



## Community Newsletter

This newsletter is brought to you by the Colliers Wood Residents' Association, printed by Papa J's, and is compiled and distributed to 4000 households by volunteers from Colliers Wood. It is also available online at [www.collywood.org.uk](http://www.collywood.org.uk)

Autumn 2011

### Community meeting reflects on public disorder

*Extracts from Superintendent Pete Dobson, Merton Borough Police, who wrote on 13 August about this month's events:*

I have just returned from a well attended Community meeting in Colliers Wood, the area in our borough most affected by Monday's disorder. I was extremely pleased to receive so much support from the local community after explaining how the events unfolded locally. There was praise for the local partnership that came together in a united response to the incidents as well as thanks for the local volunteers that came out to help.

Joining local residents and families were many community leaders, including local MP Siobhain McDonagh, Leader of the Council Stephen Alambritis, Merton's Chief Executive Ged Curran and Director for Environment Chris Lee, London Fire Brigade Borough Commander Jane Philpott, ward councillors, faith leaders and the Chamber of Commerce.

A healthy exchange of views took place with emphasis on how to get back to normal, and how to build local community cohesion and public spiritedness. There were many suggestions for learning and improving services, willingness for the business community to have closer links with the police and local authority, with quicker lines of communication. CommunitySafe (our free text messaging alert/advise/inform service) already has over 24,000 email contacts amongst residents, and will be extended to include businesses and retailers.

Can I ask again for your continued support in providing information and intelligence. This is so important to keep the high levels of police enforcement activity at its current levels. Any information, please pass to Crimestoppers on **0800 555 111** or Merton Police on **101** any time of day or night.

In any emergency requiring immediate police attendance, always dial **999**.

Read Supt Dobson's full message on the Merton Borough Police page of the Metropolitan Police website:

[merton@met.police.uk](mailto:merton@met.police.uk)

### Colliers Wood Councillor Nick Draper responds:

At the excellent public meeting on 13 August, a lady suggested that over the years, as a society, we've lost our sense of value. What she said touched me deeply. If, 25 years ago, you'd told me that Colliers Wood Mothercare would be torched in a riot, I wouldn't have believed you because I wouldn't have believed we'd ever HAVE a Mothercare here. We now have a successful shopping centre, but we often assume it's always been there. It hasn't. It came about as a result of considerable investment of resources by private enterprise and the Council. We need to value it and do our best as residents to integrate it into our community. If, as an older generation, we recognise we are fortunate to have what we have, then it's our job – all of us – to keep it that way and impress that upon younger generations too. I have faith in Colliers Wood, and in its residents of all ages. We'll work together and bounce back from this episode. But let's not forget it!

## Where have all the playschemes gone?

According to *The Guardian*, only 23% of those appearing in court after the recent disturbances are aged 11–17. But I'd still ask whether we're meeting our responsibility towards children and young people, and making best use of the resources we have available. In a context of government cuts to council budgets, and with children's centres closed down, it appears that during the six-week school holidays there have been no playschemes, youth services or park activities this summer, other than those we've organised ourselves on a shoestring budget. What are children and young people to do all day if families can't afford Beaumont Camps or holidays abroad?

Here in Colliers Wood, **Little League Football** will re-launch in September. The **Community Centre climbing wall**, built with funds raised by local young people, is free to 13–18s on Monday evenings. The Youth and Play Working Party will hold an **Open Day of Activities for children and young people**, on Saturday 12 November, at which we'll consult them about the out-of-school provision they'd like in future. Join us to discuss **youth and play provision** at the next Colliers Wood Residents Association meeting (7.30pm, Tuesday 6 September, CW Community Centre). Councillor Maxi Martin, youth development worker Rob Mobile, and Rhonda Elliot from 'Catch 22' are all invited.

## Where have all the flowers come from?

With Big Lottery Funding we've trained local residents to improve our open spaces: planting flowers outside the new Johmard Centre, pruning and tidying the "Pocket Park" (end of Robinson Road); maintaining community woodland in Wandle Park, the Recreation Ground hedgerow, and the Devonshire Road/Myrna Close alleyway; and building raised beds for residents to grow vegetables. Autumn plans include a community orchard, a wildlife area, and more planting of trees, shrubs and spring bulbs. Plenty to do, so come and join us!

When new trees were planted in Park Road enterprising Penny Bettell experimented with floral planting round three of them, finding the key to success is plenty of compost and water. Tom Walsh of Sustainable Merton is keen that, if the planting is successful over time, it should

extend further. It is great that Colliers Wood Rec has received the Green Flag award, indicating that it's well maintained and well managed with excellent facilities.

Contact: Keith A. Spears, Chair of Colliers Wood Residents Association, 07982 721 496  
[keithaspears@hotmail.com](mailto:keithaspears@hotmail.com)

## Friends of Donald Hope Library

*Natasha Judd* writes: A busy summer has seen numbers of visitors and items borrowed both on the rise, plus new activities in the weekly programme – coffee afternoons, children's crafts, English conversation workshops and Falun Gong. A successful Welcome Day in July was supported by almost 1000 local people, among them Deputy Mayor, Chris Edge. Over 100 strong in less than a year, the Friends will be promoting library services, encouraging volunteering, helping renovate and working to ensure all in Colliers Wood are aware our library – and proud of it. Find out more at our meeting: 7pm, Tuesday 13 September in the library.

Find us on Facebook or visit:  
[www.friendsofdonaldhopelibrary.org.uk](http://www.friendsofdonaldhopelibrary.org.uk)

## Taylor Road Day Centre – saved!

Due to financial cutbacks the centre was earmarked for closure, but is now managed by Positive Network, a self-help group working with the elderly to impart knowledge and skills to young people. Community groups and individuals (young and old alike!) are encouraged to use the centre.

Taylor Road (off Victoria Road) Mitcham CR4 3JR  
Tel: 020 86467512/07508 505 097  
[positiventwrk@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:positiventwrk@yahoo.co.uk)

## 'Journey to the Fifth Province', hit show of the 2011 Irish Writers Festival, coming to Colliers Wood, 29 October

*Liz Newbery* writes: It's exciting to watch the profile of the arts in Colliers Wood rise steadily over the years and it will be a privilege for me, as producer, to bring this show to a local audience which has a real appetite for something new. Sincere thanks go to **Making Colliers Wood Happy** for partnership in hosting the event. More magical than a play and more personal than a concert, this show has something to say to everyone. Inspired by the tradition of storytelling,

actor Donal Cox joins the poets of Ireland in bringing to life a host of compelling stories and characters. Harriet Earis, twice holder of the title 'Harper of all Britain', provides Celtic harp music to accompany our journey to what WBYeats called 'the deep heart's core'.

Watch a trailer at:  
[www.fifthprovinceproductions.org.uk](http://www.fifthprovinceproductions.org.uk)

"Remarkable and entertaining...a professional theatrical experience that is truly enriching."  
*Irish Times*

## OUT AND ABOUT!

In Colliers Wood this Autumn

### Saturday 3 September

Open Day at the Johmard Centre, opening soon at 65-67 High St. Find out about plans for a new resource offering activities for all ages. Contact John on 8378 5756

### Sunday 4 September

Ramble around Horseden Hill, details from Rita 8540 1560

### Saturday 10 September

Registration & Open Day at the Collierswood Village Nursery, opening soon at 65-67 High Street. Find out about a new nursery for 0-5 year olds. Further info: 07943 569 684

### Saturday 10 September

Merton Abbey Horticulture Society Autumn Show, Community Centre, 2.30-4.30pm

### Saturday 10 September

Wandle Meadow - a wildlife walk through unique urban wasteland nature reserve; meet at entrance to Garfield Road (corner of Caxton & Garfield Roads). Children welcome. Led by Dave Dawson, 0776 236 4648

### Saturday 10 September

Gospel Concert, Oasis Church, 7.30 pm. £10 (£5 children), includes light refreshments. Raising funds towards expanding our children's centre/church. Tickets: church office, 1-27 Fortescue Road, 8288 8866. [www.oasischurch.org.uk](http://www.oasischurch.org.uk)

### Sunday 11 September

Thames Festival - Singers from Colliers Wood Chorus will join a massed choir at the Scoop outside the London Assembly from 3pm raising money for Water Aid

### Saturday 1 October

International Arts and Crafts Workshop, details from Keith, 07982721 496

### Sunday 16 October

Dance Evening, 7.30pm, Oasis Church. £10 for 18 years & over. Includes refreshments and dance lesson from teacher Joan Pires. Tickets: church office, 1-27 Fortescue Road, 8288 8866

### Friday 21 October

MertonVision Musical Evening, 7.30pm, The Guardian Centre, 67 Clarendon Road, 8540 5446. Colliers Wood Chorus entertains with songs from Musical Theatre plus fun 'sing-off' between audience and choir. Fundraising for MertonVision (charity for blind/partially sighted). Licensed bar. Tickets in advance £10 (includes freshly cooked supper). Book early; cheques to MertonVision

### Saturday 22 October

Gypsy Swing Jazz Band at the Colour House, 8543 9608

### Saturday 29 October

'Journey to the Fifth Province', 7.30pm, St Joseph's Hall, Park Road. A feast of story, music and poetry, laced with humour and emotion; professional actor and Celtic harper. £9 (£7 concessions/£2 under 18s); refreshments available; more information: 8540 2118

### Saturday 12 November

Open Day of Activities for children and young people, Community Centre

Do you have a story or event for our Winter 2011 edition? Send it to [info@collywood.org.uk](mailto:info@collywood.org.uk) or contact Keith Spears, 07982 721 496

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# "Making Colliers Wood Happy!"

AUTUMN 2011

## CAVENDISH ROAD TABLE TOP SALE

Come and join us from 10am to 3pm on Saturday 3 September.  
Donations to a local charity for children and young people.

## COMMUNITY GAMES AND LIVE MUSIC NIGHT

Table tennis, pool, table top games plus live music, karaoke and refreshments at St Joseph's Hall from 7.30pm on Saturday 17 September.

## "THE RAMBLING COLLIERS"

Come and join us for gentle exercise and fresh air on monthly rambles around places of local interest. For details contact Rita on 0208 540 1560.

## INTERNATIONAL ART AND CRAFT WORKSHOPS

Free monthly workshops for people of all ages and abilities led by professional artists.  
For info and bookings contact Keith on 07982 721 496.

## FREE TENNIS COACHING

Tennis coaching for children from 5 to 8 from 9am to 10am and young people aged 9 to 16 from 10am to 11am in the Colliers Wood Recreation ground every Saturday until 24 September.

## FREE BASKETBALL COACHING

Basketball coaching for young people aged 11 to 16 from 3pm to 4pm every Saturday in the Recreation Ground.

## LITTLE LEAGUE FOOTBALL - RE-LAUNCHED AND RE-BOOTED!

Football coaching for children from 5 to 8 from 10am to 11am and children aged 9 to 11 from 11am to 12 midday on Saturday 10, 17, and 24 September in the Recreation Ground and register your child for the new season.

## POETRY and CREATIVE WRITING CIRCLE

Read your own poetry, favourite poem or short piece of creative writing from 5.30pm on Tuesday 16 September @ the Donald Hope Library.

## CHESS CLUB

For all ages and abilities every Saturday from 2.30pm to 5pm @ the Donald Hope Library.

## BADMINTON AND TABLE TENNIS CLUB

Every Sunday from 2.30pm to 4.30pm @ the Community Centre.  
Contact Chubby 07702 634 359 or Keith 07982 721 496

## "COLLIERS WOOD COME DANCING!"

Beginners @ 5.30pm, Improvers @ 7.30pm, Intermediates @ 9pm.  
£5 per class or £15 for a 4-week course @ the Community Centre

## BALLET CLASSES FOR BOTH MEN AND WOMEN

Every Thursday from 9.15pm to 10.30pm and every Thursday 8.30pm to 9.45pm @ the Colliers Wood Community Centre.

## TAP DANCE CLASSES FOR ADULTS - MEN AND WOMEN

Beginners 7.30pm to 8.30pm and Intermediates 8.30pm to 9.30pm  
Every Wednesday @ the Community Centre.

For further details of all dance classes contact Tony on 0208 542 2977