

## Parish Council Report

Ian Orton, Chair of Parish Council



As both a recently elected Parish Councillor and newly appointed Chair of the Parish Council I am already aware that the Parish Council provides a very wide range of well-appreciated community facilities within the average

Parish Council tax bill of around £1 per week per London Colney household.

We provide services for all age groups and communities within London Colney and I plan to spend my first month as Chair of the Parish Council looking at our services to ensure all the community benefit from what we provide. If there are areas where new services need to be introduced then I will explore ways of how we can do this within the framework of our existing budget.

The Parish Council is very customer and community focused with lunch club meals held at last year's price of £3.50, additional free facilities for young people, supporting valuable services such as the CAB and London Colney Youth Project, awarding grants to community groups, maintaining sports and recreation areas plus providing opportunities to make use of community buildings such as the

Caledon Club and Napsbury & Morris Playing Fields Pavilions.

But I would like to hear from anyone who has ideas about our existing services and thoughts for future initiatives that could be provided by London Colney Parish Council.

My e-mail address is:  
chairman@londoncolney-pc.gov.uk

I look forward to hearing from you.



Erika Cable of Park Street Camera Club was at London Zoo, concentrating on the African penguins being fed, when an opportunist heron came down and joined in their lunch. The heron went into the pool and grabbed a fish, turned it round and threw it up in the air to catch it, head first. See article on page 4

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# Plans for Francis Bacon College

Jo Brown, Senior Press Officer, Hertfordshire County Council

A consultation on plans to transform Francis Bacon Maths and Computing College into an academy for three to 19 year olds has been launched.

To open the academy, it is necessary to go through a process to formally close

the college. All parents and carers of pupils at the school will receive letters outlining the plans and the next stages in the process. Included with the letter is a straightforward form asking whether parents and carers support the proposed

change.

The consultation closes on June 28. Parents and carers can also respond to the consultation online at :

[www.hertsdirect.org/csfconsultations](http://www.hertsdirect.org/csfconsultations)

If academy status is granted, Francis Bacon Maths and Computing College would close on August 31 2012 and the newly-named academy would open on September 1 2012. The school closure will not go ahead unless academy status is granted.

Pupils currently attending Francis Bacon Maths and Computing College would automatically transfer to the new academy with no interruption to their education.

The consultation closes on June 28. Parents and carers can also respond to the consultation online at [www.hertsdirect.org/csfconsultations](http://www.hertsdirect.org/csfconsultations)

Sir John Lawes School Trust will lead the development of the new school, in the process sponsoring it to become an academy. Sir John Lawes is a highly successful and well-regarded school which is keen to develop this new provision in St Albans.

Following the consultation period the Education and Skills Panel and the Cabinet of the county council will take account of feedback received during the consultation and decide whether a statutory notice should be published of the intention to close Francis Bacon Maths and Computing College. That notice would be published in September and anybody is entitled to comment or object during the six week notice period. The notice to close would be conditional on academy status being awarded to the Sir John Lawes School Trust.

After the statutory notice period, the decision on whether or not to proceed with the closure will be made by Hertfordshire County Council's Cabinet at its meeting in November. The Cabinet will take account of any comments or objections made during the statutory notice period.

Parents requiring reception age places for their children in September 2012 will be able to express a preference for the academy via the normal admissions applications process.

LONDON COLNEY PARISH COUNCIL PROUDLY PRESENTS  
**LARKS IN THE PARKS 2011**  
 SUNDAY 26th JUNE 12 - 5PM  
 Morris Way Playing Field  
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**LARKS IN THE PARK**  
 Come and dip your toes in all the fun

**Our West End Star!**  
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 We are honoured that Nadine has agreed to come back this year to our fun day celebration. So please come along, relax and enjoy her stunning voice!

**Mr Versatile**  
**Dave Anthony**  
 He enjoyed it so much last year that he is back! with his own unique style of humour and singing join Dave Anthony centre stage at Larks

**Guitar Maestro**  
**Chris Flegg.**  
 For his second year at Larks in the Park, we are delighted to have Chris back with his Guitar and a handful of songs.

**The Push.**  
 Local band and always a favourite at Larks in the Park are the push who will close this years event. So don't rush off. Hang around and enjoy the day!

**PLUS**  
 A dancing treat is set for you this year with Excel performing arts school. Come and enjoy the future dancers of tomorrow today.

**Bilsby and Dowsett**  
 Making sure it all flows smoothly will be Mark Bilsby and Mark Dowsett master of ceremonies for the afternoon and good Tea drinkers!

Strictly School dancing competition winners will be performing their winning dance.  
 Local band will be playing from Francis Bacon School.  
 Fun fair and Attractions

Logos: St Albans Festival 2011 (18 June - 03 July), Leisure Connection, St Albans City & District Council, Excel Performing Arts.

# Parish Council Events to December 2011

If you would like more information, take part or volunteer to help with any of the following events please contact [projectmanager@londoncolney.com](mailto:projectmanager@londoncolney.com)

## St Albans Day Walk – Wednesday 22 June – 6.30pm for 7.00pm

Meet on the Village Green, in front of the Green Dragon Pub and join us for a walk through the Broad Colney Nature Reserve and the grounds of the Pastoral Centre, to the forma Island in the Colne River, where St Alban is reputed to have been captured by the Romans. A short history of St Alban is read out and then we walk back to the Community Centre for refreshments.

## Larks in the Park – Sunday 26 June – 12.00 – 5.00pm

The big Summer Village Event. Bring your family and friends to Morris Playing Field, Whitehorse Lane. Have a picnic. We will supply the entertainment. Live music, dancing, stalls, fairground rides and lots more. If you would like to join in and have a stall, perform on the stage or in the arena, email: [projectmanager@londoncolney.com](mailto:projectmanager@londoncolney.com)

## Fireworks Display – Sunday 6 November – 6.30pm

Local Schools, Churches and groups come together with the Parish Council to run this spectacular event of Fireworks and music, at Morris Playing Field, Whitehorse Lane. No entrance fee. The bucket donations (suggested £5 per family) go to those local groups that assist the Parish Council with the event. Last year the groups were the 3 local primary schools, the Scouts, St Peter's Church and the Poppy Appeal.

## Remembrance Sunday – Sunday 13 November – 10.30am

The general public start to gather at the War Memorial in the High Street from 10.30am. The groups marching from the Caledon Community Centre, Caledon Road, will be the Royal British Legion, Parish Councillors, The local Scouts, Guides, Cubs, Brownies and Rainbows. They march round to the Memorial at 10.50am. A short service is held at the Memorial where the names of the fallen will be read and a collection will be taken for the Poppy Appeal. The High Street from the junction of Haseldine Road to the junction of St Annes Road will be closed off by the Police during the marching and service.

## Christmas Lights Switch on – Friday 25 November – 5.30pm

Come and join us on Chester Gibbons Green by the Millennium Clock and help members from the cast of the St Albans (Snow White & 7 Dwarfs) and London Colney (Jack in the Beanstalk) Pantomimes count down to switching on the lights in the High Street and on the big Christmas tree. Children from the three local junior Schools will also be singing carols.

## Christmas Ball – Friday 16 December (to be confirmed) 7.00pm

A magical night, music and dancing till midnight, a five course meal and charity raffle. Ticket price and venue to be advised.

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

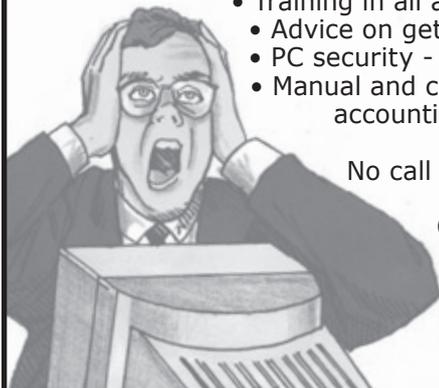
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No call out charges - References available

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

**Dr. John Hibbs (01727) 826183**  
[johnhibbs@btconnect.com](mailto:johnhibbs@btconnect.com)



### NEXT ISSUE Autumn 2011

Distribution date - 1st week September 2011 Copy deadline - 1st August 2011

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](mailto: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.

# Park Street Camera Club

Rosemary Wenzelul

The Club had an extremely successful year during 2010 - 2011 having entered into many external photographic competitions. Just before Easter, we had our annual dinner and award presentation which ended our Club year.

On 2 June we will have a members evening followed on 9 June with Round 2 of our Open Projected Images Competition.

On 16 June we have an Audio-Visual talk, 23 June Round 2 Open Print

Competition and finally on 30 June our Summer Social. After this we break for the Summer and return on 8 September.

We are a small and extremely friendly Club, we welcome new members (both beginners and advanced photographers) and you will always be given a warm welcome on arrival. The picture of the heron on the front cover was taken by new member Erica Cable. If you would like to come along one evening as a visitor, you will be more than welcome

(there is no pressure to join) we meet at 7.45pm for 8pm start, each Thursday at St. Stephen Parish Centre, Station Road, Bricket Wood. Visit our website to view our programme, photo galleries, competition winning photographs and much more.

[www.parkstreetcameraclub.com](http://www.parkstreetcameraclub.com)

Please contact Rosemary Wenzelul, Publicity Officer, on 01923 677111 for further information.

# The Base

Shelley Taylor, Project Coordinator, TheBase Youth Project

The Base is a centre for young people aged 11-19 and is located on London Colney High Street and offers a safe and friendly place for young people to access advice, support and information on a wide variety of issues.

The Base provides free computer facilities and access to the internet, a café area and a recreational area, including a pool table, table tennis, futsal and Wii.

The Counselling Service offers one to one support for young people aged 11-19 years. Free weekly sessions are available by appointment for any young person who feels they need someone to talk to.

### Activities and Opening Times

**Evening sessions Cost 50p**  
**Tuesday for ages 11-14**  
**6.30-9pm**  
**Wednesday for ages 14-17**  
**7-9:30pm**

**Youth Counselling**  
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**Email:**

**Talk2some1@hotmail.co.uk**

**Kids @ Da Base Cost 50p**  
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**Auntie Annie**  
**Got a problem or question?**

**Go to:**

**[www.baseyouthproject.org.uk](http://www.baseyouthproject.org.uk)**

### Summer Programme – School 6 week holiday

- |  |                     |
|--|---------------------|
| <b>26 July – Raft Building</b>                   | <b>6-9.30pm</b>     |
| <b>29 July – Street Dance @ Barbican Theatre</b> | <b>6.30-10.30pm</b> |
| <b>03 Aug – Kayaking</b>                         | <b>6-9.30pm</b>     |
| <b>04 Aug – Jewellery Making Workshop</b>        | <b>1-4.30pm</b>     |
| <b>10 Aug – London Day Trip</b>                  | <b>9.30am-9pm</b>   |
| <b>30 Aug – Climbing</b>                         | <b>6-9.30pm</b>     |

**For more information please contact Shelley Taylor on 01727 821639 / 07920 708029 or [base184@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:base184@yahoo.co.uk)**

**For more information on the counselling service please contact Anesta Edge on 07796 522216**

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# 50th Anniversary at Alexander Church

Christine Drayson

Did you ever go to Sunday school, Bible class or Covenanters at Alexander Church?



We are holding a "Cheese & Wine Evening" on Friday, 7th October, to commemorate the church's 50th Anniversary in London Colney.

ALL are welcome to drop in any time between 7 and 9 pm for a very informal open evening, where we can meet faces from the past and share our memories. Also we can reminisce over old photos – see if you can spot yourself!

More details will be given in September's issue of London Colney News, but put the date in your diary now.

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# World Wildlife

Dave Ansell

The Goldcrest, together with the Firecrest are the two smallest birds in Europe, measuring just 3.5 inches in length.

Numbers of Goldcrest have bounced back after the harshest winter in three decades killed around two million of them.

Goldcrests are tiny songbirds weighing around 6 grams - less than a ten pence piece. If you're still thinking in Imperial measures that's roughly 4 birds to the ounce.

Their recovery in numbers followed a disastrous decline when much of Britain was under snow in January and February 2010.

Their habitat is mainly conifer woods and they winter in Southern England.

A wren, the second smallest british bird, weighs 8 grams - the same as a fifty pence piece. Bluetits, surprisingly chunky really, are the same weight as a £1 coin at 9.5 grams.



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# Gardening

Anne Kitchener

We have been living in this house now for over 20 years and during that time the garden has gradually evolved with many changes, usually quite small. There are still plants here that were already well established when we arrived but are now beginning to look past their best. The lawn has gradually reduced in size as flower beds widened and lawn care seems an increasing chore. Some changes have been inevitable as plants have died having reached their allotted lifespan, or succumbed to adverse weather conditions. Some favourite plants did not manage to survive the record low temperatures at the start of last winter. Shrubs seem to have been the worst affected and as these are larger plants, their loss has made greater impact on the garden. A cistus, a hebe and a rosemary all failed to survive, also several potted agapanthus plants. The decision has been whether to replace these plants and hope that we do not have such record low temperatures again for a while, or use their loss as a basis for greater changes.

As the lawn had gradually reduced in size as flower beds widened and the lawn mower was getting older and older, we made the decision last autumn to remove the lawn once spring arrived. This we have now done and have replaced it with a large area of gravel joining up two smaller gravel gardens. In the middle we have made a raised bed using railway sleepers. Last autumn I potted up some perennials which had seeded themselves around the garden and kept them in the cold frame over winter. Most have survived and I have planted them in the



new bed where they are establishing well, spending winter in the cold frame appears to have helped them develop into stronger plants. The irrigation system has been extended around the edge of the gravel so that the whole area can be used for pots both of flowers and crops which can then be altered and rearranged as the summer season progresses. I have several lilies in pots which should look good against the gravel.

Another significant feature of the garden which was here when we moved in is a large clematis Montana Rubens which had been planted alongside a climbing

rose, both climbing up the back wall of the house. The clematis has put on a beautiful show year after year but we have not always managed to give it the pruning it required to keep it under control. Flowering on the clematis is now diminishing and I have reluctantly reached the decision that severe treatment is needed. I plan to plant a replacement clematis but at the other end of the wall as it is not a good idea to plant a new clematis in the same spot as an old one, this can encourage disease. We will then cut the old plant right down, hopefully without damaging the rose. Following repair of the trellis it should be possible to rejuvenate the rose and we will wait and see if the old clematis recovers. Hopefully the back wall should then play host to an improved rose and to two clematis plants which will be more controlled. It will be a while though before we can expect the show of flowers that we have become used to in past years.

It can be hard deciding that favourite plants are now past their best, sometimes this decision is made for us by time or weather. I am looking forward to seeing the new flower bed develop, and to playing around with arrangements of pots. The garden needs to be allowed to evolve and change giving new plants the chance to flourish, and I am sure these will, in time, become new favourites.



## TREASURE TOTS PRE-SCHOOL

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# London Colney Baptist Church

Joan Thomas

On February 6th we said farewell to Rev. Peter Laws as he started the next part of his journey in life.

For us this is also the start of a new journey as we seek God's will for the future. We will be looking for a new Minister; this process can be a short one

or it can take time. In the meanwhile we continue to meet and worship each Sunday as normal with different people leading services. Sometimes this is a visiting minister; sometimes the church leadership and sometimes the congregation play a part.

Our normal weekday activities, parents and toddlers, Open Doors, monthly solicitor's advice surgery all continue.

Our hall continues to be used by the W.I, a preschool, Italian for toddlers and Baby Signing.

We will be at Larks in the Parks and this year we will be providing the light refreshments so come and buy a cake, a cuppa and say hello.

Our weekly service is at 10.30am with communion every 3rd Sunday.

We are a friendly, family oriented church and welcome anyone to join us. Just come as you are to meet with God and say hello to us.

Visit our website

[www.londoncolneybaptistchurch.co.uk](http://www.londoncolneybaptistchurch.co.uk)  
or call Joan on 01727 763528 if you want to know more of if you or if you would like us to pray for you.

## New Babies

Look out for the cygnets down by the river. Please keep your dogs away from them and don't give them bread - It's not their natural food and feeding will make them tame and less likely to survive in the wild.




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**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT NAOMI ON**  
naomi526@hotmail.co.uk  
0777 320 2164

## Garden Birds

### Advice from the BTO

After the warmest April since records began, worms and other invertebrates that garden birds need to rear their chicks are buried deep underground. The British Trust for Ornithology's (BTO's) Garden BirdWatch team offers advice on how to help.

Across much of the UK, the hard-baked ground is making life difficult for birds such as thrushes and starlings that probe into the soil for food. Average daily temperatures in April this year were nearly 4°C higher than the long-term average, as calculated since 1659, and rainfall - especially in southern England - was well below normal levels. Last year conditions were very similar and included the driest period from January to June in 80 years. BTO data show that the breeding productivity of Song Thrush and Blackbird suffered, both down by 21%. Young of these species are now fledging and their parents are trying to nest again, so now is a period of high demands.

The BTO's Garden BirdWatch team recommends that you sprinkle your lawn with water early in the morning or late in the evening. Avoid the warmest part of the day when much will evaporate before it has a chance to soak in. Water well-shaded areas for the same reason, particularly those that are shaded during the morning. This will encourage dew to form that some species will drink. Importantly, sprinkling will also bring creepy-crawlies closer to the surface where the birds can find them. Provide a reliable source of fresh water for drinking and bathing, and ensure that bird baths and feeders are cleaned regularly.

Dr Tim Harrison of BTO Garden BirdWatch commented: "Fledglings of many species, including Robin, Blackbird and Song Thrush, are already cropping up in gardens this spring. For them, life can be tough as they search for food in the current arid conditions. By taking a few simple steps — like sprinkling the lawn, providing fresh water and feeding invertebrates such as mealworms — people can give these youngsters a better chance of survival."

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# Recipe - Blackberry & Apple Jelly

Maria Aguado



You need a jam pan and a jelly bag for this recipe. Make do with a really big saucepan and make a jelly bag by sewing a doubled piece of old sheet into a witch's hat shape. Double machine sew the seams and sew tapes onto the top for hanging it up. These also need to be really strong - you've never seen such a mess as a dropped jelly bag full of stewed blackberries.

Pick your blackberries in sunshine if possible but definitely on a dry day. Wash them and remove any fusty ones. You need enough to fill your pan to about three quarters full. Find enough windfall apples or shop bought cooking apples to top the pan up to almost full. Cut them up roughly and remove the bad bits then

add enough water to barely cover them.

Now bring the fruit to the boil and simmer until the apples turn to mush. This should take over an hour.

Set up the jelly bag so that it hangs over a clean bowl and pour in the fruit mixture.

Leave the jelly bag to drip overnight. Do not squeeze the jelly bag or your jelly will not be clear.

The next day, measure the juice back into the original pan. You need 1lb of granulated sugar for every pint of juice.

Warm the sugar in a low oven while you heat the juice to a simmer. The clean jam jars can go in the oven with the sugar to sterilise. At the same time, put a couple of side plates into the frig to cool.

Once the juice is simmering, turn off the heat while you add the warm sugar and stir until the sugar has completely dissolved. Now turn up the heat and boil the juice and sugar as fast as you can.

After about 10 minutes you can start testing for a set. Stir the pan and put a few drops from the wooden spoon onto a cold plate. Put the plate back in the fridge for a few minutes then push the little puddle of juice from the side with the tip of your finger. If the surface



wrinkles then the jelly will set. Some recipes tell you to turn the heat off under the jelly while you're testing it but I never do this. It might be a good idea for jams that set really quickly like blackcurrant and damson but an extra five minutes boiling after the setting point won't harm jelly.

Test every 5 minutes until you have a set, then turn off the heat. Take the jars out of the oven and put them on a kitchen board. Let the jelly cool for a few minutes, remove any scum at the sides of the pan then pour the jelly into the warm jars. Cover the top of the jelly with a waxed paper disc or a few drops of melted wax from a plain candle or tea light. Put the screw top on the jar when the jelly is completely cold.

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# Elected Representatives

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## Parish Council

### North West Ward

Maria Aguado	369 High Street	823528	maria.aguado@dsl.pipex.com
Jane Hobday	14 Telford Road	769748	janeantonia@gmail.com
Mike Hobday	14 Telford Road	07853 292 307	mike.hobday@ntlworld.com

### South West Ward

Vacancy			
Norman Mahony	36 St Annes Road	767348	ncmahony@ntlworld.com
Ian Orton (Chairman)	8 Jubilee Avenue	852169	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@happyliife.co.uk

## St Albans District Council

Jacob Quaglioizzi	5 Morris Way	751377 (eves)	cllr.j.quaglioizzi@stalbens.gov.uk
Irene Willcocks	76 St Annes Road	821753	cllr.i.willcocks@stalbens.gov.uk
Dave Winstone	7 St Annes Road	822310	cllr.d.winstone@stalbens.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,

Labour: 01223 240202,

Liberal: 01223 566700,

UKIP: 01245 266466

# Parish Council Meetings

---

**Parish Council Meetings are held on the first Friday of each month except in August. The next meeting will be on Friday 3rd June at 7pm in The Pavillion at Morris Way Playing Fields.**

**Members of the public are welcome to attend.**

**Early in each meeting Police Community Support Officers give a report of the previous month's crime in the village followed by a Public Question time if you wish to ask questions of the PCSOs or the Councillors.**

**The dates for the forthcoming meetings are:**

**June 3rd, July 1st and September 2nd.**

# Directory

The following is a list of local, not for profit, organisations with contact numbers. If you would like to add or amend an entry, please let the editor know on **823528** or email: [editor@londoncolney.com](mailto:editor@londoncolney.com).

Adventure World		822447
Age Concern	Visiting and Telephone Club	859583
	Carer Support	850811
Animal Warden	Liz Jakeman	819478

## Beavers, Cubs & Scouts

Beavers	Sue Miller	824076
Cub Scouts	Stephanie Nicholls	825215
Group Scout Leader	Clive Huddleston	07711 648166
Scouts	Clive Huddleston	07711 648166
Booking of Scout Hall	Sue Miller	824076

## Rainbows, Brownies, and Guides

Rainbows	Sharon Tammaro	821520
Brownies - 2nd Pack	Della Bainbridge	825033
Guides	Val Kewley	823546

Bowls Club - Harperbury	Sheila Roberts	823405
Broad Colney Art Group	Betty Godfrey	826640

## Childcare

Best Friends Childcare Centre	Gemma Jones	828058 / 828059
Golden Opportunities Childcare Service at Bowmansgreen School	Alison Forde	07908 270880
London Colney Children's Centre		822196
Little Nightingales	Cassandra Cameron-Wilton	827533
Paperchain Pre-School	Caroline George	823746
St Bernadette's Breakfast Club	Mrs Oliver	07944 129566
Teatime Funtime at London Colney School	Anne Jayawardena	07931 695264
Treasure Tots Pre-School		825311
Toddler Group at the Community Centre	Val Hawkins	824420 / 07974513196

## Schools

Bowmansgreen JMI School	Moira White	767772
London Colney JMI School	Lisa Valla	823283
St Bernadettes RC School	Ann Cassidy	822489
Nursery School	Barbara Fitton	822196

## Churches and Places of Worship

Alexander Evangelical Church	Antony Goodchild	823027
Evangelical Church Secretary	Christine Drayson	769363
All Saints Pastoral Centre	Father V Felzman	822010
Baptist Church Minister		825450
Baptist Church Secretary	Sue Fox	01707 273166
Baptist Church Bookings	Joan Thomas	763528
London Colney Islamic Mission		763930
London Colney Mosque Minister	Khairul Huda Khan	<a href="mailto:k_huda786@yahoo.com">k_huda786@yahoo.com</a>
Secretary	Abdul Khalique	<a href="mailto:k_huda786@yahoo.com">k_huda786@yahoo.com</a>

RC Church	Fthr Francis Press	822218
St Peter's C of E Church	The Rev'd Lynne Fawns	769797
St Peters Parish Cent. (booki	John Webb	769755

Citizens Advice Bureau		855269
Community Centre, Caledon Road		821314
Cotlandswick Residents' Assoc	Henry Jones	763732
Cricket Club	Andy Bristow	856409

### County & District Council Services

Abandoned and Untaxed Vehicles	DVLA Hotline	0800 032 5202
Abandoned Vehicles	Office hours only	819391
District Council		866100
Grass Verge Cutting		844638
Herts Highways	Call Centre	01438 737320
Recycling (SADC) & Refuse Enquiries	Moira Wallington	819285
Street Lighting	HCC Highways Dept	01438 737320
Trading Standards Dept		813880

### Dentist

Mr A Gatrad 823356

### Doctors' Surgeries

Colney Medical Centre		822138
Helmsford House		823245
Health Visitors / Baby Clinic		822358

Herts Alcohol Problems Advisory		01438 718374
Irish Club		822251
Library		01438 737333
Local History Society	Mavis Tuffnell	769302
London Colney Colts FC	Anne Wills	760470
London Colney FC	D Brock	761644
London Colney FC	Clubhouse	822132
LC Tenants & Residents Assoc.	Pauline Hathaway	824039
LC Village Concern	Ken Peak	769406
MacMillan Cancer Care	Avril Foster	862079
Neighbourhood Watch	Peter Yexley	821233
OV Chariots Mini-Rugby	Rob Lines	759613
Old Verulamians Rugby FC	Trevor Munien	07711 873381
Over 60s Club	June Symonds	823666
	Jean Roberts	823325
Park Street Bridge Club	Pat Jacobs	867460

### Parish Council

Clerk	Gillian Patschinsky	821314
Project Manager	Linda Gibling	821314
Community Officer	Post Vacant	821314
Parish Magazine	Maria Aguado	823528
Parish Magazine Delivery	Gill Patschinsky	821314
Meals on Wheels	Linda Gibling	821314

### Police

Police	Emergency	999
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Police

Non-emergency

0845 33 00 222

**Political Parties**

Conservative Party  
Labour Party  
Liberal Democrat Party  
Green Party

Dave Winstone  
Jane Hobday  
Rob Prowse  
Mary Warren

825100  
769784  
827258  
07951 290732

Royal British Legion Branch Sec  
(Women's Section)

Miss B A Crofts

01582 763736

Shopmobility

819339

St Albans Rangers Youth FC

Mark Simpson

824960

The Base

821639

The Base - Counselling

07796 522216

Village Club

Malcolm Shuttlewood

769331

Women's Institute

Mrs Oakley

822870

Woodcraft Folk

Val Parker

835635



A poster for a Planet ABBA Tribute Band concert. At the top, it says 'HOT' in a red oval and 'A Tribute Band from Hot and Spicy Productions Ltd'. Below this is a photograph of four band members in white, floral-patterned shirts. The main title 'PLANET ABBA' is in large, stylized, metallic letters, with 'TRIBUTE BAND' written below it in smaller letters. At the bottom, there is a photo of the band performing on stage. The text 'Live in Concert' is written in a large, cursive font, followed by 'Caledon Community Centre', 'July 16th 2011', and '£12 members - £15 non-members'.



A poster for Macmillan Cancer Support. It features a large, glowing dandelion seed head against a green background. The text 'WE ARE MACMILLAN. CANCER SUPPORT' is written vertically in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters on the right side of the poster.

# London Colney Film Club

Maria Hoskins

London Colney film club is best described in the words of its founder Peter Laws as: 'Like a book club, but for films.'

We meet the first Wednesday of every month at 8:00 pm in the Colney Fox, to discuss the film of the month and anything else we may have seen on the big screen (or the small one, if we've been watching movies on TV!).

The film of the month is picked by those attending the meeting among a list of movies that have recently been released

on DVD or Blue-ray so they are easy for members to rent. The film in question can be any genre, comedy, romance, documentary... May's film was "Made in Dagenham".

We are a small, friendly club and would welcome new members. Our next meeting will be on 6 July, why not come along? We have a website at <http://www.lc-film-club.org.uk/>



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Macmillan Cancer Support, registered charity in England and Wales (261017), Scotland (SC039907) and the Isle of Man (604). MAC13086\_AD\_A5

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 E-mail: [borehamwood@barkersstateagents.com](mailto:borehamwood@barkersstateagents.com)

For Elstree Borehamwood Well End

**Barkers Shenley**  
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 Hertfordshire WD7 9BS  
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 E-mail: [shenley@barkersstateagents.com](mailto:shenley@barkersstateagents.com)

For Shenley Porters Park South Mimms

**Barkers London Colney**  
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 Hertfordshire AL2 1JQ  
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# Wedding Mania at London Colney School...

Lisa Valla

This year the school radically revamped its curriculum to ensure that it is as relevant and stimulating to the pupils as possible. Each half term is now taught through a theme and this engages the children in their learning in a way that has proved to be highly successful. So much so that we are expecting our highest SATs results of all time this year!

*This half terms' theme is quite obviously weddings and our community.*

The first week has been very much focussed on the Royal wedding. Classes have set up their own role play areas in which the children can practice their wedding planning skills. There is so much Maths and Literacy work going on in these sessions but the children are having too much fun to notice!  
Classes have also used this topic to study the Royal Family and they have



used this information to develop their understanding of British History.

This first week came to an end with the whole school coming together for one big party, to celebrate the Royal

Wedding. The children had a very royal lunch to start off the celebrations, which included 'Princess salmon with Prince potatoes' and 'Wedding bell biscuits with jewel jelly'. The afternoon began with traditional party games and activities linked to William and Kate's big day.

*"...exploring weddings from around the world and weddings of the past."*

Beyond the Royal Wedding, the theme encouraged the children to explore weddings from around the world and weddings of the past. The school is also exploring how weddings bring communities together and how developing strong and supportive communities is important.

As part of this work, David Ansell will be coming in to the school to talk about his life as an artist in the village. We are very grateful to David for kindly giving his time in this manner, as he is a highly regarded member of our school community.



Pupils in the Year 2 role play corner, organising a wedding

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## ...and at Bowmansgreen

Jacky Potter

The Royal Wedding came a day early to London Colney this week when the foundation stage at Bowmansgreen School held their own ceremony. The Rev Lynn Fawns officiated at the service in the school hall. The bride looked radiant and the groom was naturally nervous. The bride travelled to and from the service on a beautifully decorated tandem tricycle. The best man took his duties very seriously and supported the groom before, during and after the service



Afterwards the wedding party and their guests retired to the classroom for a well deserved reception, where large amounts of cheese and cucumber sandwiches were washed down with lemonade.



# St Peter's Church Summer Fayre

Jane Tomsett

With the year almost half way through, here at St Peter's church our thoughts are already turning towards Summer. And for us, that means dusting off the tombola stall, checking the Hook-a-Duck paddling pool for leaks and starting to compile lists of likely people who can be 'volunteered' to run the many stalls that go to make up the annual event that is our Grand Summer Fayre!

## Saturday June 18th - a date for your diary!

As many of you may know, over the past couple of years, St Peter's has undertaken the refurbishment of our church building and now that we have achieved our goal and have a wonderfully warm and comfortable church, we can have a great deal of fun sharing it with you all.

This brings me nicely back to the Summer Fayre and this year as it is the perfect opportunity to throw our doors open and invite everyone in the village to come and have a look as we all have fun in the sunshine! To mark the occasion, this year we aim to make our fayre bigger, better and as 'refurbished' as our church building.

How many of you have fond childhood memories of your local Summer fayres? My school and church's events were certainly the highlight of my summer when I was young and I can still recall the



Rev'd Lynne Fawns, Della Bainbridge - one of our baptism visitors – and Ann Whiteaker who is our baptism team co-ordinator and newly elected churchwarden for 2011 are already lined up for the duck race.

excitement I felt and fun I had trying to win on the Roll-a-Penny game, the Lucky Dip stall and the Knock-the-Cans-Over-With-a-Beanbag stall! My pocket money was carefully eeked out throughout the afternoon and I would return home, tired but happy, with my hard-won prizes.

This year, St Peter's Fayre is all set to capture that sense of nostalgia as we hope to re-introduce many of the games that have fallen by the way over the past years.

The emphasis will be on Fun for All the

Family, from the smallest child, right up to the most competitive dad. New to this year's fayre will be a 'choose your own' prize table too, with prizes ranging in size and value. Each prize will have a 'price' equal to a number of tokens you can win from any stall, so the more times you win, the more tokens you gather, the bigger the prize you can claim. The choice will be yours!

## All the old favourites and much, much more...

Of course, among the many stalls, the old favourites will still retain their place at our Fayre. The day would be incomplete without the traditional offerings such as the cake stall, with its magnificent range of home-baked cakes, biscuits and iced fancies. The tea stall can offer you hot or cold beverages which you can enjoy whilst sitting in the sun, chatting with your friends and watching the children enjoying themselves. The plant stall is a great place to find some unusual and inexpensive bargains to take home too and your purchase will give you many years of colourful service as well.

We are also very excited to be able to offer you a real treat this year – live music throughout the afternoon from a great duo called Summer Punch. There's no charge to sit and listen to them for

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as long as you want so why not grab a burger or hot dog from the all-day barbecue, a cool pint of beer from the beer tent and sit back and enjoy the Summer entertainment for awhile?

And yes, you did read that right – another great new addition to our fayre will be a beer tent, kindly provided by Julie from the Green Dragon Pub, who is generously supporting us this year. What better way to enjoy a warm day out in our village than with an inviting pint of beer, happy children and an armful of prizes to take home?

But the entertainment doesn't stop there. Magic Mark will be on hand throughout the afternoon, wandering through the crowds performing his amazing close-up magic tricks. You will be at a complete loss to work out how he performs his tricks right in front of your very eyes, no matter how closely you watch him do them.

### *Choose your Lucky Ducky!*

And now we come to our main event of the day – the inaugural St Peter's Duck Race!

In the weeks running up to the fayre, you have the opportunity to sponsor a yellow duck in our very first Duck Race. We have 200, yellow ducks that will be appearing at several venues around the village, each bearing an unique, identifying number. At the appointed time during the course of the fayre, all the ducks will be lined up in the river in front of the green until Rev'd Lynne Fawns gives the order for the race to start.



Paperchain Pre-school and Nursery has been caring for the children in London Colney since 2003. Our fantastic team offer a range of services for children aged 2 to rising 5 years, from pre-school fun and learning, nursery education (overseen by a qualified Early Years Teacher) and optional lunch clubs.

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Imagine the spectacle!

There will be two wonderful prizes for the winning ducks – a children's prize and an adult's prize. Both are well worth winning and details will be released when the ducks become available for sponsoring in a few weeks time.

So please put the date of St Peter's Summer Fayre in your diary right away – Saturday the 18<sup>th</sup> June, starting at 11am and running through into the afternoon. You will be guaranteed a day filled with good, old-fashioned fun for all your family, free music and entertainment, mouth-watering food, drink, prizes and memories that you and your children will cherish for many years to come.

Watch out for the leaflets coming through your door and appearing around the village nearer the time and we'll see you there!

# Red Kite

Maria Aguado

The red kite was once one of our most widespread and familiar birds of prey. Kites have always had a close relationship with humans. In Tudor times the Red Kite was an extremely common species, present in many of our towns and cities, scavenging and killing rodents on rubbish heaps. The species was protected by Royal decree as a street cleaner.

Kites collect odd items discarded by humans which they use to line their nests. Shakespeare warned in *The Winter's Tale* (Act 4, scene 3) "when the kite builds, look to lesser linen". Bird conservationists report finding the furry head of a small toy horse with bridle, a blue and white woollen hat, part of a cardigan, a pair of tights, coloured string and paper, as well as socks, underwear, a small child's glove and a teddy bear in the lining of kites' nests along with the traditional nest-building materials of dead twigs, grass and sheep's wool.

Their close relationship with humans has also been their downfall. Kites' most important foods are rabbits, rats, small

mammals, gamebirds, pigeons and corvids. But they prefer their food ready killed and are prone to accidental poisoning after eating poisoned rodents and to road accidents while attempting to eat road kill.

Kites became extinct in England and Scotland by the end of the 19th century mainly as a result of the activities of gamekeepers. Only a small number of pairs survived in remote parts of central Wales where they slowly increased to about 40 breeding pairs but showed no signs of spreading outside Wales. In the late 1980s, the red kite was one of only three British birds considered to be globally threatened and was therefore one of the highest priorities for conservation action. In 1989, a decision was taken by the Joint Nature Conservation Committee to reintroduce kites to various parts of the UK.

Young red kites were collected from nests within high-density red kite populations in the provinces of Segovia and Salamanca in central Spain and released at sites in the Chilterns and the

Black Isle, northern Scotland between 1989 and 1994.

Reintroduced kites do best when collected as nestlings of 4-6 weeks old. At this age they are fully-feathered and can feed themselves from chopped carcasses, this helps keep human contact to a minimum during feeding. Birds that spend time in captivity as nestlings become used to human contact and don't manage so well when released. Since those first introductions, the kite population has increased to 300 – 400 breeding pairs in the south of England.

Red kites seem to be nesting around Ridge Hill and Shenley. You can see them patrolling over London Colney between 7 and 8 in the morning and again in the early afternoon.

**Use these silhouettes to identify the four comonest birds of prey you might see over London Colney.**

Red kites are much larger than kestrels or sparrowhawks and have a forked tail, easy to spot even when they are circling quite high in the sky. The front edges of their wings are curved. If they come lower you can see white patches on their underwings but the fork in the tail disappears when they spread their tail feathers to hover.

The kestrel hovers above possible feeding sites such as motorway verges at around telegraph pole height.



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Bees are attracted to the pollen from perennial poppies. Poppies have done well this year. They can be flattened by the wind and rain we often get at the end of May

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Buzzards are usually circling very high in the sky when seen over the village and have a characteristically rectangular silhouette.



Sparrow hawks are heavier and squarer in the wing than kestrels and are often seen as in the silhouette – going somewhere fast.



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# Retirements at Bowmansgreen

Jacky Potter

Sadly we will be saying goodbye to two of our longest serving staff members at the end of the summer term; Mrs Fisher and Mrs Duggan. Their combined service to Bowmansgreen School stands at 50 years!



Mrs Fisher

***“combined service to Bowmansgreen School stands at 50 years!”***

Mrs Fisher is our children and families' champion! She is known to so many for the dedicated, caring way she responds to a child's, or indeed parents', individual needs with determination to ensure that every child's time at school is successful. Her role as Primary Support Base Leader means her influence extends beyond the boundaries of London Colney to supporting children and families in schools across St Albans and Harpenden. Mrs

Fisher is held in very high regard by all those with whom she has professional contact and has often been described as an exemplary practitioner for colleagues around the county; many of whom then visit Bowmansgreen.

***“vision for outstanding practice in Early Years “***

Mrs Fisher's passion has always been Early Years teaching and children across the village will remember her as a Reception class teacher. The current Reception classroom was part of her vision for outstanding practice in Early Years to ensure all children receive the best possible start to their schooling. It is this commitment which led to Mrs Fisher specialising in Special Educational Needs and her later expertise in behaviour management. As a stalwart of the village and its community (many of you will also know Mrs Fisher through her leadership of cubs, scouts and Brownies or as a member of St Peter's Church), Mrs Fisher plays an active role on the Friends of Bowmansgreen, taking it on herself in years where support was lean.



Mrs Duggan

***“ successful Primary Support Base at Bowmansgreen. “***

After many years of class teaching, 6 years ago Mrs Duggan decided to change direction in her career and was instrumental in establishing the successful

Primary Support Base at Bowmansgreen. She has created a classroom at the heart of our school welcoming both newcomers and children from our school, into her nurturing and caring environment. She employs skills of flexibility and adaptability in responding to the needs of her class. Mrs Duggan has driven forward the principles of the social aspects of learning within the school; the influence of this on the children has been significant. Mrs Duggan organised and led residential trips to Ely for many years, often giving children their first experience of time away from home. She is a singer and pianist who has supported musical development through choir and performances, giving considerable time to ensuring the children enjoyed taking part. She has also been teacher governor for 14 years and has made a valued contribution to the strategic direction of the school through this role.

***“...retirement is well earned!”***

Both Mrs Fisher and Mrs Duggan have taught and supported many children and families in and around London Colney and their retirement is well earned! They play a key role in the life of our school and will be greatly missed by children, staff, parents and governors.

***“...make a contribution to a leaving gift”***

If you wish to make a contribution to a leaving gift for either member of staff please send it to Bowmansgreen school office marked with the appropriate name(s). We would also like to present them both with keepsake books, capturing memories of their time at Bowmansgreen. If you feel you would like to send a personal farewell/good luck message, which will then become part of the book, please call into the school office and ask for a message card to record your special words. We are hoping to complete our collection prior to the May half term holiday (Friday 27th May), in order to make preparations to celebrate their retirements

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# The Real Green Deal

Gordon Glass

Is grant support for home insulation soon to be replaced by loans? The government's latest proposals certainly imply this.

*"...Green Deal ... spread the cost of new home insulation."*

The Green Deal proposes to spread the cost of new home insulation across future energy bills associated with a property. It is hoped that this will remove any obvious barrier to getting the work done. A guiding principle is that insulation installed must save the householder more money than the extra charge on their bills.

However, we don't yet know how much loan interest repayments will add to the cost. Currently cavity wall and loft insulation cost under £100 each in some areas thanks to Council grants. The Energy Saving Trust estimates households can save £115 each year with cavity wall insulation. This is a remarkable return on investment.

*"...a remarkable return on investment."*

Get insulation installed in 2011 and you'll benefit from a grant. Beyond March 2012, when energy supplier grants are up for review, this is much less certain. So, for householders with savings, no intention of moving home and no desire to pay interest on a loan, today's best offers arguably represent the real green deal.

Taking advantage of grant offers is easy. You can compare insulation deals at [cocoonyourhome.co.uk](http://cocoonyourhome.co.uk) or on 0800 8048 777, or check with the Council.

Cocoon is an independent comparison service operated by United Sustainable Energy Agency, a not-for-profit organisation.

## Worth a try?

British Gas offer free loft and cavity wall insulation to customers - only available to the first 200,000 applicants, offer started in Feb this year.

If someone in your house is over 70 or on certain benefits try Tesco

<http://www.tescohomeefficiency.com>

E.On apparently offers free insulation for customers over 60 and on Pension Credit - call 0800 404 6287 to see if you're eligible.

Editor



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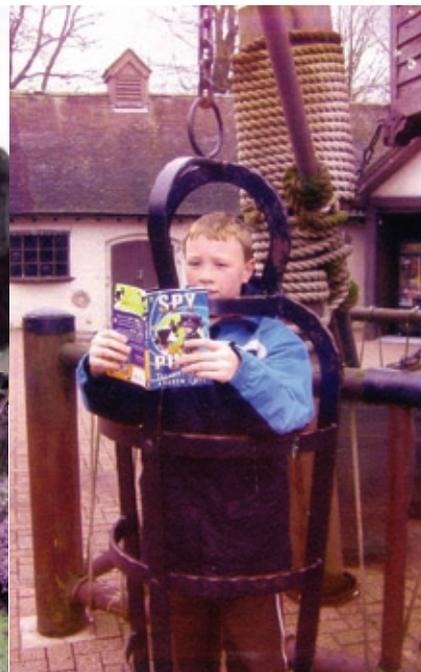
Jacky Potter

At Bowmansgreen we are always looking for new ways to promote the joy of reading - and for original ways to mark World Book Day!

*"...we really let our imaginations run free!"*

Last term staff listened to an inspirational presentation by Michael Rosen who reminded them just how much pleasure we can all get from reading. To help us mark World Book day we asked staff and children to take pictures of themselves, snuggled up with a good book, in the most unusual places they could find - up a tree, in a shopping trolley, at the zoo - we really let our imaginations run free!

We have had so much pleasure looking at the photos displayed on our school entrance display board and we certainly raised the profile of reading with the various activities throughout the week.



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