a full balance of fish and crustaceans. Again, bread that falls on land and is left will encourage rats which are definitely not friends to humans.

Problems with your PC software? Looking to set up a website? Need help with your accounts?

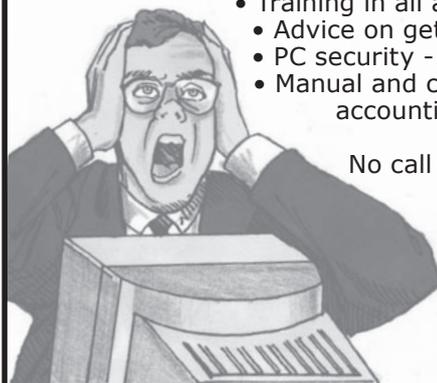
An honest and high quality service at low cost for businesses and home computer users

- Training in all aspects of software use.
- Advice on getting the most out of the Internet
- PC security - anti-spam, anti-virus, firewalls, etc.
- Manual and computerised bookkeeping / accounting, VAT returns, etc.

No call out charges - References available

Call me, without obligation, to discuss how I may be of help.

Dr. John Hibbs (01727) 826183
johnhibbs@btconnect.com



Womens Institute

Sue Oakley



The London Colney WI meets each month in the Baptist Church Hall in Kings Road. They are always glad to welcome new members and have an interesting and varied programme of events.

8th September Modelling Feet First
Speaker : Julia Hunt

13th October Seduced by Tulips
Speaker: Isobel Leek

Every property marketed from *every* branch office



Barkers Borehamwood
78 Shenley Road, Borehamwood
Hertfordshire WD6 1EH
Tel: 020 8953 4556
E-mail: borehamwood@barkersestateagents.com

For Elstree Borehamwood Well End

Barkers Shenley
104 London Road, Shenley
Hertfordshire WD7 9BS
Tel: 01923 855 266
E-mail: shenley@barkersestateagents.com



For Shenley Porters Park South Mimms



Barkers London Colney
188 High Street, London Colney
Hertfordshire AL2 1JQ
Tel: 01727 822 100
E-mail: londoncolney@barkersestateagents.com

For Colney Heath London Colney Napsbury Park

www.barkersestateagents.com



Plumbing Services

Here to help



CONTACT IAN HORNE
tel:01727 838 737
mob: 07814 827 044

- Bathroom Suites
- Showers
- Leaks
- Taps
- Outside Taps
- Kitchen Sinks
- Dishwashers & Washing Machines
- Radiators

.....no job too small!!!

NEXT ISSUE
WINTER 2009
Distribution date - 1st week
December 2009 Copy deadline
- 1st November 2009
Articles should be sent to the
editors c/o: Maria Aguado, 369
High Street, London Colney, AL2
1EA Tel: 823528 (phone manned
evenings and weekends only)
or e-mail: london.colney@dsl.
pipex.com
If you know of anyone who is
not receiving the magazine please
contact Ken Peak on 769406.
The editors of this magazine rely
on contributors for the accuracy

West Herts Hospitals

Eileen Whitehouse
Media Relations Manager

The West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust is big. It manages Hemel Hempstead, Watford General and St Albans City Hospitals. With around 4000 staff, 500,000 catchment population and around a million visitors, the Trust is one of the largest organisations in west Hertfordshire.

Patient Safety

One of the key concerns of the public over the last few years has been patient safety and in particular infection. The Trust remains one of the best performing Trusts in the country on reducing infection with a 90% reduction in C Diff and a 50% reduction in the already low numbers of MRSA. St Albans City Hospital is infection free.

Maternity & Emergency

We have a large safe maternity unit dealing with around 6000 births a year. Our perinatal mortality rates are amongst the lowest in the country making it a place of choice for mothers to be.

We have also already split our emergency services from our planned services to ensure that we are best place to minimise the amount of time people wait for their service. The

of their articles. We regret that we cannot check all the facts, but we are happy to consider printing corrections if errors are brought to our attention. Whilst the editors endeavour to include all items submitted by the deadline given, pressure on space may sometimes mean that items will be held over for consideration in future issues and may not therefore appear in the current issue. Articles may be edited for length or clarity.

Elective Care Centre at St Albans City Hospital has been open since October 2007 and is working extremely well. The centre carries out the majority of planned surgery, such as hip or knee replacements for the patients of west Hertfordshire.

Acute Services

To ensure we have the critical mass necessary to provide a first class acute service to our patients we centralised all of our acute services on to one site - Watford. In March the A&E services at Hemel Hempstead Hospital transferred to the new emergency department at Watford General Hospital, which includes the new 120 bedded Acute Admissions Unit (AAU), an expanded Children's Emergency Department and new larger Intensive Care Unit. The transition was extremely successful with a minimum number of patients that needed to be transferred. The new model of care is working very well and is liked by both patients and staff.

Patients admitted as an emergency to the hospital are admitted to the AAU, which is the largest in the country. It offers patients requiring emergency treatment rapid assessment and diagnosis by a Consultant from the onset of their admission.

Investment

But the Trust is also investing in other parts of its estate. We have begun

a major programme of investment, which will see almost £7 million invested in Hemel Hempstead Hospital site. Following the redevelopment, the majority of the services and the new main entrance will be in the newest part of the hospital – the Verulum Wing. The investment will enable the clinical services at Hemel to be brought together, and, by doing so, will make the most of the expertise of the clinical teams and improve patient experience.

Hemel Hempstead Hospital is still a vibrant hospital site providing excellent local services to patients. There is a full range of routine outpatient services including respiratory, diabetes, cardiology and elderly care; diagnostic testing (x-rays, CT scans, MRI scans, nuclear medicine); endoscopy procedures; and also blood clinic services.

Urgent Care Service

There is an urgent care centre on the Hemel Hempstead Hospital site, staffed by GPs and highly trained nurses. It provides a fast and efficient 'walk-in' service that is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year for people with minor illnesses and injuries, as well as more serious but not life threatening conditions.

These include limb or abdominal pain,

>> 6



SNT Driving School

**St Albans
Watford
Hatfield
and surrounding villages**

EXCELLENT PASS RATE

FULL HOURLY LESSONS TAILORED TO SUIT YOUR ABILITY

SAVE WITH BLOCK BOOKINGS

MANUAL AIR CONDITIONED DUAL CONTROL CAR

GIFT VOUCHERS AVAILABLE - AN IDEAL GIFT FOR FRIENDS

OR FOR ANYONE APPROACHING THEIR 17TH BIRTHDAY

**FIRST TEN REPLIES TO THIS ADVERT RECEIVE A FREE LESSON
AND A DISCOUNT ON THE NEXT TEN LESSONS**

07909 960893
simon.fansley@yahoo.co.uk




Professional Instructor
7 years ADI experience
Police and Fire Brigade Trained



dizzy spells, suspected fractures and eye problems. The urgent care centre can also treat children of all ages with minor injuries and minor illnesses such as cuts, bites, fractures, strains and sprains. If however your child needs emergency help you should still call 999 or take them to the children's emergency department at Watford General Hospital where full A&E is based.

The urgent care centre has been operating for 6 months and in that time it has seen more than 12, 600 patients.

The average waiting time for a consultation is under 30 minutes. If you need emergency help you should call 999 and paramedics will decide where best to take you for treatment.

GP Service

A new GP service called West Herts Medical Centre has recently opened at Hemel Hempstead Hospital. Open from 8am to 8pm, every day of the year, the Centre combines new ways of seeing a GP with the wide range of health services that are traditionally provided at your doctor's surgery. This service is open to everyone living, working or visiting west Hertfordshire (not just Hemel Hempstead) and the centre offers:

- Pre-booked appointments to people registered with the centre
- Pre-booked appointments to people not registered with the centre and
- A walk-in service (no appointment needed)

Bus Service

In these days of traffic congestion, we recognise that access to our hospitals is a concern for many people. We have introduced a free bus service that links out three main hospitals of St Albans, Hemel and Watford sites. The bus service is free for patients and their carers, staff and visitors who are travelling between these hospital sites. Buses run at various times from 06.30am to 21.00am. For more details, call 01727 897484 or visit: www.westhertshospitals.nhs.uk.

World Wildlife

Dave Ansell

The skylark was once our 12th most common bird but decades of intensified agriculture have driven many species of bird into decline, some almost to the point of extinction. 'Farm scale trials' have shown that if GM crops, which have been genetically engineered to be resistant to herbicides allowing farmers to eliminate wild plants from their fields, were to be grown in the UK, weed

seeds could be reduced by 90%. Many birds rely on weed seeds for food. The skylark's hallmark is a sustained warbling song, normally whilst in flight either ascending or descending. It is found in open country, farmland, heaths and moors and alpine meadows. In my illustration I have shown the skylark perched on a singing post (a high post where he can observe and call to others). They make their nests on the ground in a hollow such as a cow's hoof print, and usually have 3-5 eggs in a clutch. They measure 7" (18 cms) from beak to tail.



Tewin Water Designs
Curtains & Blinds

Professional Advice, Supply and Fitting of All types of Curtains, Blinds and Accessories
Wide selection of quality fabrics plus Beautiful Nursery and Children's fabrics

Interior Designers & Curtain Specialists
01438 712839 www.tewinwaterdesigns.co.uk

Gardening

Anne Kitchener

One of the joys of looking after a garden is seeing all the various insects and birds who decide to visit in their search for food or somewhere to live. Some of these visitors are more welcome than others, particularly some of the insects. There are insects which are pests but also many which are beneficial. I like to encourage the beneficial ones as much as possible by avoiding using chemicals to deter pests, and introducing plants to attract those that particularly help with pollination and the predatory insects which keep pests under control – more often than not this is successful.

I especially like to encourage bees as they pay a vital part in pollinating my vegetable crops. Bees need all the help they can get at the moment as their numbers are dropping dramatically and can be encouraged by having plants that they particularly like to visit. They prefer single flowered forms rather than double flowered as these make it difficult for them to get to the pollen and nectar.

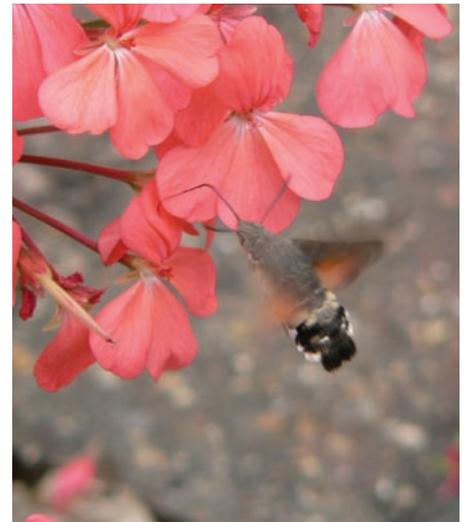


In spring I find that bees particularly like the tiny blue flowers of rosemary and it is often my rosemary bushes that see the first flurry of bee activity of the year. As the season progresses they then turn their attention to chives which are in flower in may. Later on and into

the summer marjoram, sage, lavender and thyme are amongst their favourites. Most of these plants also have culinary uses so are particularly useful to have in the garden. As autumn approaches they are attracted to deep pink coloured ice plant and vibrant yellow rudbekias, then later still the flowers of mature ivy provide a nectar source into the winter.

Butterflies are also welcome visitors as they are so attractive. The first to appear in spring are usually orange tips, they are particularly partial to purple honesty. Early on in the season there may also be visits from rather bedraggled looking commas or peacocks that have hibernated over the winter and emerge looking rather the worse for wear. Summer brings many more butterflies - whites, painted ladies, meadow browns, fresher looking commas and peacocks and occasionally speckled woods. They all are attracted by buddleia and verbena bonariensis especially as well as many other plants. Whites can be a bit of a pest as they lay their eggs on brassica crops, so I have to make sure that I keep any of these covered with netting which is a little unsightly.

There are also less common visitors which always make me stop and look. From time to time a dragonfly may dart ceaselessly around on its search for food and an occasional damsel fly may visit.



Very occasionally we are honoured by a visit from a hummingbird hawk moth which has been attracted by the summer bedding plants or tender perennials in wall pots or planters.

Other insects are also very welcome as they are predators of those that are not so welcome. The larvae of ladybirds, lacewings and hoverflies live off aphids which can cause damage to so many plants and crops. I find it much more preferable to encourage these to keep the aphids under control rather than resorting to pesticides which cannot distinguish between welcome and unwelcome visitors and will kill all. I find it best to leave nature to sort things out with just gentle encouragement by having the favoured plants.

The Bra Bar Beauty Company

(London Colney)

Summer Offers:

- * Why not try a Reflexology taster only £10.00 for 30 minutes.*
- * Rejuvenate and hydrate with a luxury Facial only £20.00 (one hour)*

Beauty Treatments:

- *Waxing (effective roller system) * Manicures * Pedicures * Facials *
- *Eye treatments*Fake Bake Tanning* Pamper Parties* Princess Parties*
- *Wedding Packages* Treatments in the work place * Reflexology *

New acrylic or Bio Gel Nails
Introductory prices!

Home based salon or Mobile also work visits

Please call Tracy

www.tracysbrabar.co.uk

01727 759589 or 07841 660322 for appointments or any enquires.

District Council Report

Dreda Gordon

Now that the summer has come and gone, I'd like to bring you up to date on a few issues affecting London Colney that have happened over the last few months.

M25 Widening

I attended a meeting with the Parish Council and Skanska Balfour Beatty, the M25 widening contractors to voice our concerns at the proposals to site a large temporary depot (until 2012) on the outskirts of the village. This depot will accommodate all construction related activities. Neither London Colney residents nor the District Council were consulted over this proposal because the site itself is in Hertsmere. We were frustrated that such a site could be put virtually on top of us without an opportunity for the people most affected to voice their opinions so have asked the developers to put on an exhibition in the village so local residents can have their say. You may be interested to know that the first option for the compound was near a residential area near Watford but this was turned down after residents opposed it. We have suggested to Skanska that they explore the areas around the South Mimms Services to site their compound as this would not impact so heavily on residential properties.

Traffic Calming

I have been working hard with Highways officers to facilitate the traffic calming and pedestrian crossing in White Horse Lane. Residents had been asking for a crossing, as it was so dangerous to cross this road to get to the Parish Council's fine play area and paddling pool. Unfortunately things were held up slightly when Highways got their drawings mixed up and proceeded to dig out the hedge and play area. By the time you read this article the traffic calming and resurfacing

in St Anne's road should be near completed and work on Kings Road should follow soon on from that. As you know the money for these works has come from the agreements reached with the developer of the new Napsbury Estate.

Leisure Facilities at Cotlandswick

The District Council has gone out to the private market to see who might be interested in entering a partnership arrangement in order to provide new Leisure Facilities on Cotlandswick. Along with the Parish Council, I am still pressing for a swimming pool, which we desperately need in London Colney. This is what the District Council's own consultants said was needed in the south of the District, so fingers crossed!

Rail Freight Terminal

You may have read in the local papers that the rail freight terminal planning

application was again refused by St Albans District Council. I attended that Planning Meeting in July and spoke on behalf of the residents of London Colney against the application and the detrimental impact all that extra traffic would have on us. I have drafted a robust response with the Parish Council to the application, outlining our objections. I'm sure this isn't the last we'll hear from the developer; they are likely to appeal against the District planners' decision so we must stay vigilant and prepare for the next round of battle!

www.londoncolney.com
 The website for London Colney News
 For local information and magazine articles including Nature Watch, Gardening and Featured Articles. Bus timetables, walks and cycle paths

Counselling / Psychotherapy

Stephanie Cass PG Dip. Counselling M.B.A.C.P
 As a member of the British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy I adhere to their Ethical Framework

*Having relationship problems, Experienced trauma or abuse, No confidence, Low self esteem
 Suffering from loss or endings, Feelings of anger, anxiety or fear, Lost your way, Lonely,
 Feeling distressed, Confused, Experiencing Conflict*

If you are feeling any of these and are interested in counselling for long term or time limited therapy contact Stephanie for appointments or enquiries on
 Tel: 01727 825 060

Marshall Electrical Services

Domestic & Commercial Electrical Contractor

Installation, Service and Repair Rewires Replacement of Fuse Boxes Additional Sockets and Lighting Electric Showers and Cookers	Emergency Lighting Telephone and TV Points Periodic Inspection & Testing PAT Testing Smoke Detectors and Fire Alarms
---	--

For a FREE quote, with no obligations or for further information on
 Marshall Electrical Services, contact Chris on:
 Tel: 078300 24053
 or
 email: chris@cdkm.fsnet.co.uk




*Reliable & professional service, based in London Colney.
 Qualified Electrician, all work guaranteed.*

Honours

'Dreda Gordon

Local resident Laurel Blyth was invited by HM the Queen to attend a garden party at Buckingham Palace on July 7th in recognition of her many years of service to the London Colney community. Laurel ran a Brownie Pack and has been involved in helping many local groups including Brownies, Local History Society, Elderly Daycare Centre and the British Legion. Laurel is a great example of community spirit with all her care and hard work on behalf of the people of London Colney. I am very pleased her efforts have been recognised in this way.

Swan Lake

Ken Peak

The human population has been following the fortunes of our home-grown family of Mute Swans, which hatched earlier this year from the previous nest site by the bridge. This year there were six young chicks for their proud parents to display as they waded in the ford, or snuggled down in the grass, or gulped an endless supply of bread offered by well-meaning spectators. Since their first public appearance as fluffy balls, the cygnets have become smaller versions of the adult birds, but without white feathers and strong wings as yet. They seem fearless at present, but the adults are still very protective if approached - they hiss aggressively or flap huge wings to deter the inquisitive! Last year all four youngsters were lost by winter. One of the present brood was injured after becoming entangled in wire, was cut loose and finally taken into care by the RSPCA. If it survived it will now be at the RSPCA Swan Sanctuary in Shepperton. We all hope the rest will survive all the hazards, natural and man-made, and visit us in years to come.

See cover picture...

My Visit to the Royal Garden Party

Laurel Blyth

When I received the letter back in January, inviting me to a garden party at Buckingham Palace, I was lost for words; which for me is a miracle! I was shocked and honoured but most of all proud at being asked. I was allowed to take someone with me, family or friend, so my daughter Lorraine joined me on the day. July 7th finally came and all dressed up with hats (although I don't usually 'do' hats) we headed for St Albans station then up to London. Following all the other guests who were arriving for this wonderful event, we walked through Green Park and down the Mall to the Palace in pouring rain so our umbrellas were well used. We entered the Palace through the main front door and out, down the steps and into the garden. There were two bandstands, one at each end of the garden where the bands played in turn. We walked around in the rain then decided to head for the tea marquee where we could have iced drinks, coffee or a most welcome cup of tea.

Tables and chairs were arranged outside and there was a choice of sandwiches including, of course, cucumber! There were cakes and pastries, scones that were a delight, and even a small chocolate cake topped by a chocolate button bearing the royal coat of arms - unfortunately too sticky to bring home. All followed by ice cream. At 4pm the sun came out, as did the Queen, in a very smart turquoise suit and hat followed by Prince Philip, Princess Anne and the Duke of York. They paused on the terrace steps for the national anthem then came and walked into the crowds, all 7,000 of us. Prince Philip stopped to talk to us for a while and asked where we had come from. Then the heavens opened! Everyone ran to try and find some cover. If only we had been allowed to take our cameras, as we had thunder, lightning, hailstones the size of pennies, the grounds and the gardens were flooded and people were running everywhere with umbrellas turning inside out, hats, suits, shoes, everyone's finery soaked through. Lorraine and I with our shoes in our hands waded through water up to our knees! Next day we heard that in London that day, three months' rain had fallen in three hours! What a day to remember!



Laurel and Lorraine - dressed in their best

Macmillan Coffee Morning

Avril Foster

We are again holding our World's Biggest Coffee Morning on Friday 25 September 2009 at Greenwood Park Community Centre, Chiswell Green, commencing at 10am until 1pm.



Please come and join us to enjoy a cup of fresh coffee and delicious home-made cakes and biscuits. (Any offers of baking would be very much appreciated).

All money raised last year helped Macmillan be a source of practical, medical, emotional and financial support to those affected by cancer. Every cup of coffee drunk, every cake sold and every biscuit eaten on 25 September will count and every £1 raised will really make a difference to help people through their cancer journey. Two million people in the UK are living with cancer and Macmillan hope with the help of people raising money they will be able to reach and improve the lives of every single one of those people. Currently they can only reach half of the people diagnosed. This is why your help and support is more vital now than ever before.

VARIOUS STALLS, RAFFLE
PARKING SPACES AVAILABLE

Enquiries:

AVRIL FOSTER: 01727 862079

Email: avril.foster@ntlworld.com

St Albans & District Committee

Registered Charity No: 261017

**WE ARE
MACMILLAN.
CANCER SUPPORT**

LET PROFESSIONALS TURN YOUR TIRED GRASS INTO A SUPERB LAWN!

**THE NO 1
LAWN
TREATMENT
SERVICE**

STUNNING RESULTS!

- ▶ SCARIFICATION
- ▶ AERATION
- ▶ SEEDING
- ▶ LAWN DISEASE
- ▶ PEST & GRUB CONTROL
- ▶ WEED CONTROL
- ▶ MOSS CONTROL
- ▶ SLOW RELEASE FEEDS

Lawn Master has earned the reputation as being the most technically proficient lawn company available in the UK. We only source highly trained and qualified Greens keepers to join our team.

South Herts and North London

Andy Lloyd - For the last nine years I have been employed by Arsenal Football Club as a Groundsman. I have invaluable experience preparing top class playing surfaces at the club's state of the art training centre as well as Highbury and the Emirates Stadium.

Call Andy Now for your **FREE** no obligation analysis. FOR LAWN TIPS FROM THE EXPERTS VISIT US ONLINE AT:

LOCAL RATE **08451 295 216** www.lawnmaster.co.uk

London Colney's Home & Garden Maintenance Man

Real Wood & Laminate Floors Laid
Painting & Decorating – Tiling – New Doors & Locks Fitted

New Fencing – Sheds Erected & Repaired
Carports & Pergolas – Patios & Paths Laid & Jetwashed

If I have forgotten something please ask!
Phone Mark for free advice and a quote on...
01727 767473 or 07961 892 671

"Learning through play"

Paperchain is an established pre-school for 2 year olds which opens from 9.30 to 12pm, 4 days a week (not Wednesday). We have been independently accredited by Hertfordshire County Council and received 'Good' in all areas in our recent Ofsted inspection.

'Over 3's are free'

Limited places available immediately
Please call **Caroline** on **07876 795073**
to avoid disappointment!
Waiting lists now open for 2010 and 2011

What's On

Fundraising Events at the Caledon Community Centre



Sunday 13 September 2009
Car Boot Sale
10am – 1pm
Cars £5 Vans £8 (No Traders)

Saturday 19 September 2009
Roy Orbison & Friends
7.30pm
Tickets £10



Friday 16 October 2009
Neil Diamond Tribute
7.30pm
Tickets £10

Saturday 14 November 2009
Elvis Cabaret Night
7.30pm



Salsa Nights
2nd and 4th Fridays of the month
8.30 – Midnight
1 hour tuition plus Salsa Disco
Members £3 Non-Members £5

Other Parish Council Events

Sunday 1 November 2009 Fireworks Display Morris Playing Field

Friday 27 November 2009 Christmas Lights Switch-on Chester Gibbons Green

Friday 18 December 2009 Christmas Ball Pastoral Centre

Bowmansgreen - Officially a Good School

Jacky Potter

Pupils and staff at Bowmansgreen Primary School, London Colney are celebrating the result of the recent OFSTED inspection: a well-earned judgement of 'Good'.

Strong Leadership

Inspectors have paid tribute to the strong leadership skills of Headteacher Moira White, whose 'striking vision and considerable determination' ensures the children of Bowmansgreen are offered challenging and highly enjoyable learning opportunities in and out of the classroom. Robust systems for strategic planning and continual self evaluation have helped to raise the quality of teaching and learning.

Children at the Heart

Ofsted recognizes the impact of these recent initiatives and the enthusiasm and commitment of the staff to continue raising standards within the school. Mrs White acknowledged the hard work of the staff team, 'Our success is due to putting the children at the heart of all we do: their success matters to all of us.'

Good Attitudes to Learning

The inspectors praised the good progress made by pupils, because of the excellent care the pupils receive and the very positive climate fostered in the school. 'Pupils feel safe and secure in an atmosphere which motivates them to learn. They enjoy their learning and have good attitudes towards it.'



Headteacher, Moira White, with some of the Bowmansgreen children in the meadow area of our school field.

Protect your family on-Line

Do you want to keep your computer data safe and protect your kids online? We can offer you professional help with all your computer and Internet security issues

- 🔒 Protect your computer on-line
- 🔒 Protect your kids
- 🔒 Backup your precious data
- 🔒 Get free anti-virus
- 🔒 Setup and secure wireless network

How much you can expect to pay:

- 🔒 Setup wireless network - £30
- 🔒 Protect your kinds on-line - £30
- 🔒 Setup data backup -£15*
(* minimum charge per visit is £30)

Call 07595040187 or visit www.aasupport.eu
(we also provide security service for businesses)



TREASURE TOTS PRE-SCHOOL



Village Hall, Colney Heath, St Albans
Tel: 01727 825314

"Let's go to Treasure Tots Pre-School!"

Children aged from 2years 4 months to 5 years
ONLY £8.00 per session



Play area overlooking the common
Safe environment
OFSTED approved



WE LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING YOU

Knowing There's Something Else

Peter Laws



Whoever said Hollywood wasn't interested in God might well be surprised by 'Knowing'. It's a cracking disaster thriller built around a killer of an idea. Fifty years after it was written and buried in an elementary school's time capsule, astrophysics professor John Koestler comes across a sheet of paper with a list of seemingly random numbers on it. Only they aren't so random. He spots a pattern. Somehow, this paper, buried in the ground for half a century contains the dates and death tolls of all the major global disasters since 1959...and there are still some numbers to come. More disasters waiting to happen.

And boy do they happen. Forest fires, car chases, spooky figures in the woods, plane crashes. Anyone would think the film was the usual disaster

DISTRIBUTION

This magazine is distributed by London Colney Scouts to raise funds for equipment and activities.

If you know of someone who is not receiving their copy, please phone Ken Peak on 769404.

movie, (And I love them). But it's the blatant spiritual agenda in this film that makes it stand out from the crowd.

Nicolas Cage plays John, the MIT Professor racing wide eyed through the carnage. A single father haunted by the death of his wife and committed to science he's decided that there's no order in the universe. There is no higher power and that means, as the film make surprisingly clear, no hope. Yet as the story unfolds and the disasters get worse, the strange sheet of numbers is proved accurate. Which confirms something he never expected but perhaps always wished for. There is an order, and so maybe there's a creator behind it after all.

'Knowing' plugs into a feeling that millions of people are having at the moment. And the trend seems to be growing. Modern intelligent people are asking if there might be something to this higher power thing after all. If you ever lie in bed at night gazing at the stars through the fluttering curtains and wonder if there's a God up there, well you're not alone. And you don't have to go all the way to Hollywood to find others like you. Here in London Colney there are

plenty of people asking the big questions.

Well if you'd like to explore those ideas then the churches in the village are giving you an ideal opportunity this October. The Alpha Course (check out the advert in this magazine) is a safe place to explore the God question and the Christian faith. It's a mix of up front talks and small group discussion where you can share your own thoughts or ask questions. There's even a free meal thrown in too. You don't have to be a Christian to come. And you don't have to be a Christian at the end of it either. It's just a place to explore that central question of 'Knowing'. Is there a purpose to life or not? I really hope you are able to join us for the course where perhaps we can learn from one another, and step a little closer to an answer.

If you'd like to find out more then why not join us for our morning services Sundays 10:30-11:30am. Visit our website www.lcbc.uk.com for more info and for audio sermons via our podcast. Email: jlaws@ntlworld.com or phone (01727) 825450

amazing weight loss!

1/2 PRICE
JOIN NOW!
SAVE £5!
(offer ends 28th Nov)

from ONLY £3.75*
a week
*when you buy a 12 week
Consultant course

GUARANTEED AT SLIMMING WORLD

NEW CONSULTANT! NEW VENUE!
from **tuesday 8th september**

Need more information?
Call Hilary on **07944 641913**
or email hilary.slimmingworld@live.co.uk
or just come along to a group!

**GROUPS START AT 10AM & 7PM AT
THE GOLDEN LION, HIGH STREET, LONDON COLNEY, AL2 1RG**

0844 897 8000
www.slimmingworld.com

Slimming WORLD
because you're amazing

From St Peter's

Rev'd. Lynne Fawns

In Church circles, November is often referred to as "the month of remembrance". Whilst as a bit of fun we enjoy remembering Guy Fawkes exploits on the 5th with firework displays, much of the Church's "remembering" in November is of a more profound nature. At "All Saints" and "All Souls" on the 1st and 2nd of the month we remember all those faithful departed who over thousands of years have loved and served God. Of course the village will be coming together on the

8th to remember all those who died as a result of war and our theme and atmosphere of remembrance is also embraced at our Village Memorial Service, which we will be holding in the afternoon at St Peter's.

More than Memories

Yet, is "remembering" the only thing we are doing on these occasions? At these services are we not also "giving thanks". On Remembrance Sunday are we not also giving thanks that so many wonderful courageous men and women served so willingly and so selflessly gave their life so that others – so that we even generations later

- may enjoy and live in this wonderful freedom? At our village Memorial Service amid the "remembering" are we not also "giving thanks" for the great blessing of having such a profound love in our lives and "giving thanks" that our departed loved ones brought such richness and vibrancy to our daily life? So yes, "remembering" in these situations is always an occasion of sadness but more often than not it is accompanied by a sense of thanksgiving. Even within the most awful of situations there is always the Grace of God.

Happy Birthday

This year St Peter's and London Colney have something special to remember and give thanks for. This November we are celebrating 100 years as a parish church. Although St Peter's was only officially named a parish church in 1969, she has actually acted, in all but name, as the Parish Church in London Colney since 1909. To celebrate this wonderful occasion, St Peter's will be welcoming The Right Revd. Christopher Foster, The Bishop of Hertford to a special village service on Sunday November 1st at 10am. At this service we will be giving thanks for an Anglican presence in this village. We will be giving thanks for this village and remembering the role of the parish church in it's life and we will also take time to rededicate ourselves and this church to serving God in the future life of this village. So, come and celebrate your Parish Church's birthday and do join us for refreshments and birthday cake afterwards.

Memorial Service

As I stated earlier the Village Memorial Service will take place on Remembrance Sunday, 8th November at 4pm. Do please note that this service is open to all that want to attend. It doesn't matter if your loved one died 2 months ago or 40 years ago, you are welcome to come. It will be a simple and hopeful service with well known, well-loved hymns, a set of prayers and



- Delicatessen ● Fruit & Vegetables ● Wine, Beer & Fruit Juices
- Delicious home baked cakes ● Over 100 cheeses to choose from
- Fantastic choice of pickles and chutneys
- Traditionally reared fresh meat sourced from local farms

Delightful Coffee Shop Christmas Food Fayre - 7th & 8th November 2009

Enjoy FREE festive tastings and stock up for Christmas with locally produced and high quality food for the tastiest Christmas ever.



At Willows Farm Village you can meet our farmyard animals, enjoy our daily programme of shows and events and leave plenty of time for all the adventure and play activities. Entertainment, education and fun for the whole family.

Pumpkin Festival - 17th October to 1st November 2009

A FREE pumpkin for every child throughout our fantastic Pumpkin Festival. There's a brilliant pumpkin carving area with daily prizes for the best pumpkin plus a daily programme of themed activities to keep the children entertained all day long.

Santa's Spectacular Grotto & Magic Wood Ride

25th November to 24th December 2009

Visit Santa in his Grotto and enter his toy shop where children can pick their own present. Join in with the live nativity, hop on the Magic Wood Ride, enter the Elves House, see the reindeer plus Fun Fair Rides, undercover Tractor Trek and Woolly Jumpers indoor play barn.

Willows Farm Village and Farm Shop,
Coursers Road, London Colney, Herts, AL4 0PF
Open every day 10am - 5.30pm Open until 4pm on 24th and 31st December
Closed 25th to 27th December and 1st January
Free parking 0870 129 9718
Visit www.willowsfarmvillage.com for further information and latest opening details

a short talk. There will be an act of remembrance during which candles will be lit in memory of each of our loved ones. At the end of the service you will be invited to take one of these candles away with you if you wish. Do please come and join us for refreshments after the service. If you would like your loved one remembered by name in the service and you are going to be there, then do place a note through the Vicarage door with your name, telephone number and your loved ones name, printed clearly. We hope you will join us for this simple but moving village service.

Getting Out More

Finally, if you are finding the darker and colder nights a bit of a drag then do look on our notice boards for some of our forthcoming events. Two of which are:

Sat 26th September 7.30pm "Round the Bible in 90 minutes"

An amusing flick through the bible using song, prose and storytelling.

Sat 7th November 11am – 2pm

Christmas Fayre

Your Church

Please remember that St Peter's Parish Church is your church and her doors are always open to meet you with a warm welcome!

May God bless you all!

London Colney Children's Centre

What is a Children's Centre?

A Children's Centre aims to offer the best start in life for every child. A Children's Centre provides a place for children under 5 and their parents or carers where they can take part in a range of play and learning activities.

Parents, grandparents and carers can benefit from accessing family support and outreach services, health services, training and employment advice and childcare information.

Activities at London Colney Children's Centre

Alexander Road, London Colney, St Albans, Herts AL2 1JG

Telephone: 01727 822196

e-mail: admin2@lcnursery.herts.sch.uk

Day	Time	Activity / Group
Monday	9:15 - 11:15	Parent & Toddler Group 
Tuesday	9:15 - 12:00	Health Visitors Development Checks followed by ... 
Tuesday	1.00 - 3.00	Family Learning  
Tuesday	3:15 - 5:00	Toy Library
Wednesday	1:00 - 3:00	Friendship Group 
Thursday	11:30 - 2.00	Up on Downs Group 
Thursday	2:00 - 4:00	HV Clinic 
Friday	9:30 - 11:30	Under 2's Playtime 

For more information about the Children's Centre, the activities or to let us know what other services might be of interest please phone Julie or Elaine on 01727 822196 or 07772 083019

ADVERTISERS

Catch the eye of local customers when you advertise in this magazine. Reasonable rates, help with layout if required. See www.londoncolney.com for terms and conditions. Contact the Editor, Maria Aguado, on 01727 823528 after 6 and at weekends or email london.colney@dsl.pipex.com

NEED A DECORATOR?

Painting or wallpaper looking tired?



For a new look call...

Neil Flatman



I am a fully qualified decorator with 15 years experience.

Free Quotations call: 07952 437 263

PIANO & KEYBOARD LESSONS

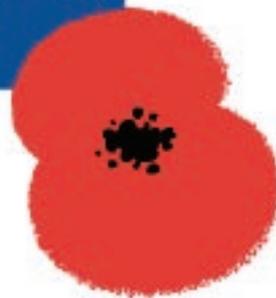
Classical, Jazz, Pop, Theory
 Any age, any stage
 Pre-Grade 1 to Grade 8
 Exams or not – you choose



BARBARA COOPER

B.Ed, Dip LCM, ALCM
 Qualified and experienced teacher
 118 Kings Road, London Colney, AL2 1EP
 Phone: 01727 822434; Mobile: 07908 891654

British Legion Women's Section



Our Motto 'Service Not Self'.
 The Royal British Legion Women's Section was formed in 1921 to safeguard the interests of the widows, dependants and families of men and women who have served or are serving in H.M. Forces.

The Women's Section is an integral part of the Royal British Legion and raises money to carry out its own benevolent work, by the individual efforts of the members in its branches. We fundraise for the Women's Section schemes such as Welfare Breaks, Children's Welfare Schemes and the support of widows and their dependants.

Our stall at 'Larks in the Park' raised over £200.00 which we sent to 'The Royal British Legion Women's Section Benevolent Fund. Thank you for the support.

Our Branch in London Colney meets every other Thursday at the Village Club in St Annes Road at 7.30pm. During our meetings we hold various activities including social events, demonstrations and talks.

Full membership of the Women's Section is open to all women over the age of 16 years. If you would like to come along please contact Sandra on 01727 824253 or Gill on 01727 811881.

LANGLEYS

Tel: (01727) 824311
www.langleysstates.co.uk
 Offices at
 London Colney, St. Albans & Park Street

A QUALITY SERVICE SPANNING 4 DECADES

Established in 1976, LANGLEYS have always endeavoured to maintain the highest possible standard of service and know their reputation depends on it.

3 LOCAL OFFICES GIVING MAXIMUM EXPOSURE

Combining to offer all properties on their register, LANGLEYS clients benefit from a far greater variety of enquires from buyers and tenants alike.

THERE IS NO SUBSTITUTE FOR OUR EXPERIENCE

LANGLEYS' partners BARRIE LLOYD and JOE HUGHES have each been in the business for over 33 years and have a wealth of experience rarely equaled by any of their competitors.



230 High Street, London Colney, Hertfordshire, AL2 1HP

THINKING OF SELLING?



We have waiting buyers for all types of property.

FREE VALUATIONS ANYTIME

BETTER RESULTS!



Our local expertise ensures we achieve the best possible price.

COMPETITIVE FEES

LETTING YOUR HOME?



From 1 bedroom flats to 5 bedroom houses, all types of properties are always needed.

FREE RENTAL APPRAISALS

PROFESSIONAL MANAGEMENT



For your peace of mind we offer a comprehensive Lettings and full management service.

FLEXIBLE TERMS

ASHWOOD CARPENTRY & BUILDING SERVICES
 DOMESTIC · INDUSTRIAL · COMMERCIAL
20+ Years Experience, WGC Based
Free Estimates & Advice

UPVC/Timber Doors & windows
 Fitted Kitchens/Bedrooms
 Fitted & Tiled Bathrooms
 Carpentry 1st & 2nd Fix
 Roofing construction
 Loft/Garage conversions
 Design /completion service
 Extensions & Refurbishments

Quality Craftsmanship. All Trades Undertaken
 Fully Insured. Major Credit & Debit Cards Accepted

Tele: 01707886425
Mob: 07801554944




Pencil Toes School of Dance

Dance Classes for children and adults in London Colney and St Albans

ISTD Tap, Modern, Jazz Awards and Ballet

With the opportunity to take ISTD exams

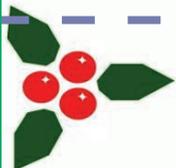
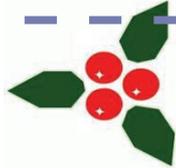
Incorporating the new dance craze for adults



www.popdance.co.uk

Contact Stacey Smith CDE
 07888 704 889
penciltoes@live.co.uk

Classes are taught in a fun, friendly creative and encouraging environment whilst teaching the benefits of fitness and exercise

Christmas Biscuits

The Parish Council has given boxes of biscuits to the over 75s and house-bound in London Colney for the last nine years and would like to update its delivery list.

If you, or a friend or neighbour in the village, are 75 years or over or house-bound and would like to receive a gift from the Council then please complete the form below and sent it to:

Parish Council Office, Caledon Community Centre
 Caledon Road, London Colney, AL2 1PU

Parish Council Christmas Gift

Name
 Address
 Tel No

Extended Schools

Nikki Howes

More 4 U @ St Albans South
Extended Schools Consortium

Directory of Services - Free to all families

Once again we have a busy term ahead – Parenting courses, Family Music sessions and lots more....check out the website for up to date details. There is a new Consortium directory available, FREE to all families – full of useful information such as Doctors, Dentists, Schools, Clubs, Halls for hire etc. If you would like a copy please call or email Nikki Howes.

Parent and Family Support

Hilary Blake is our Parent and Family Support worker based in the Consortium — she is on hand to support you with any concerns you may be facing with your child/children at home or at school or any personal worries. Issues may be varied, including: changing schools, communicating with your child, managing challenging behaviour, general routines including bedtime, internet safety, smoking, drugs, bullying. She can work one-to-one with you to understand your concerns and provide support and information, put you in contact with local support groups, help with applications to Primary and Secondary Schools.

New Children's Centre

The new Childrens Centre for Park Street and St Stephens is now in the planning stages and will be built on the same site as Mount Pleasant Lane JMI

>> 20

Explorers at London Colney Nursery School and Children's Centre

Alexander Road,
London Colney, Herts. AL2 1JG
Headteacher : Barbara Fitton, MA

**Flexible childcare for children aged 6 months to 5 years
Open all year 8 am to 6 pm**

Little Explorers offers full or part time childcare for under 2s all year.

Explorers offers breakfast, morning, lunch, afternoon and tea time sessions.

Extend the 15 hours free provision for your 3 or 4 year old to suit the needs of your family

Childcare sessions in the school holidays.



be included

Explorers works in partnership with London Colney Nursery School and Children's Centre to provide a happy and secure environment for young children to learn during the Foundation Stage.

For more information or to arrange a visit please contact Ann
Telephone: 01727 822196 option 3

"London Colney Nursery is a good school and gives good value for money." Ofsted Report March 2009

Swimming For Everyone!

Swimtime are a national company that teach swimming in 250 pools across the country. We have availability at 6 private Health Clubs in the local area: St Albans, Stevenage, Elstree, Borehamwood, Dunstable and Markyate.

We are taking bookings NOW for our September term!



Lessons Available:

- ✓ Group lessons for Children
- ✓ 1-2-1 lessons
- ✓ Parent and Toddler/Baby
- ✓ All ages and Abilities
- ✓ Adult 1-2-1 lessons



Call NOW For Details!!

TEL: 01727 744233 **NON MEMBERS WELCOME!!**

EMAIL: southeast@swimtime.org WEB: www.swimtime.org

**There is currently NO waiting list, but spaces are limited,
Please ring now to reserve a space ASAP!**

CFK CARS

QUALITY PRE OWNED CARS AT AFFORDABLE PRICES



HERE
IN
LONDON
COLNEY

CARS FOR SALE AT A RANGE OF PRICES
SEE OUR WEBSITE TO VIEW CURRENT STOCK ... www.cfkcars.co.uk

WE ALSO PURCHASE USED CARS

Opening Hours :
Mon - Fri
9am - 5.30pm
Sats
9am - 5pm
Sunday
By appointment



CFK Cars, Broad Colney Works, Shenley Lane, London Colney, St Albans AL2 1DG
Telephone: 07513 038 512

What's It Like To Be... A StandUp Comedian

Editor's Interview



Chris Norton Walker is 26 years old and a former pupil of both Bowmansgreen JMI in London Colney and Francis Bacon School before moving to Sandringham to study for his A-levels. He has been gigging in London for 12 months and has got to the final of the Laughing Horse's Big, Big, Big New Act competition, narrowly missing out in the semi final

School. This will now be the second Childrens Centre in our Cosortium, joining London Colney Childrens Centre, which is based on the London Colney Nursery School site. Parents will be able to access either Centre for help and advice.

Popdance

Popdance have opened a class in Bricket Wood on Monday evenings from 7 pm to 8pm at the Bricket Wood Parish Centre, Station Road, Bricket Wood, Hertfordshire, AL2 3PJ. Come on your own or bring a friend! A free taster session is available for anyone wanting to see

if the class is for them. Just contact info@popdance.co.uk to book in your session. Popdance is a fun, lighthearted dance class for all those who want to learn dance routines to Pop music such as Footloose, Girls Aloud, PussyCat Dolls and Salt and Pepper. The holiday break had some exciting new activities on offer. We had Rock School back by popular demand! We also had an Indian craft workshop, Sports Acrobatics and Circus skills as well as all the favourites—Gymnastics, Basketball, Cheerleading and Dance. Mount Pleasant Lane JMI in Bricket Wood has free Computer classes on

a Monday morning, term time from 9am to 10am in the ICT suite. Please call if you are interested and to find out more.

Contact Nikki

Nikki Howes is your local ESCO for St Albans South and is contactable by email, on her mobile or through the website. You may see Nikki at various events throughout the area – please approach her and have a chat!
nhowes@mountpleasant.herts.sch.uk
Mobile 07912 792215
Website: www.hertsexterndedschools.org.uk/stalbanssouth

of the New Act of the Year. He is currently attending the Central School of Speech and Drama, studying for an MA. He recently performed at the Funny First Mondays Comedy Club at the Waterend Barn in St Albans and has been invited back to do more gigs in St Albans, by St Albans Arts. He's at the Edinburgh Fringe this year.

Interview

I asked Chris some questions about his career and his views on comedy.

How is your production going at the Fringe?

At the Fringe I perform a devised production called "Suckerville" that compares the economic crash of today with that in 1929. I am still up here and will be until the end of August. So far audience numbers have been increasing daily. It's a very intimate space with audience on 3 sides. It isn't a comedy, having devised it at the Central School of Speech and Drama for a festival of new theatre work. The audiences seem receptive to the work. It's very different to performing to your friends and family, who know you and who have a pre-existing idea of your style and who you are. I think it's much easier performing to friends and family, but other comedians wouldn't agree saying that it's more nerve racking.

How would you describe your style of comedy?

As a comedian I try to comment on the world of comedy, using half jokes and self awareness to inform my jokes. Using cliché setups and stock phrases to ridicule idioms and the way they are used in stand up, I mock comedians who seem lazy and clichéd in what they do.

Jokes come in many different guises but basically they come in 3 sections. Scenario - Set up - Punch line. These can come in different orders for different jokes. e.g. A horse walked into a bar (Scenario) - The bar man said (Set up) - 'Why the long face?' (Punch line)

I like to subvert well known, and pre-existing jokes and set ups to keep the

audience on their toes, as a sort of pastiche of comedy.

"My mother-in-law... is fictional!"

Is it at all risky laughing at other comedians? Are they not dangerous enemies?

It's not at all risky laughing at comedians. Being a stand up you often don't laugh at other comedians, as you've either gigged with them and have heard their material before or you can guess what the punch line is - I suppose comedians have a sort of 'comic spider sense' for punch lines. They are not dangerous enemies, like with any profession there is a wanting to be the best and to get famous but it's all banter and all the comedians I have come across have been friendly and fun.

Could you tell me how it feels to do stand up? Is it frightening, exciting, embarrassing, terrifying?

I don't find stand up that scary as I'm an actor anyway, although acting is completely different from stand up. With stand up you have to connect directly with your audience and interact with them and most importantly be funny (!) which I think is what most people find scary. Maybe it's that people find the sound of silence scary; going on stage and not hearing laughter, which is strange as most of your set will be told in silence with occasional moments of laughter. In my opinion if the audience is listening intently then they'll be quiet. Weirdly, an audience who laughs the whole way through can put you off your timing.

Which comedians do you admire?

I really admire Stewart Lee and Daniel Kitson; both are wonderful at creating a very different model of stand up comedy to most comedians.

Did you enjoy comedy as a child?

As a child I was obsessed with Eddie Izzard and would try to create a style like his while at school. It was fun but it never really fitted me as a comic persona. As I grew up I became sarcastic and was likened to Jimmy

Carr; I think that is a better fit, but I'm still trying to find my own style.

Do you remember thinking 'I could do that' that?

I often think 'I could do that', even today as I look longingly at the queues of audience snaking around the clubs here at Edinburgh I think I want to be drawing audiences like that in 5 years.

Do you think people who are funny in 'real life' make good comedians?

Funny people do make good comedians: you have to be funny to be able to write jokes. I think anyone can be a stand up if they want to be: it just takes confidence. The most difficult part is touring around the country, staying in lonely hotels, night after night. Although this sounds like an awful life, stand ups aren't on the whole depressing, their life style might be - but you can't really complain when you're being paid to make people laugh!

There's a myth that stand ups are happy on the outside but sad on the inside, that's not true, I don't think. You need a very odd mentality to be a stand up, it's a type of risk taking once described as a verbal high wire act. To be a good stand up, you need to be an outsider; or have an outsider's perspective on life. This is very important to look back at life and find the 'funny' around us all in everyday life.

Is there anything you'd like to tell our readers?

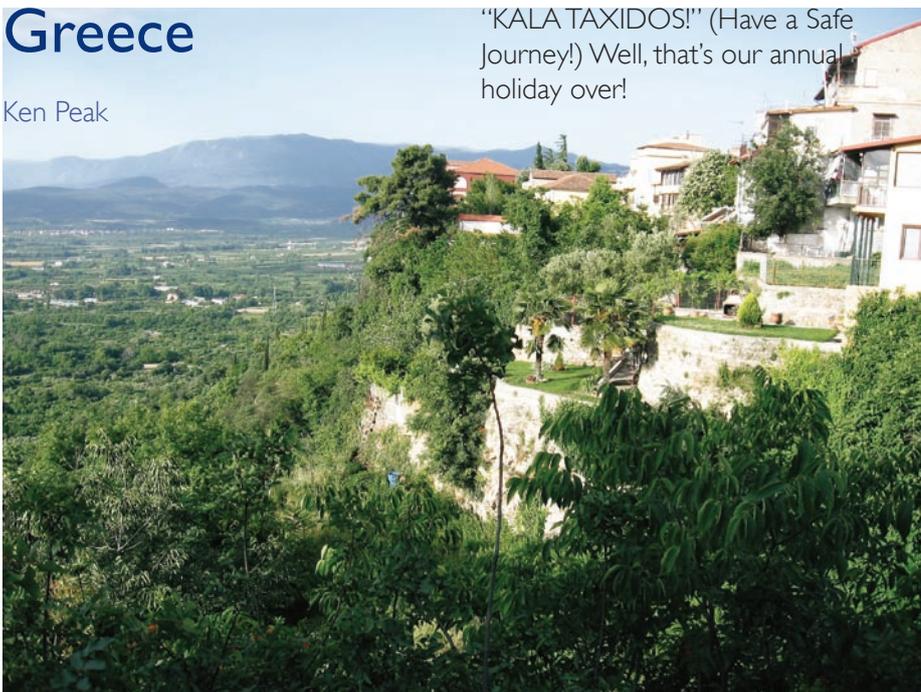
I'd like to add that I'll be gigging around London in the autumn. Please visit my website www.nortonwalker.com to find examples of my work and to sign up to my mailing list. That will tell you more about me and where I'll be performing next. And, of course, to keep supporting local comedy!

This new series of [What's It Like To Be...](#) articles continues in the Winter Issue which is also the 100th issue of the [London Colney News!](#)

Greece

Ken Peak

"KALA TAXIDOS!" (Have a Safe Journey!) Well, that's our annual holiday over!



Was it worth it, what with the hassle of booking flights, poring over maps and books, checking out the places to stay, insurance, car hire and airport parking, plus a currency exchange now at larcenous levels? Why not just linger in UK, as we hear the weather will be good this year? Anyway, Greece won again - and it was the right choice.

Roman Road

We flew into Macedonia in north eastern Greece, and had a day or two on the Halkidiki area before we drove towards Turkey along the new Egnatia Highway. Our mission was to find some evidence of the old Roman road (of the same name) along which St Paul had travelled 2000 years ago on his way to Rome via a series of towns, as recorded in his Bible letters, Some of which were near this route.

Via Egnatia in Philipi

The first tangible sign came at the ruined city of Philipi, where the worn flagstones near the former market-square are labelled as the old Via Egnatia, and close by is the small cell where Paul and his friends were imprisoned for heresy. Being a Roman citizen, he was set free, and went to Thessalonika: here there is a large gateway in the city centre, said to be a triumphal arch - but some doubt that this was on the line of the original course.

Edessa

The next point en-route is further north on the way to fabled Edessa, where waterfalls cascade down the cliff into the wide plain below. This town has prospered when others faded away, despite its history of civil wars, military invasions and violent earthquakes which destroyed many buildings. An old quarter is being renovated, and a small stone-arched bridge is said to be part of the former Roman way. We had a room in an old house (near a Clanging church bell!) which was an idyllic spot within walking distance of the cheery shopping zone or the elegant park, both laced with tumbling streams heading to the distant coastline of



1st LONDON COLNEY SCOUT GROUP

JUMBLE SALE

Saturday

26th September 2009

**SCOUT H.Q. CHICKEN LANE
(Off St Annes Road) 11:00 am - 1.00pm**

JUMBLE WANTED

**- for collection please ring 07711-648166 or 01727 825215
Please no furniture or electrical goods**

ADMISSION 30p

the Aegean Sea. The trail faded as we went on towards the border with FYROM (Stands for Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia - once part of Yugoslavia) but probably followed the level ground now used by a railway. A large lake covers a possible early track and forced a detour through a gap in the hills at Monastir, but we could not cross the frontier ahead. We left the job of chasing the route to an international team of experts who were exploring the long section through Albania, I hope they offer us some more information on their return!

New Highway

The next week took us along the newly-built highway to Igoumenitsa's ferry on the Ionian Sea opposite Corfu. Much of this route was surveyed in 1970 by our mapping team from UK, so we have many memories of the hard physical work involved in climbing mountainous terrain.

The new road crosses scary ravines on long spans and towering legs, or plunges into dark tunnels that were



driven under the Pindos Range to avoid the snowbound pass high above. The whole route is finally open to traffic, linking Europe to Asia as an army of traders ply the new Egnatia Road, and giving tourists a different view of the world, which is incredibly beautiful there. Times are changing in Greece, but it is still charming and hospitable, even if the lingo is puzzling. Be careful on the roads, as drivers can be rather careless and 'macho' but are pleasant enough once out of their metal shells. We hope to see again those who became our friends out there, maybe next year.

DOES GOD EXIST?

- YES
- NO
- PROBABLY

Asking questions? Looking for answers?

The Alpha course is an opportunity for anyone to explore the Christian faith in a relaxed manner over ten thought-provoking weekly sessions. It's low key, friendly and fun and there's no cost. It's supported by all the main Christian denominations. Over 2 million people in the UK and 11 million world-wide have already found it to be a worthwhile experience.

London Colney Churches are running the course in October 2009.
For info contact Peter, (01727) 825450, jplaws@ntlworld.com

THE ALPHA COURSE



Nick Morgan - Home Maintenance

Painting & Decorating Inside and Out - Kitchen & Bathroom Refits
Tiling - Fencing - Patios, Paths & Drives - General Brickwork



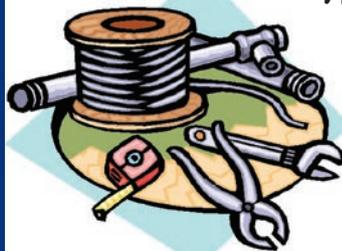
Maintenance and Improvements for Every Home

Free Estimates - Fully Insured - Reliable - Friendly - Good References

01727 821 372 07737 284 711

Need a village handyman? Call Chris

All types of work carried out:



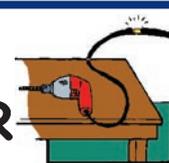
Decking
Decorating
Patios cleaned
Floor laying
General maintenance
Kitchens and bathrooms fitted
Garden work and clearance



Any job, big or small call 01727 751589



PAT TESTING
LOCAL CONTRACTOR



ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT
TESTING

FOR HOME, OFFICE OR WORKS
CALL CHRIS ON 01727 751589

London Colney Collage

Rabeya Miah



There has been an enormous show of talent and hard work at London Colney Primary School, where a group of children have created works of art, during their lunchtime textiles club. One of which has been donated to the local dentists A Gatrad and Associates.

The children have used materials like felt to produce a detailed collage of a rainforest scene with flamingos. The intricate detail shows just how much effort and hard work has gone into the formation of this picture, which they would now like to share with the rest of the community.

Mr. Gatrad and his associates' appreciation have been great and they are proud to display the collage in their waiting room. The children are working on more pieces of art like this which they intend to donate to other places in the village.

Editor: Maria Aguado
01727 823528
london.colney@dsl.pipex.com

Parish Clerk: Gillian Patschinsky
01727 821314
londoncolneyparishcouncil@yahoo.co.uk



Home Focus Ltd

local plumbers, friendly & reliable



Local, Friendly, Reliable

Local, reliable and friendly not normally words associated with plumbers, but what we continually focus on and drive the business forward with.

So find out what we can do for you, whether it involves changing a tap, repairing a leak, or a complete bathroom or kitchen refurbishment, we are your complete one stop service.

Remember we can design, supply and fit...

All Plumbing Services

- Bathroom - supply and fit
- Taps replaced
- Garden Taps fitted
- Drains unblocked
- Dishwashers installed
- Washing machines installed
- Insurance & commercial work
- Kitchens including free design and planning. Supply and fit
- And much more.....

credit card payments welcome



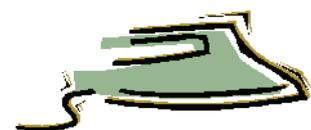
Contact Barry Stevens 08000 234 978

www.homefocusltd.co.uk | enquiries@homefocusltd.com



Ironing a chore? Not anymore!

Premium service
£30 per bag
Free delivery & collection
24hr turnaround



www.simplicityironing.com

01727 827 176