

London Colney News



2012 in pictures - starting with the surprise appearance of Superman at the new trim trail, down to this year's swan family, left to the Panto in January, up to the brief snowfall, the Luncheon Club and the volunteer litter pickers and last, but not behind the door when the sideboards were given out, Elvis with Linda Gibling at Larks.



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Parish Council Report

Ian Orton, Chairman of the Parish Council

Despite the poor weather London Colney had a good summer with the Jubilee events (such as nine young people from the village lighting the Beacon at one end of the age range while the over 60's planted a Jubilee Oak Tree), the refurbishment of Shenley Park with the opening attended by over a hundred young people and Olympic celebrations to mention just a few things!

As autumn slowly approaches we are putting in place a range of events for Christmas and the New Year so watch out for the notices! For 2013 we will have a St Georges Day Celebration again and re-introduce the London Colney Carnival where we plan to include more of the village in celebrating the great communities we have in London Colney.

The Parish Council held a public meeting in June to ask about if we should carry out basic repairs, refurbish or replace the community centre/council offices on Caledon Road. The meeting requested more information about refurbish or

replacement of the building and a further public meeting will be held in late January. I hope you will be able to attend as this will be a big decision – the current building was partly funded by local people collecting door to door. I am not suggesting that but we do need to be involved!

Parking issues continue to create lots of problems in the villages. St Albans District Council are the parking control people, the Parking Hotline is 01727 845283. If you think someone has parked in an anti social place like blocking a dropped curb give Parking Control a ring to check it out!

The Parish Council have broadened the scope of the two main committees so any one interested in the Environment or Events can join these committees as a co-opted member.

We welcome new ideas for our village so if you can spare an hour or so once every two months drop me a note to chairman@londoncolney-pc.gov.uk

If you get the chance please have a look at the Parish Council web site and let me know what you think! The address is www.londoncolney-pc.gov.uk

We now are now slowly approaching one thousand hits a month but I still feel the website is not used enough – have a look and let me know if you can think of ways to improve it!

With Christmas slowly approaching we are in the process of replacing the Christmas lights, as they are ten years old and at the end of their lives. There are 25 of them and they cost £449 each. Should we try for some commercial sponsorship to expand the lights further down the High Street and down Haseldine Road?

London Colney Parish Council welcomes any ideas to make our village a better place to live and work please let me have any thoughts for the future!!!

Cllr Ian Orton
chairman@londoncolney-pc.gov.uk

Public Notices

**Poppy Collection 2012
October 29 - November 11**

Volunteers needed to collect in the foyer of Sainsbury's/Marks & Spencer at Colney Fields. Last year the Poppy Collection for London Colney was £6,000 up on the previous year - a wonderful result that could not have been achieved without the team of volunteers at Colney Fields who collected £9,100 of the £12,460 total for 2011 - 2012.

Please call Laurel Blyth on 01727 769530 if you can spare a couple of hours to (gently) shake a tin. You will find the shoppers are happy to be approached and very generous.

**History Society Exhibition
Sat 13 - Sun 14 October
10.30am to 5pm**

The theme for our exhibition this year is The Olympics - photos and exhibits from past sporting events and other activities in the village over the years.

To be held at the London Colney Community Centre, Caledon Road, L/C, AL2 1PU

Have you any group photos of sports or other teams - trophies, medals, kit, newspaper cuttings, stories relating to London Colney and the surrounding area? Would you lend them to the History Society for the Exhibition?

Phone Ken Peak on 01727 769406 if you would like to take part or can lend artefacts for the Exhibition.

NEXT ISSUE SPRING2013

Distribution date: 1st week March 2013

Copy deadline: 1st February 2013
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: editor@londoncolney.com

The editors of this magazine rely on contributors for the accuracy 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.

Parish Council Events 2012 -2013

QUIZ NIGHT Saturday 20th October 6.30pm - 10.30pm London Colney Community Centre

Following on from the success of our Charity Quiz Night in aid of TheBase we are holding another, this time in aid of Headway, the Brain Injury Charity. Phone Laurel on 01727 769530 for tickets. £8.00 each to include Fish or Chicken & Chip Supper. Tables of 8. Bar and Raffle.

BIG DRAW Saturday 27th October 10am - 2.30pm London Colney Community Centre

Take part in various Big Draw activities, including contributing to an informal map style series of illustrations of St Albans. Make marks detailing personal experiences, historical fact and folklore based around both major and insignificant landmarks, streets, houses, parks, events and personal happenings during 2012. This event will be in the lounge area of the Community Centre.

HALLOWEEN DISCO Saturday 27th October 6.30pm London Colney Community Centre

FREE Children's Fancy Dress Disco, Entertainer, Snacks and Squash for the children, the bar will be open for the adults, ring 01727 821314 to book your places as space is limited for this popular event. All children must be accompanied by an adult.

FIREWORKS Sunday 4th November 5pm onwards at Morris Playing Fields

Fireworks, Children's Rides, Food, Beer Tent & Novelty Stalls. Join the village to watch this excellent display in good company! Entrance is FREE - there will be a bucket collection to support local groups so be generous! Volunteer groups please contact Linda Gibling on 01727 821314 to register.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 11th November - 10am gather at London Colney Community Centre, March to the War Memorial for a short Service at 11am. Return to the Community Centre for refreshments.

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS will be turned on at 5pm on Friday 30th November - come to Chester Gibbons Green for some singing and guest appearances by our Pantomime Stars, compered by Mark Bilsby.

CHRISTMAS BALL Saturday 15th December at London Colney Community Centre

Tickets £30. All enquiries to Linda Gibling on 01727 821314. Book early to avoid disappointment as places are limited. Proceeds in aid of The Base Youth Project.

CAROL SINGING Outside Sainsburys at Colney Fields - dates to be confirmed

Join the Carollers and help to raise money for The Base Youth Project. Ring Linda Gibling on 01727 821314 for final arrangements.

THE PUSH on NEW YEARS EVE Monday 31st December, London Colney Community Centre

Once more, we've been lucky to engage this fabulous local band for our New Years Eve Celebrations. A great way to see in the New Year. Tickets £12.50 in advance from The Parish Council Office - 01727 821314.

CHILDRENS PANTOMIME Sunday 13th January 2013, London Colney Community Centre

More details nearer the time about this most successful annual event.

BURNS SUPPER Friday January 24th 2013, London Colney Community Centre

Delicious traditional Burns Supper, Piper, Dancing, Entertainment, Speeches - More details nearer the time.

FAMILY DISCO Friday 4th February 2012, London Colney Community Centre

A great way to start the weekend and cheer yourselves up at this cold, dark time of the year. FREE Disco, Bar for the grownups.

MOTHERS DAY LUNCH Sunday 10th March at the Community Centre

Bring the whole family, tickets in advance from the Parish Council Office. Price and Menu to be confirmed.

EVENTSEVENTSEVENTS

Quiz Night

who designed this building ?
how many people can it hold ?
the olympic park lies in which 5 London boroughs ?



Know these answers ?
then you need
to be at the

All Proceeds to
Headway
The Brain Injury Charity

London Colney
Community Centre

**Fish or Chicken
and Chip Supper**

October 20th
at 6:30 pm

**Tickets £8.00 from
Laurel Blyth
01727 769530**

Licenced Bar

NEW YEAR with LIVE AT

LONDON COLNEY
COMMUNITY CENTRE

**NEW
YEARS
EVE**

**8.00pm
'til LATE**

**Tickets £12.50
from Parish Council Office**



Quentin Blake invites you to join
The Big Draw
hundreds of events
across the UK in October
For details visit
www.thebigdraw.org.uk

You CAN DRAW AT:
**London Colney
Community Centre**
on the
27th October
between
10.30 and 2pm
**Come along and
put yourself on
the map!**
Entry free, no need
to book.



FIREWORKS



fun, for
bucket collecti

EVENTSEVENTSEVENTS



WORKS at
Morris
Way
Sunday
4th Nov
5pm
FREE ENTRY
Food, fairground rides
don for local charities

London Colney Parish Council
Annual Charity Christmas Ball
Saturday 15th December 2012

London Colney Community Centre

In Aid of TheBase Youth Project

5 course dinner

followed by music
and dancing 'til midnight

7 for 7.30

Tickets £30



Book early as numbers are limited

Tickets available from
Project Manager, Parish Council Office

London Colney Community Centre, Caledon Road,
London Colney AL2 1PU
Telephone: 01727 821314 Email: projectmanager@londoncolney.com

Charity Christmas Ball Saturday 15th December 2012

Please reserve (number) tickets for the ball.

Of these (number) are vegetarians.

Name

Address

.....

.....

Tel: Mobile:

I enclose a cheque payable to London Colney Parish Council for
(number X £30) £

Signature:

Return to: London Colney Parish Council Office, Community Centre,
Caledon Road, London Colney AL2 1PU. Tel: 01727 821314

TheBase 2012

Shelley Taylor, Project Co-ordinator

On Wednesday 1st August 2012 The Base Youth Project went to the Olympics.



A group of 15 (3 staff and 12 young people) set off from St Albans Station at 7.30am. Everyone was there on time and we were able to catch our train without any problems.

As we arrived at Earls Court, we saw all the London 2012 signs and we really felt that we had arrived. It was very exciting.

Before we could go into the building we all had to go through the security checks. It went very quickly and smoothly and with 5 minutes we were having our tickets checked by an official.

When we began walking around the inside of the building to find our seats we could hear the music and cheering of the crowd inside. We didn't want to miss anything so we ran around the building to get to our seats quickly.

As we found our seats the volleyball players were warming up for the match. The first match was between the Dominican Republic and Japan. It was a close match but Japan won in 3 sets.

The entertainment between the sets and matches was fun. We took part in some karaoke and bongo drumming, all by video camera. There were also several Mexican waves which we all found really fun.

The second match was between Algeria and Russia. Russia were the leaders in their group and they were all well over 6 feet tall. It was soon clear to us all that Russia was going to win the match easily. The crowd decided to support the Algerians but all our cheering and clapping didn't help them and Russia won in 3 sets.

It was a once in a lifetime experience and we all have our Olympic tickets, photos and memories to remind us of our day at the Olympics.

World Wildlife

Dave Ansell



PUFFINS ON FARNE ISLAND

The Puffin with its 'Dinner Suit' of black and white feathers and coloured bill is one of Britain's most enchanting birds. It belongs to a family of seabirds called Auks which includes Razorbills and Guillemots, all of which hunt for fish beneath the surface.

When breeding, Puffins live in large colonies on the islands of the Orkneys and Shetlands. They are also abundant on the National Trust Reserve on the Farne Islands where they nest in burrows in the turf. They gather in numbers, standing very upright on their bright orange legs and webbed feet.

Their bills have an enormous capacity for fish, caught crossways. Puffins are not very skillful flyers and can fall prey to Great Black Backed Gulls and Great Skuas.

Floodline

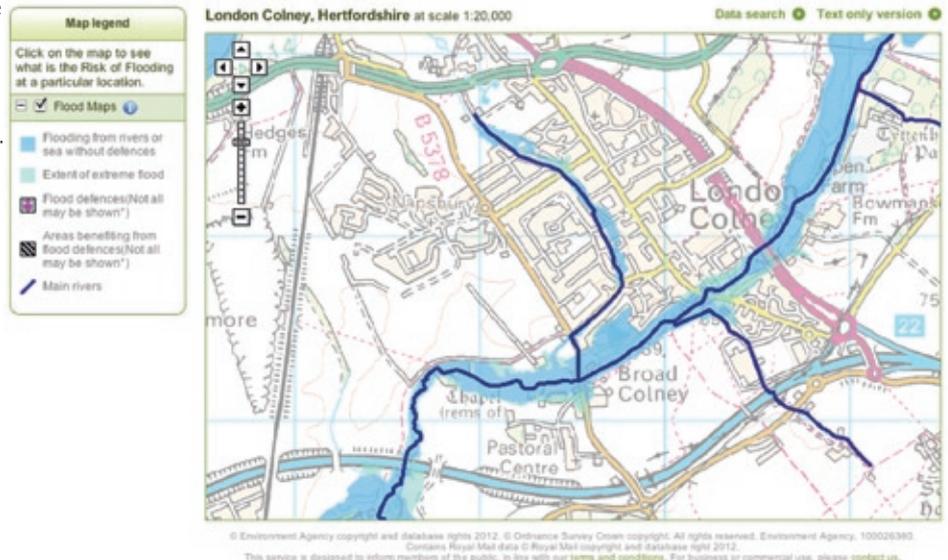
Maria Aguado, Editor

The Environment Agency have asked the Parish Council to remind local residents about Floodline. This is a national service, available online and by phone, to alert people to the risk of flooding in their area. As you can see from the map, there are flood risk areas in London Colney. We all know about the River Colne but the usually tiny London Colney Stream also poses a flood risk.

The London Colney Stream travels underground for most of its journey through London Colney. Try standing in the road at the junction of Kings Road and Peters Avenue at a quiet time of day or night and you can hear it rushing through under the manhole cover in the middle of the road.

Where it does emerge above ground between the OV's Rugby Fields and The Irish Club it quickly becomes overgrown and sometimes blocked by rubbish as it passes between Cotlandswick and the allotments, some of which flooded during the recent long wet spring. The Environment Agency are responsible for keeping the course clear but understandably resent clearing garden refuse and other waste so please use your green bin, not the stream, for garden trimmings.

The Environment Agency advise you to sign up to receive flood alerts and flood warnings if your home is in the area coloured blue on the map. Floodline Warnings Direct is a free service which



sends residents a direct message when flooding is expected and may affect your property. Flood warnings will give you time to prepare for flooding which could save you time, money and heartache. You can receive warnings by telephone, mobile, email, SMS text message or fax, whichever you prefer. You can do this at <http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/homeandleisure/floods/38289.aspx> or by calling Floodline on 0845 988 1188 or Typetalk 0845 602 6340.

You can get up-to-date flooding information by calling Floodline on 0845 988 1188 or visit the Environment Agency website...

www.environment-agency.gov.uk

...which contains details of river level and flooding information. The webpage for our area is <http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/homeandleisure/floods/riverlevels/136489.aspx>

You can follow the Environment Agency on Twitter for updates @EnvAgencySE

Please report any flooding in the area to our local Environment Agency office

Contact:
 Environment Agency South East
 North East Thames Flood Warning Duty Officer
 Area Incident Room
 2 Bishop Square
 St Albans Road West
 Hatfield, Herts, AL10 9EX
 Tel: 01707 632444 Office Hours or
 Incident Room Open
 Tel: 0845 850 3518 Out of Hours

Parakeets?

Did anyone else see three green birds, about the size of a magpie but without the long tail? Flying around at treetop height, shrieking as they went. Could they be Monk Parakeets?



Let me know if you've seen them. A photo would be even better!



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St Bernadette - Miss Hannigan's Shananigans

Written by Year 5 & 6 Pupils from St Bernadette School

Miss Hannigan's Shananigans

Traditionally at the end of every school year, the soon departing year six class performs a play for the parents and pupils of St. Bernadette Catholic Primary School. This year the play is called Miss Hannigan's Shananigans. The awesome production hit St. Bernadette's on Tuesday the 10th July and Wednesday 11th July. The show was an outstanding opportunity for the amazing pupils to express their remarkable talents and they did the school proud with the phenomenal production that took place.

Being the oldest class in the school, year 6 got many of the main roles in the outstanding play. However, the year 6 were well supported by all the pupils in Key Stage 2; in this school production everyone is a star. The play stars Rachel Costello-Dunn as 'Annie', Darcie O'Meara as 'Miss Hannigan', Luke Bussandri as 'Mr Warbucks', Hope Purvis as 'Grace' and many more exciting characters. Overall the play was fantastic, with Mrs Barton, the head teacher, comparing the production to a West End play. The play was indicative of the hard work, courage and enthusiasm of both pupils and staff. It was full of laughter and highlighted the fantastic talents within St. Bernadette Catholic Primary School.

The Apprentice

On the 22nd June we experienced a phenomenal opportunity to run a stationary shop, however, we first had to endure an interview with an impressive panel of accomplished business personal. All of us excelled and had a spectacular business proposition. Each group flourished and presented their abilities to all observers. There were five exceptional groups, 'Highlight our shop', 'S'cool Stationary', 'The Work Shop', 'Stationary 4 Stars' and 'Easy Office'. Within these groups, directors, salesman and advertisers were appointed. We were all extremely committed to the shop and have contributed to its success. At the end of the process, everyone received very constructive feedback and the winners, 'The Work Shop' won a prize and the opportunity to set up their own shop. Overall, everyone had a great time and we learnt more about the world of business.

St. Bernadette Catholic Primary School's Coronation Ceremony

On Friday the 15 June 2012, St. Bernadette Catholic Primary School held a Coronation ceremony to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II.

The Head Teacher of St. Bernadette Catholic Primary School, Mrs Barton, acted as a young Queen Elizabeth who was about to be crowned as the Queen of our country. The ceremony included original footage of the young Queen travelling to Westminster Abbey in the Golden Carriage, followed by the children of Year 5 taking a lead role in the re-enactment.

During the Grand entrance, the flags of the Commonwealth entered followed by the Crown jewels, the Bishops and finally Her Majesty with her ladies in waiting. Queen Elizabeth first sat in the Chair of State and made the solemn oath to her country. Then she moved onto King Edward's throne where she was anointed by the Bishops under a golden canopy. Finally, the Queen was entitled to sit on her own throne and the whole school rose to sing God Save the Queen.

All of the pupils of St Bernadette school and many parents, were in attendance and the atmosphere was both solemn and festive. Street parties were held throughout the school during the afternoon to celebrate, with the children's hand-made bunting much in evidence in all classrooms.

Olympic week

St. Bernadette Catholic Primary, London Colney, recently held an Olympic-themed sports week to celebrate the London 2012 Olympic Games.

All the children and staff members started the Olympic week by making human Olympic rings on the playground. Then the children paraded around the field with many flags from around the world. The children proudly held their Olympic shakers that had been made in class; these were in the shape of the Olympic flame. Next, the whole school came back into the hall and had an official Opening Ceremony. Many talents were on display in the ceremony, such as singing, dancing and musical medleys by the recorder group.

The whole school went outside and 'Ran to Kenya'. The school has close links with Kenya as we sponsor a child, Denis, with his education. Everyone joined in including teachers. Throughout the week, there were many sporting events and competitions. Children designed their own Olympic mascots and created hall displays on each of the Olympic and Paralympic Values. Key Stage Two children held a story writing competition – stories had to reflect one of the Olympic values.

The week culminated in the school's Sports Day. Picnic lunches with families were held in the grounds and the school's FAB's team (Friends At St Bernadette- our hardworking Parents and Teachers group) provided cream teas and ice lollies.

The week was a huge success; children had a lot of fun and learned a lot about the importance of living, playing and competing with the Olympic Values in mind.

History Society Exhibition

Laurel Blyth

The theme for our Exhibition this year is the Olympics. Photos and exhibits from past sporting events and activities in the village over the years. To be held in the Community Centre, Caledon Road on Saturday and Sunday, 13th and 14th October from 10.30am - 5pm.

FREE ENTRY.

It has become a great meeting place for old and new friends over the years. Join us for a cuppa and a trip down memory lane - perhaps you will see yourself or your family in the photos.

Hist soc from left to right: Kathy Brooks, Anne Pascoe, Lena Coombs, Mavis Gill, Margaret Hall, Laurel Carter and Christine Henson remembering old times and old names.



The Changing Scene

Ken Peak

As those who came to the Annual General meeting of The London Colney Local History Society on June 12th 2012 will know, we discussed some options for the future of this society, following the tragic loss of Wally late last year. It was decided that the Acting Chairman should take over the Chairman's role, while a new committee was created from existing members. It was stressed that without more volunteers coming forward to help manage the archives, research material, or contribute articles for The Record magazine, then all work will fall on very few people: no way to proceed and grow! We must look to a new campaign to recruit younger members, who may not yet realise what our local story should mean to those now living here... for we do have a tale to tell, and much evidence still lies around us waiting to be discovered anew by another generation.

As memories fade away, leaving only faint physical traces of the past, we are still noting recent changes as they occur. One day these minor events will become part of our history as we try to remember the way we were, about the time of the London Olympics in 2012. That was the year the M.25 was widened, and we lost our Police Station (see photo).

Last year, our Annual Exhibition covered the period during WW-2 when those



What were you doing in September 2012 when they knocked down the Police Station?

not directly engaged in the armed forces linked up to form The Home Front, with civilians of all ages working together for survival. As peace returned to Britain, big changes took place here, Our farms became mechanised, so rural skills were obsolete. Motor transport was replacing horses, new roads appeared, garages took over from ostlers. More houses were built, various hospitals flourished, new jet engines roared overhead, powering aircraft able to fly at the speed of sound and we helped to design and construct them until the modern airliners gave us the chance to see the world beyond this village.

The Olympics is the theme for this year's exhibition on 13th and 14th October. We will be showing you some of our huge collection of photos and memorabilia. Perhaps some of you have photos and materials we could borrow for the exhibition. Please contact me on 01727 769406 if you have any suggestions or could loan us a photo for the exhibition. I hope you will make time to call in and see what's on offer this year: maybe you feel like adding your mementoes or photographs to our collection, and offer to help us just by joining our group for £5 per family.

More Beans!

Rachel Keane - www.fishingforfruitcake.blogspot.com

Good old pulses. Cheap and healthy, although they are widely used in the Middle East and the Mediterranean, I feel they are often overlooked in British cooking. Admittedly by themselves they can be uninspiring. However it only takes a little imagination and a couple of other ingredients and you can transform them into an array of exciting dishes. Here are some of my favourites...



Chickpea and Chorizo Stew

The buttery texture and nutty taste of chickpeas is a perfect foil to a piquant, spicy Moroccan-style stew.

Ingredients

- 400g tin of chopped tomatoes
- 400g tin of chickpeas x 2
- 2 medium onions
- 4-6 garlic cloves (depending on how brave you are!)
- 100-200ml chicken stock (depending on how thick you want it to be)
- ground paprika
- ground turmeric
- ground chili
- ground fenugreek
- ground cinnamon
- fresh coriander
- 1 lemon
- 100g chorizo (sausage shape)

Method

Finely chop and fry onions in generous quantity of olive oil until satisfied. Add finely chopped garlic and ground spices. Be generous with paprika and turmeric, less generous with the fenugreek and, finally, very stingy with chili and cinnamon. Fry for 2-3 minutes.

Add chickpeas, tomato and stock and simmer on a low heat for at least 45 minutes. Taste and readjust spices if necessary.

Slice chorizo and put in a hot grill until crunchy.

Just before serving add some chopped coriander and a squeeze of a lemon. Serve with rice, crusty bread or couscous and the chorizo sprinkled on top.

The trick with this recipe is to simmer this dish for hours and hours; I would recommend slapping it in the slow cooker or reheating it the next day. The longer it cooks, the more the ingredients coalesce and the more intense the flavour becomes.

You can add the chorizo in with the garlic and let it stew with the other ingredients

adding depth to the dish. Today I decided to grill the chorizo until it was crunchy and black at the edges, the smell was so enticing that it's a miracle that the caramelising chorizo made it to the stew at all. Then I sprinkled it in top of the stew on each individual plate giving a crispy contrast to the creamy chickpeas.

I wanted a more refreshing side dish than rice to soak up the tasty stew. I settled for bulgur wheat and jazzed it up with diced cucumber, tomato, red onion, a drizzle of olive oil, squeeze of a lemon and as many fresh herbs as I could find (dill, mint and Greek basil). Recently Greek basil has surpassed coriander in my affections because of its irresistible scent. I used half a red onion and this turned out to be too overpowering so I'd definitely be more conservative next time.

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Email mike@cycletechherts.co.uk Web www.cycletechherts.co.uk

Elected Representatives

Parish Council

North West Ward

Maria Aguado	369 High Street	823528	maria.aguado@dsl.pipex.com
Jane Hobday	14 Telford Road	769784	janeantonia@gmail.com
Mike Hobday	14 Telford Road	07853 292 307	mike.hobday@ntlworld.com

South West Ward

Jacob Quagliozi	5 Morris Way	07807 096824	cllr.j.quagliozi@stalbans.gov.uk
Norman Mahony	36 St Annes Road	767348	ncmahony@ntlworld.com
Ian Orton (Chairman)	8 Jubilee Avenue	825169	ianorton@btinternet.com

East Ward

Laurel Blyth	30A St Annes Road	769530	laurelblyth@hotmail.co.uk
Katherine Gardener	47 Thamesdale	07765137453	auxin@hotmail.co.uk
Tony Smith	2 Summers Way	821314	tony@happylyfe.co.uk

St Albans District Council

Simon Calder	28 Norris Close	07949 479370	cllr.s.calder@stalbans.gov.uk
'Dreda Gordon	29 Collyer Road	826233	cllr.d.gordon@stalbans.gov.uk
Jacob Quagliozi	5 Morris Way	07807 096824	cllr.j.quagliozi@stalbans.gov.uk

Hertfordshire County Council

Chris Brazier	The Cottage, 3, Park Lane, Colney Heath, AL4 0NR	823586 07836 738853	chris.brazier@hertscc.gov.uk
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Member of Parliament

Anne Main	House of Commons, Westminster, London	0207 219 8270	maina@parliament.uk
	Constituency Office	01727 825100	

Members of the European Parliament

There are 7 MEPs for the Eastern Region. Contact them at these numbers...

Conservative: 01245 345188,
Liberal: 01223 566700,

Labour: 01223 240202,
UKIP: 01245 266466

Parish Council Meetings are held on the first Friday of each month except in August. The next meeting will be on Friday 5th October at 7pm in The Pavillion at Morris Way Playing Fields. Meetings are open to the public. Early in each meeting Police Community Support Officers give a report of the previous month's crime in the village followed by 15 minutes of Public Question time if you wish to ask questions of the PCSOs or the Councillors.

The dates for the forthcoming meetings are: 2nd November and 7th December 2012 and 4th January 2013.

PLANNING

Planning applications received from St Albans District and Herts County Council are available at Parish Council Meetings to view on a laptop provided by StADC. The District Council have stopped supplying paper copies of plans to the Parish Council or to members of the public. We now view the plans online projected onto a large screen

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Gardening

Anne Kitchener

I'm going to try not to mention the weather too much as it has, as ever, been the dominating factor in not just the garden this summer but also in many conversations and news bulletins. Despite, or perhaps because of the rain my garden has become particularly lush and overgrown. Having had a water meter installed we were able to set up the irrigation system, but even pots and containers were becoming waterlogged and so at times it has been turned off. Perhaps we will eventually have some sunshine, just a few days will do.



When I'm choosing plants for the garden I like to try and pick those which will encourage insects of all sorts. Insects, bees in particular are vital for pollination which is especially important for my small vegetable patch. Other insects such as ladybird and hoverfly larvae will eat the aphids which are damaging to precious crops. Butterflies and moths are beautiful to look at and enhance any garden. Plants with single flowers are best for attracting insects. Those plants that have been developed and cultivated with evermore elaborate and complicated petal patterns and arrangements will not be attractive as it is increasingly harder for the insect to find its way through the maze to reach any pollen that might be there.

In my garden, in spring the tiny pink flowers of cotoneaster horizontalis are a particular insect magnet and the purple flowers of honesty attract orange tip butterflies. Lavender, marjoram, thyme,



Purple scabious and bee to the left and above, Sisyrynchum, oxeye daisies and flower border.

chives are all alive with all sorts of insects on a sunny summer day, as are catmint, eryngium, scabious and oxeye daisies. I have found chives and oxeye daisies in particular to be prolific self seeders so vigilance is needed with dead-heading. In later summer ice plant, fennel and verbena bonariensis are all attractants. I leave the flower heads on these throughout winter as they add some structure and birds, especially goldfinches enjoy foraging for their seeds. Smaller birds use the tall stems of fennel as a staging post on their way to the bird table. The flowers of mature ivy provide an important nectar source in autumn and on a sunny day are covered with bees and other insects building up their food for the winter.

I enjoy growing sweet peas alongside my vegetables because as well as encouraging vital pollinators to my beans and tomatoes, they are pretty to look at. They have to be picked almost daily to encourage continued flowering and it is delightful to have a posy filling the living room with their scent throughout the summer. I grow sweet peas from seed and for the last two summers I have experimented with starting these off indoors the previous October, then once germinated transferring them to

the cold frame for the winter. Last year this appeared to have worked, but having planted them out in late winter, I had one or two early flowers, then they withered and I had a summer without sweet peas in either garden or house. Undaunted I tried again last October but I realised in good time that the autumn sowing was failing and so had just enough time to start off some more. These are doing much better, if a little late in flowering and in future years I will go back to spring sowing. I do not want to be without these useful insect attractors.

My garden would not be the same without its little winged visitors. There are bumble bees and honey bees, hoverflies and ladybirds the occasional dragonfly and many others. It is always a joy when a rare visitor flies in, a hummingbird hawk moth or a marbled white butterfly. I enjoy sitting and watching the comings and goings as each flower head in turn is explored for nectar. In the process the flowers will be pollinated and the cycle of propagation and growth continued. Along the way I may also be able to harvest some crops.

Coopers Wood

Editor

Coopers Wood is the new name for the area of woodland between Lowbell Lane, Thamesdale and The Colney Fox PH.

You may have noticed the enormous improvements made to this small area of woodland by the owners, Matthew Homes prior to handing it over to the Parish Council. They have thinned the trees, removing damaged, dying and overcrowded specimens and have replanted with substantial young native trees. The path through the wood is now broad and clear and a large amount of rubbish has also been removed. We hope that the increased light reaching the ground will promote the growth of native wildflowers. It would be good if the wood could support more wildlife although, as this patch of wood is isolated, it may take some time for new species to appear.

The Parish Council will now manage and maintain this wood on behalf of local residents. We have been given a small maintenance budget which, with your help, should enable us to keep the wood in good order.

The wood is to be called Cooper's Wood in memory of Robin Cooper who served London Colney as member and Chairman of the Parish Council for many years.

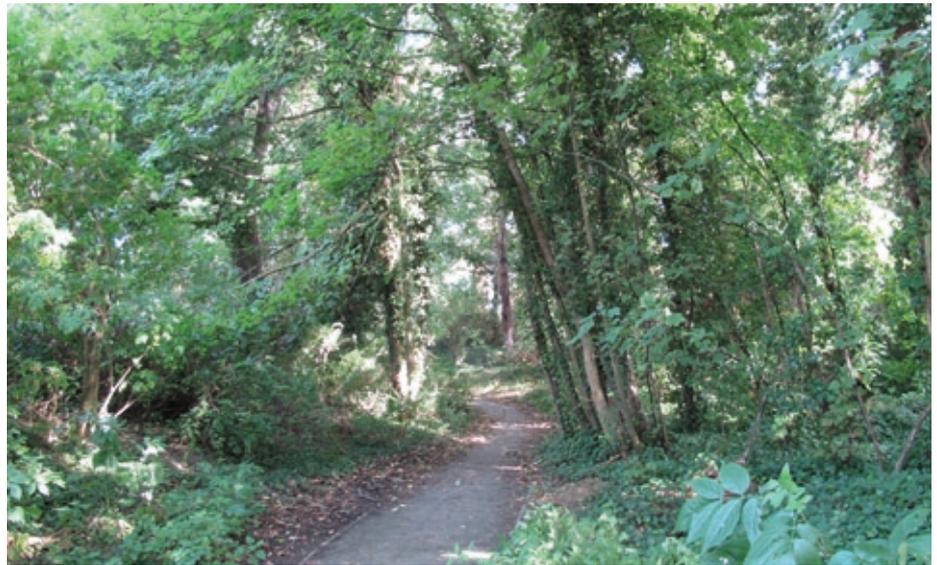
Please join us on Saturday 6th October at 10am at the Colne Gardens entrance to the wood for the formal handover and a short naming ceremony followed by refreshments at the Colney Fox.

Village Green Application

Herts County Council are considering the Parish Council's application to register the triangle of open land in Thamesdale as a Village Green. The land is also owned by Matthew Homes.

The area has planning permission for 14 flats but work on these cannot proceed until the County Council has made their decision.

The papers are with the County Council's lawyers. When they report in the Autumn, the County Council can decide whether to grant Village Green status.



Quiz Night



Saturday 6th October 2012
7:30pm



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Dawn to Dusk

Jo Ivory

Dawn to Dusk is a self-help Carer support group. We meet at the Charles Morris Hall, Tyttenhanger Green, St. Albans on a Thursday from 11.30am to 1.30pm.

The aim of the group is to give Carers a two hour break from their caring duties and allow them to relax with other Carers who understand the difficulties and loneliness of being a Carer and to take part in a variety of activities and learn new skills.

Constant care can create low self-esteem, low confidence and loss of positive identity. To achieve successful and effective care within families Carers need support for respite and time for themselves.

Most members are enthusiastic and even a minority who find it difficult to engage have received enough benefit to improve their self-regard. This has enabled them to return home with increased confidence and positivity which in turn benefits the person for whom they care. Carers work excessively hard and they deserve, and need, two hours a week to think about themselves.

Some comments from Carers who attend the group:

"There is something for us, to show that we are people beyond our caring duties"

"The Carers' group is a great antidote and uplift to "being me again"



"The Carers' group is a life saver to me, I love going and enjoy seeing my fellow Carers who have become real friends".

"Dawn to Dusk is valuable to me because I don't have to constantly explain my circumstances to the group - THEY UNDERSTAND".

"It is good to have the courses because although we can air problems we don't have to dwell on them"

If you are a Carer or a recently bereaved Carer you are welcome to join us for further information contact:

Jo 01727 568552 or

Rosemary 01727 873385

We began eight weeks of Reflexology on 27th September.

We have just been awarded a grant from St. Albans District Council which will enable us to think about 2013 activities.

Come along and join us - there is no obligation to continue if you find it is not for you.

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Baby Massage

Do you have a baby up to the age of one year and would like to attend a baby massage course.

The course run for five weeks and there is a cost of £10

For more information and to book a place, please contact London Colney Children's Centre or email

manager.londoncolney@hertschildrenscentres.org.uk



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BfN

The Breastfeeding Network

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Pirates of the Curry Bean at Bowmansgreen

Jacky Potter

Timbers were shivered and main braces spliced at Bowmansgreen Primary School in July as The Pirates of the Curry Bean went in search of fortunes and riches. Led by the infamous Cap'n Redbeard (whose beard was actually pi "NO! don't say the 'p' word in front of the Cap'n!") the pungent pirates became involved with the Periwinkle family in a race to find both treasure map and treasure.

The pirate ship, the Curry Bean, battled with the Crunchy Frog, flag ship of the hapless Admiral Hornhonker and his despairing captain, Captain Cod, in an effort to find the legendary land of Lumbago rumoured home of the great treasure chest.

Blown off course by the winds and their diet of curry and beans the intrepid pirates found themselves miraculously washed ashore on the very island they searched for.

The crew of the Crunchy Frog, including the young Periwinkle twins, their mother Pearl and their cat Fiddlesticks also found themselves on the island only to receive the greatest surprise of all when the King of the islanders turned out to be long lost pirate Captain Swaggersword, father of Jack and Liza Periwinkle. So the treasure was found and the Periwinkle family reunited as all turned out well in the end.

With colourful characters, sparkling songs and a script as sharp as a pirate's cutlass the play, performed by members of Years 4,5 and 6, provided an evening dripping with piratical style. Congratulations to all the cast and crew of Bowmansgreen School's production of Pirates of the Curry Bean.



Bowmansgreen 2

Jacky Potter

In honour of London 2012, Bowmansgreen School held a special Olympic week recently in place of its traditional sports day.




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Bowmansgreen 60th Celebrations

Michaela DeGale

Back in the late 1940s and early 1950s, the land in the centre of Sheephouse Farm Estate was set aside for a new school and Bowmansgreen JMI came into being. Known today as Bowmansgreen Primary, the school took its first intake of pupils in April 1952 and was officially opened in December 1952. During the school's existence there have been 5 headteachers - the longest standing of which was Douglas Prater who amongst many activities developed the grounds and surroundings.

Today the school has Moira White in situ as HeadTeacher.

So rolling forward to this year, Bowmansgreen Primary School celebrates its Diamond Birthday and the school is planning a 'sparkle themed' party on Saturday 6th October to celebrate in style!

A venue has been hired and entertainment group - "The Push" will be there to perform on the night. Tickets are on sale now for just £15 each - price includes entry, entertainment and supper.

All teachers, members of the school staff and friends of Bowmansgreen past and present along with past pupils over the age of 18 are invited to attend and celebrate the event so spread the word to anyone you know who is or was connected to the school during previous years.

To book tickets - contact The Friends of Bowmansgreen at friendsofbowmansgreen@gmail.com.

2012

The week began with the opening ceremony and the whole school gathering in the Olympic arena (junior playground). Parents were invited along to watch the spectacular show and also enjoyed a short burst of good weather! Olympic gold medallist James DeGale officially opened the ceremony. Each year group adopted a country and after parading around the arena, performed a dazzling dance or song related to their country. Several children entrusted with the task of honour to take the Olympic Oath on behalf of all participants, pronounced the words with loud, clear voices in front of a packed arena. This was followed with the Bowmansgreen Olympic flame being lit by the youngest and oldest child in the school.

Over the next 3 days each year group held heats in 6 events; sprint, hurdles, partner relay, long jump, shot putt and speed jump. From the heats, 6 boy and 6 girl finalists were chosen to compete in the finals and winners were presented with Bronze, Silver and Gold medals.

Unfortunately bad weather meant that the finals had to be postponed not once but twice. In the end year groups had to do their finals in-between bouts of rain over the course of a week. Despite this setback the children's enthusiasm remained undaunted and the Bowmansgreen Olympics turned out to be a huge success and thoroughly enjoyed by all.



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Wartime Friends

Avril Foster



From a very early age, my 2 sisters, brother and I were brought up in Lowbell Lane, London Colney from 1940 where my father was employed on what was then known as Legerton's farm. With our parents we lived in a farm cottage in the upper part of the lane.

From a very young age, I was aware of a number of "strangely spoken" men who were called Prisoners of War and lived in a couple of adjoining cottages in the lower lane. They were a mix of both German and Italian POWs who came from a Prisoner of War Camp just outside Barnet in an area known as Trotters Bottom.

Above is a school photo of me in 1948 and below the group photograph shows my Father, George Chambers, Wilhelm Dyke (Willie) the German POW and a boy called Teddy Rowlands. Taken on Legerton's farm, Lowbell Lane, in the late 40s during the brussel sprout picking season. Left to right is Teddy Rowlands, Wilhelm Dyke and George Chambers.



With other farm workers, my father worked alongside the POWs and soon became friends with them despite having language difficulties at first. This friendship was restricted somewhat because there was a time restriction when the P O Ws had to be in their cottages and no visitors were allowed after 6pm. If anyone ignored this rule they were quickly and certainly made aware of doing so by Mrs Angelina Childs who either took it upon herself to be the "Supervisor" of these gentlemen or had been asked by some official body, such as the War Office.

Every day, with either my siblings or friends, I saw the P O Ws doing their housework, especially when scrubbing their large wooden dining table and chairs in the front garden. It was especially noticed that the Germans were most scrupulous with their cleaning, while the Italians were more laid back.

In time, my sisters, brother and I came to know each P O W by their Christian names – Willie (Wilhelm), Eric (Erich), Paul (Paol) and Phillip (Phillipp). There were one or two others whose names escape me after so many years!

Our German and Italian friends worked extremely hard and were very willing to do so. They enjoyed their apparent freedom on the farm, looking after the animals and also working on the land.

My sister Vivienne and I reminded Willie of the two young daughters he had left behind in Germany. Every evening he took his bible to read, inside of which was a beautiful photograph of his girls. My father told me later that Willie's wife had made a new life with another German soldier back in their homeland and because of this sad event Willie never saw his daughters again as far as I knew and after the Second World War had ended he remained in England for the rest of his life. As a family we were proud to have Willie as a dear and close friend.

It was pleasing to know that Willie made a happy life in St Albans with his new wife and 3 stepsons, two of whom my brother and I became friends with - Donald and



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POW Facts

Editor

Len were their names. Willie worked at the St Albans Rubber Company until his retirement.

The ladies' man of the bunch was Eric who developed a soft spot for my eldest sister Pat who at the age of 16 completely ignored him! Then there was Paul, the vain one. He had a bad accident in the lane when falling off his bike. Gravel became embedded in Paul's face and he received hospital treatment. Because of his badly injured face Paul had no wish to receive visitors and if someone came to the cottage they were not allowed entrance until he had placed a towel over his face! As to Phillip, he was considered the arrogant one and did not mix very much at all with anyone although he was a kind friend to us children.

We learned a lot from our new found friends during visits after school; Willie taught me the wonderful art of darning. In our needlework class at school girls were asked to choose something to create and as a result of my producing a pair of neatly darned socks, I won a prize at the end of the school term. Their woodwork was really admired by many and the rope sandals they made were worn around the cottage as slippers with many pairs being given as gifts to their work mates. Meals were all from home cooking much of which was produced in a huge pot and boiled on the cooking range. We often were invited to supper!

Another lasting memory was of the POWs coming to our Bonfire Night on 5 November. They helped father stack the bonfire with rubber tyres, garden rubbish, fallen trees etc and at the top of which was the guy our mother had painstakingly made. We all enjoyed baked potatoes, chestnuts and toffee apples specially made for the occasion.

Although it was wartime, we children did not understand what was going on. All we knew was that we had made some wonderful friends from other countries. It was a very sad day for us when most went back home to Germany and Italy.

- 400,000 POWs were kept in hundreds of prison camps outside every major town in the country during WWI.

- During 1946, one in 5 farm labourers in Great Britain was a POW. The POWs were returned to their home countries after the war in a very leisurely fashion and many were detained until 1948.

- A list of POW camps was compiled by English Heritage in 2003 but this list is not complete. Sophie Jackson wrote a book in 2010 called 'Churchill's Unexpected Guests' which is the most complete account of POW camps in Great Britain.

- The most likely camp in the list from which the Lowbell Lane prisoners might have come is Camp No. 33 in Dancers Hill. That's about half a mile from Trotters Bottom on the other side of the St Albans Road.

- Most modern camp lists are based on archaeological work – ironic when the camps existed a mere 60 years ago.

- Records from the time give an insight into camp life and sometimes reveal the name of a camp, but often the documents didn't reveal the actual address, and prisoners were not allowed to write their camp address on any letters they sent home.

- In 2010 David Murray from Much Hadham, found over 2,000 artefacts in the garden of his bungalow which must have been built on the site of a POW camp. These included German soldiers' ID tags, badges, bottles and a live grenade which he attempted to defuse himself!

Headway

Kelly Smith, Headway Hertfordshire



the brain injury association

Has someone you know had a brain injury?

Brain injury is a subject you may know something about if it has happened to someone you know otherwise you probably haven't ever thought about it. Brain injury usually happens very suddenly, maybe after an accident, an assault, a stroke or a heart attack. This can have a devastating effect on the person themselves and also on the whole family. Often called the "Hidden disability", brain injury effects may not be noticeable if you pass someone in the street. Having to cope with memory loss, cognitive difficulties, sometimes speech and communication difficulties and changes in behaviour after a brain injury can make life very challenging and life changing.

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Looking Ahead

Adrian Wood, Baptist Church

I'm writing this article at the start of the summer holidays. Whilst out in St Albans one afternoon this week there was a "Back to School" sign - much to my daughter's disgust. It was hard not to agree with her annoyance at being asked to think about school when she had only just finished. There's over a month before she should have to even consider thinking about going 'Back to School'.

I too do not like having to think about things that are weeks/months away. A prime example of this is when Christmas is launched in September. It bugs me a lot. Very little in our society seems to have been left untouched by commercialism and our festivals and public holidays have all been given the glitz and glamour treatment.

On Sunday 2nd December this year, the churches in London Colney are having a joint Advent Service. Advent shows why Christians believe Christmas has a greater meaning than all the adverts on our TV's tell us. It is re-telling the story of God planning ahead and then becoming one of us so to communicate good news to man, women and children.

Why not put this date in your diary before the busyness of Christmas takes over again and take an opportunity to discover the real meaning of Christmas?

Here at LCBC, we welcome visitors at anytime of the year. Below are dates and information for Autumn:

Weekly Services: 10.30am (lasts for just over an hour)

Sunday School available for children
Toddlers Group every Friday from 14th September: 10-11.30am

Free Solicitors Surgery: 1st Wednesday in month

Open Doors Bible Group: Every Thursday from 13th September 2.15-3.15pm

Sunday 7th October – Harvest Service
Sunday 11th November: London Colney Remembrance Day Service

Sunday 23rd December: Christmas Carols by Candlelight at 6pm

For further information on any of the above or if you would like to know more about LCBC please contact: Revd Adrian Wood Tel 01727 825 450 email: londoncolneybc@gmail.com .

In addition our hall is available to rent. Please email Mrs Joan Thomas for details joanethom@yahoo.co.uk

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Jubilee Oak

Laurel Blyth, Councillor, London Colney Parish Council

Members of the Over 60s Club planted a commemorative oak by the river to mark the Diamond Jubilee of HRH Queen Elizabeth II.

Planted on 1st June, the tree benefitted from the last of the rain and is flourishing.

It will soon have its own descriptive plaque so that future generations, sitting in its shade, will know why it was planted.

From left to right, Jackie Day, Doris West, Laurel Blyth, John Farrow, June Symonds, Pat Farrow, Jean Roberts and Ian Orton.



Voting Rights

Debra Couch, Electoral Services Officer, St Albans District Council

Don't lose your right to vote – register now.

Residents in St Albans are being urged to return their Voter Registration Forms so they can vote in the Police and Crime Commissioner elections on 15 November.

St Albans City and District Council sent annual voter registration forms requesting elector information to more than 58,000 homes in the District in June. Residents are asked to complete and return the forms as soon as possible.

Mike Lovelady, Electoral Registration Officer for St Albans City and District, said: "We have had a good response so far, however, some households have still not yet registered. You have to be on the electoral register if you want to have your say in the first Police and Crime Commissioner elections in November."

"By the end of July, 56% of people eligible to vote in London Colney had registered, compared with 65% across the District. This was more than the proportion of people who were registered by this stage of the annual canvass last year. In 2012, the canvass resulted in 94.69% of eligible voters being registered. We are on course to achieve a similar percentage this year."

"If you are eligible to vote, please return the form as soon as possible. Alternatively, if you have no changes to make to any of the details on the form you can register through the internet, freephone or text registration service. Details of this are given on the form."

The Council maintains the electoral register and is required by law to review it each year to make sure it has an up-to-date register of electors who are eligible to vote in the District.

During September, canvassers have visited homes that have not returned the forms to request the information needed to compile an accurate revised register.

This year the annual review has been brought forward so that the register is updated prior to the Police and Crime Commissioner elections in November.

You can vote in local elections if you have registered to vote, are living in the UK and are either a British, Irish, qualifying Commonwealth or European Union Citizen. You can also vote if you are registered to vote as a Crown Servant or as a service voter.

The revised register will be published on 16 October 2012. There will be two versions – the full and the edited register. The edited register is available for marketing purposes and general sale.

Residents can opt of this register by ticking the box marked 'Edited Register'. The person completing the form should ensure that everyone mentioned on the form is asked whether they want to be on the edited register.

The opt-out only lasts until the next annual canvass is carried out when residents will again be asked if they want to opt of the edited register. If residents want to be excluded from the edited register on a longer-term basis then they need to write to the Electoral Services Team at

St Albans City and District Council, Civic Centre, St Peter's Street, St Albans, AL1 3JE or send an email to elections@stalbans.gov.uk.

If electors are not on the register when it is published or move to a new address during the year, they can still register to vote by completing a registration form. The deadline to register to vote for the Police and Crime Commissioner elections is 31 October 2012.

Anyone unable to attend a polling station or wishes to vote by post on 15 November can apply for a postal vote by contacting the Electoral Services Team or downloading a form at: <http://www.aboutmyvote.co.uk>

Poppy Appeal

Chris, Sandra and Laurel, Your London Colney 'Poppy Ladies'



POPPY APPEAL

Patron: Her Majesty The Queen



We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who helped make the 2011-2012 Poppy Appeal such a success.



The new Appeal begins in October 2012 and we will continue collecting and accepting donations until September 2013.

Thanks go to Sainsbury's and to Marks & Spencer for allowing us to set up our table in their foyer.

To Barkers Estate Agent for storing our materials.

To Gary of West Herts Funeral Service for allowing us to have a display in their window and for helping on Remembrance Sunday with the collection made during the service and for the plaque he made for our display.

To the Parish Council for their donation and for giving their time to stand with us and collect.

To all the volunteers who give up their time to help with the collection.

To all the shops and businesses who have a collection tin on their premises. And to you, the generous general public. Without you all it wouldn't be possible.

The total raised this year is £12,436.54p, an absolutely magnificent sum!

You should all be very proud, we certainly are.

Thank you again London Colney!

St Bernadette

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20% off any Colour and Finish treatment during October, only with this advert
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Mirror Image Hair Salon
158-160 High Street, London Colney
01727 822379
mirror-image.co.uk

Visit our websites for more information on treatments, prices, opening times



REGISTERED PLUMBER
L.J. SMITH
TEL: 07860 428484
Friendly & Reliable service
Special Rates OAPs
ESTABLISHED 1969

LONDON COLNEY'S HANDYMAN

Painting - Decorating - Carpentry - Doors and Locks Fitted
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Fencing - Decking - Shed Repairs - Pergolas
Patios and Paths Laid and Jetwashed and MORE!

For Affordable Quality Work
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07961 892 671 Or 01727 767 473
FREE ESTIMATES - REFERENCES AVAILABLE

Breakfast Club

A nutritionally balanced meal is provided and low key activities are on offer.
 Children are escorted to their respective schools by members of staff.
 Should you wish to discuss anything concerning the club or to arrange a place for your child, please contact Darlene Oliver on 0794 412 9566

**Looking good
feeling great**



**Special offers
exclusive to LCN readers**

A Free bottle of Australian Gold indoor tanning Cream or Gel when booking a 60 or 100 minute sunbed course during October, only with this advert. (while stocks last)
Save up to £20

Our indoor tanning products accelerate the tanning process by up to 40% and hydrate and moisturise the skin.

20% off any waxing or massage treatments during October, only with this advert.
Save up to £12 per treatment

Body Image Beauty Salon
 255 High Street, London Colney
01727 822400
body-image.co.uk

Information about our products, times and our latest offers.

Private Children's Day Nursery

For children aged between 3 months to 5 years

We are a small "home-from-home" 40 place nursery in a 200 year old cottage. Situated in the conservation area of London Colney.

Limited spaces now available for 15 free government funded hours per week to Pre-school children aged 3 years and over.

Nightingale Cottage, Barnet Road, London Colney AL2 1BG
 Contact: Manager - Sally Shields
 Telephone: 01727 827533
 Email – info@littlenightingales.com
 Website - www.littlenightingales.com

For our latest Ofsted report please visit our website and click on the link.

Do you know someone who needs care?

Our London Colney team offers specialist Live-in Care.

Working with people of all ages, our Live-in Carers provide one-to-one support, balancing independent living with bespoke care needs. We can assist with:

- personal care
- companionship
- housekeeping

Our award-winning service is rated Excellent by the Care Quality Commission.

Find out how we can help you, please call 0808 180 1027 or visit www.helpinghands.co.uk

Great Britain 2010 Winner

Helping Hands
 Established since 1989

WI

Anne Kebley, Secretary



The London Colney Women's Institute meet monthly on a Tuesday evening in the Baptist Church Hall, Kings Road.

This lively group welcomes new members to its meetings. Speakers and competitions are the order of the day. Join them! You'll never look back!

To contact the London Colney WI:
Phone the Secretary, Anne Kebley on:
01727 823428



WI members (above) running the tombola at Larks In The Parks in June this year.

Programme of Meetings June - September 2012

11 September	Zumba Gold	Joanna Smith
9 October	A Talk on Ham House	Anne Savage
13 November	Annual Meeting	
11 December	Christmas Party	

84 Bus

Ken Peak and Tony Billings

In case you haven't noticed, the destination board at the front of the single-deck Red bus that plies the route between Barnet and St. Albans via London Colney, now has a special message. It says 100 years old! to commemorate its centenary year from August 1912: a remarkable time!

The journey has varied somewhat during that period, which includes two World Wars, and the effects of modern motor travel on passenger needs.

The full story of this amazing saga is well told in Tony Billings' book '84 to St Albans' published in 2003, in a history of this famous route.

Our red doubledecker was once part of London Transport, but now belongs

to Metrolino, based in Potters Bar; and is more familiar to many than its smaller counterpart, which is similar to the Uno service in style. Both appear regularly at the Colney Fields connection, linking to many places around as far away as New Barnet on its earlier scheduled route. A truly iconic reminder of a century of change passing through London Colney.

We now have modern designs to replace the older versions (see photograph taken recently) which had solid tyres, outside stairs, open seating aloft, and the driver perched outside in the fresh air, as the whole contraption struggled to get up Ridge Hill - for a fraction of the fare today! It was a lifeline for many people to escape from London Town to see London Colney (or St Albans) instead, far away in the countryside beyond The Smoke...



London Colney News is published by London Colney Parish Council
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Printed by Stephen Austin & Sons, Hertford

