



## Community Newsletter

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

Autumn 2012

## Council doubles back for Singlegate

*Nick Draper writes:* The Council has just bought back the old Singlegate School, which for the last few years has been known as the Jamia College for young Ahmadiyya students.

The Grade 2 Listed school was sold back to the council at three times what it was bought for, but it's a very different building, with a modern wing at the back, extra space within the building itself, and masses of renovation work. Re-equipping the building as a primary school will not only be cheaper overall than building from scratch as originally planned, it'll mean the school will eventually be able to take 3 forms of entry each year, which is what Colliers Wood is likely to need in years to come.



*The old Singlegate School building, recently known as the Jamia College for young Ahmadiyya students. Photo by Matthew Judd.*

## The Chapter House underway

*Nick Draper writes:* Colliers Wood's most extraordinary secret lies under Merantun Way, next to the passage between Sainsbury's and the Abbey Mills. Here are the remains of the Merton Priory Chapter House, all that's left above ground of what used to be the third most important religious building in England: so important that Henry VIII destroyed it down to its foundations, and used its stones to build Nonsuch Palace in Ewell.

After years of battling with developers, Merton Council's finally got the Chapter House in its possession, together with £400,000 ring-fenced development money under the control of the independent Priory Trust. That money will be used to open up the 'vault' under Merantun Way, and make it possible to visit the Chapter House and learn about Colliers Wood's amazing history, including coronations and parliaments – even training a Pope!

Planning is still at an early stage, but I believe we'll start to see building within the next 2 years. When it's done, the site will be amazing, using state of the art technology to bring the Priory back to life. Feel free to ask me more, there really is a lot to tell.

## Youth Sport Autumn Programme

Inspired by the London 2012 Olympics, 72 young people have taken part in this year's Summer of Sport. The Colliers Wood Residents Association was awarded £3000 by Merton Youth Service to provide Positive Activities for 11 to 16 year olds, and we arranged a programme with professional coaches who provided football, basketball and multi-sports training for young people of all abilities. One of the young people said, "It's been brilliant. If I hadn't come here, I'd just be at home doing nothing". One of the mums said "The children are loving it. They come to the coaching sessions, meet up with friends and then spend the rest of the day in the park."

The project ended with a Mini-Olympics at the Tooting Bec Athletics Track and a trip to the Olympic Stadium to watch the Paralympic Games.

The CWRA will be running a similar programme of activities for young people, aged 11 to 16, during the half term holidays in October, from 10 a.m. to 12 midday on the following days:

Monday 29th – football coaching

Tuesday 30th – basketball coaching

Wednesday 31st – multi-sports coaching.

For more information contact Keith on 07982721496 or e-mail [keithaspears@hotmail.com](mailto:keithaspears@hotmail.com)

## The Tower & the Plaza

*Nick Draper writes:* It's disappointing that Criterion haven't started work on the Tower yet. The delay is partly due to hold-ups in getting planning detail information back to the Council, including samples of the cladding that's going to go round the Tower, and partly to the Mayor's Transport for London being meticulous about the Plaza plans. The Council's out of the frame for once!



*The River Wandle and the Criterion Tower, Merton High Street.  
Photo: Jim Linwood, www.flickr.com*

You'll have seen, though, that the carwash business has gone, in anticipation of the work. I'm still confident you'll see things happening before the end of the year. Criterion have spent a good deal of money on surveys and reports for the Tower just lately, and I can't see them wasting it.

There's no question, by the way, that the Council will fritter away the money the Mayor's set aside for the Plaza. For a start, the Mayor hasn't handed the money over yet: and when he does it'll be ring-fenced so it can only be spent on the project.

## First South West London Film Festival

In 2012, the South West International Film Festival (SWIFF), in association with FILMS4FUTURE, will be putting on a 4-day film festival screening on the evenings of 29 Nov–2 Dec, 2012 at the Johmard Centre, 65–67 High Street, Colliers Wood.

This will be an opportunity to see lots of films made by up-and-coming local film directors as well as renowned international names. SWIFF especially welcome residents from the boroughs of South West London to showcase their work and creative talent.

For further information contact Laurentiu via e-mail at: [SWIFF@southwestfilmfestival](mailto:SWIFF@southwestfilmfestival) or go to [www.swiff.org.uk](http://www.swiff.org.uk).



## A guide to babysitting

Colliers Wood Woodcraft Folk Youth Club will be running the British Red Cross "Looking after other people's children: a guide to babysitting" course on Monday evenings from 8 to 9 p.m. The youth club opens at 7.30. At the Colliers Wood Community Centre, 66–72 High Street, Colliers Wood. Starting Monday, 1st October. The course will aim to enable the students to:

- Understand and maintain the safety and well-being of children in their care and appreciate that being a babysitter is a responsible and trusted position to hold.
- Understand that babysitting requires thought and preparation by both the babysitting and parents.
- Practise their response to potentially difficult situations in a safe environment.
- Ask questions, share their views and discuss their own personal experiences of caring for children.
- Develop the knowledge to enable them to recognise good and bad practices in babysitting.
- Learn how to create a safer environment and so reduce the likelihood of accidents or emergencies happening.
- Develop the skills to cope with the effects of injury and illness on child, including lifesaving first aid techniques.
- Develop the confidence, self-esteem and social skills required to perform as a babysitter.

For more information ring Tom Searle on 0208543 0835 or 0208543 6470. Students must be aged 13+ in this school year.

## Heritage and Design working Group

Are you interested in Merton's rich heritage? Why not come along to the Heritage and Design working group?

Merton's new heritage centre is the venue. There will be presentations on the exciting developments for Merton Priory, the Corridor of Culture and Merton's Open House presentations.

Please let us know you are coming, contact 8545 3396  
Thursday 13th September  
7.00–8.30 p.m.  
Heritage Centre,  
2nd Floor, Morden Library  
Chair: Councillor Maurice Groves

## New Garden

*Did you know that there's a new community garden in Colliers Wood?*

Christ Church has asked our Community Gardening Project to help create a garden on an over-grown piece of land behind the Church Hall in Christchurch Road. Volunteers began work in August and have already planted fruit bushes, potatoes and onions. We plan to create a space where we can grow fruit and vegetables, promote healthy eating and pass on our gardening skills to other local residents. We're hopeful that this could become a catalyst for other food growing projects in Colliers Wood.

We meet up every Friday afternoon from 2.30 to 5 p.m. and if you'd like to join us to enjoy the pleasures of working alongside other like-minded people, contact Keith on 07982 721 496 or e-mail [keithaspears@hotmail.com](mailto:keithaspears@hotmail.com)

## Merton Abbey Opera

Merton Abbey Opera is a local amateur group which specialises in performing Opera and Operetta. We are looking for singers of all voice types at all levels of competence. Must be enthusiastic and willing to learn. Rehearsals every Thursday at 8 p.m. at Christchurch Hall, Colliers Wood.

Contact Dawn after 7 pm on 0208 640 2264

## OUT AND ABOUT! In Colliers Wood this Autumn

*Every Tuesday afternoon*

Tea Dances at the Colliers Wood Community Centre, from 1.30 to 4 p.m. Cost £3, which includes tea and cakes.

*Every Wednesday evening*

Sequence Dancing at the Colliers Wood Community Centre, from 7.30 p.m.

*2nd and 4th Fridays, every month*

Colliers Wood Youth Club, for 11 to 16-year-olds, from 7.30 to 9.30 p.m. at the Johmard Centre, 65-67 High Street, Colliers Wood, SW19 2JF. Activities include table tennis, pool, music, dance and martial arts. The club is funded by Merton Youth Service and is free. For more information, contact Keith on 07982 721 496 or e-mail [keithaspears@hotmail.com](mailto:keithaspears@hotmail.com)

*Saturday 29th September*

The Harvest Festival at Deen City Farm from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

*Starting Saturday 29 September*

Enterprise Club Merton, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Vestry Hall. Runs for 12 weeks. Enrol onto Enterprise Club Merton via one of our Workshops (you only need to attend one). [socialenterprisemerton@hotmail.com](mailto:socialenterprisemerton@hotmail.com)

*Merton Abbey Horticultural Society*

celebrated their Diamond Jubilee this year with a garden party hosted by Len and Barbara Taylor. Local residents are very welcome to join them at their seasonal shows, quiz nights and coach trips. For more information call 0203 609 1676.

*Colliers Wood Little League Football*

is being re-launched on Saturday 15th September in the Recreation Ground. Matches for boys and girls, aged 5 to 12, will be played from 10 a.m. to 12 midday.

Do you have a story or event for our Winter 2012 edition? Send it to [info@collywood.org.uk](mailto:info@collywood.org.uk) by the 1st November.

*Colliers Wood Residents Association*

have arranged a "Special Meeting" with council officers from the Future Merton's Team on Tuesday 2nd October. We will be discussing the plans for the redevelopment of our town centre and the proposed "Piazza". Doors open at 7.15 p.m. and the meeting will start at 7.30 p.m. in the upstairs hall in the Community Centre. Come along and have your say!

*"Black History Month"*

comes to the Donald Hope Library in October. The programme of events includes African and Caribbean music, crafts, poetry and literature, myths and legends, ancestry, plus a quiz and treasure hunt. For further details, speak to a member of the library staff, call 0208 274 5799 or check out the website on [www.merton.gov.uk/libraries](http://www.merton.gov.uk/libraries)



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# "Making Colliers Wood Happy!"

## AUTUMN 2012

### "WHEN ABEL MET CAIN"

An exploration of conflict, violence, reconciliation and redemption through the medium of music, storytelling and drama with an internationally acclaimed professional company. From 7.30 p.m. on Saturday 29th September at the Johmard Centre at 65-67 Colliers Wood High Street. Doors open at 7 p.m.

Refreshments will be available before and after the performance.

Tickets can be booked in advance for £8 (conc. £5)

from Keith on 07982 721 496 or e-mail keithaspears@hotmail.com

### "COME TO THE CABARET!"

Come along to St. Joseph's Hall at 7.30 p.m. on Saturday 27th October for an evening of music, poetry, storytelling and political and social satire with the Collywood Cabaret Collective.

### THE COLLYWOOD WALKING GROUP

Enjoy a guided ramble each month around places of local interest.

Meet at the bus stop outside the library at 10 a.m. on the following Sundays:

9th September, 7th October, 4th November and 9th December.

### BOOK GROUP

Discussion about a chosen book from 5.30 p.m. to 6.30 p.m.  
on the last Tuesday of each month @ the Donald Hope Library.

### POETRY CIRCLE

Read your own poetry or favourite poem from 5.30 p.m. to 6.30 p.m. on the last Thursday of each month  
@ the Donald Hope Library.

### CHESS CLUB

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

### BADMINTON AND TABLE TENNIS CLUB

Every Sunday from 2.30 p.m. to 4.30 p.m. @ the Community Centre.

Contact Chubby 07702 634 359 or Keith 07982 721 496

### BALLROOM DANCE CLASSES

Every Sunday at the Colliers Wood Community Centre.

Beginners @ 5.30 p.m., Improvers @ 7.30 p.m., Intermediates @ 9 p.m.

£6 per class or £15 for 4 weeks @ the Community Centre.

### BALLET CLASSES FOR BOTH MEN AND WOMEN

Every Thursday from 8.30 p.m. to 9.45 p.m. @ the Colliers Community Centre.

### TAP DANCE CLASSES FOR ADULTS - MEN AND WOMEN

Beginners 7.30 p.m. to 8.30 p.m. and Intermediates 8.30 p.m. to 9.30 p.m.

Every Wednesday @ the Community Centre.

### "SINGING FOR ALL, SINGING FOR FUN"

The Colliers Wood Chorus is open to all local residents of all ages and abilities and the only requirements are enthusiasm and commitment. For further information, check the website on [www.collierswoodchorus.org.uk](http://www.collierswoodchorus.org.uk)

### THE COLLIERS WOOD UKULELE ORCHESTRA

Possibly the best Ukulele Orchestra in Colliers Wood! For further information check the website on [www.collywoodukes.com](http://www.collywoodukes.com)

*"Making Colliers Wood Happy!" is a community-building group currently funded by Merton Priory Homes.*

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

*Keith A. Spears — founder and coordinator of "MCWH!"*

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