



## 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 2014

### People power in action: the Positive Network Centre

When Merton Council was close to shutting Taylor Road Day Centre, in a bid to cut costs, groups that use the centre – many of them supporting older and vulnerable people – weren't prepared to go quietly. Instead they submitted a bid to run it themselves. Now the council has agreed to lease the building for five years to the charity Positive Network, which serves as an umbrella organisation for those groups.

An inter-generational and multi-cultural centre of excellence, Positive Network aims to improve community cohesion, support ageing well and educate others to create a place where people of all ages meet and enjoy each other's company. Older people can share their life experiences with those younger than themselves to pass on heritage that would otherwise be lost. Younger people can attend classes in music, dance, exercise, craft, computers, poetry and storytelling. Groups based at the centre include South London Tamil Welfare, Escape Youth Group and the Goan Elderly Group, as well as church organizations.

According to Director Grace Salmon about 300 people attend the centre each week. And keeping small charities and community groups together in this way has kept costs down and made it easier to co-ordinate events like August's Mitcham Festival and the borough-wide Celebrating Age Festival. Grace says "A positive outlook on life is so important to the quality of all our lives. You hear a lot today about how older people are fearful of youngsters and younger ones don't understand the older generation."

"We wanted a place in Merton where all age groups could socialise and get to know about each others' lives. Each of us can make a contribution, whether that's spending time with others or helping organise community events. If we all play our small part, great things can be achieved."

Praising Positive Network's vision and hard work, Cabinet member for community and culture, Councillor Martin Whelton says: "This is a great example of how a voluntary organisation has worked with us to come up with a mutually-beneficial arrangement, enabling them to continue to deliver their services to the community."

Find out more about Positive Network, its groups, activities and hall hire at:  
[www.positive-network-centre.com](http://www.positive-network-centre.com)  
E-mail: [info@positive-network-centre](mailto:info@positive-network-centre)  
Tel: 020-7998 1005 / 07508 505097



### The Woodland Trust awards MCWH! with trees

The Woodland Trust has awarded 420 trees to the community building group "Making Colliers Wood Happy!" The mixture of Rowan, Hawthorn, Hazel, Silver Birch, Dogwood and Wild Cherry will be planted in Wandle Park from Armistice Day on Tuesday 11th until Sunday 16th November. Merton Tree Wardens, local residents, community groups, including local members of the Aymadiyya Muslim Association, and local schoolchildren will be invited to help. The project will be supported by the Mayor of Merton and the planting area will be prepared by Merton Council who will also be providing lots of mulch. The "Remembrance Woodland" will commemorate the young men from Colliers Wood who died during the First World War. We would also like to raise funds to buy thousands of poppy seeds to create a "Field of Remembrance" around the Woodland.

If you like to help with planting trees, sowing poppy seeds, spreading mulch, or providing refreshments, please contact Keith on 07982 721 496 or e-mail [keithaspears@hotmail.com](mailto:keithaspears@hotmail.com)

## Colliers Wood Ramblers – 100 events and still walking!

Time flies when you're having fun – and keeping active. Rita Hunt who, with Barbara Taylor, masterminds our local rambling group can hardly believe that Colliers Wood Ramblers started in 2006. The first walk, enjoyed on a sunny day by a pioneering group of 11, followed the River Wandle. This summer saw the celebration of the 100th walk – and again the sun shone. Over time the walks have ventured further away from Colliers Wood. The 100th took a record 24 people on a beautiful route along the Wey Navigation Canal, via Ripley, a landscaped golf course and refreshments at The Anchor in Pyrford. Even some ex-walkers joined in, for the refreshments, to celebrate the big 100!

Each November Rita and Barbara gather their maps and books to set about compiling and planning the next year's walks. They take care to vary the programme to suit all tastes and accommodate walkers of different abilities. Then comes the process of going on a 'recce' to check the route and scout for cafés - and other facilities. The further distant walks are always planned around public transport so there's no need for anyone to take responsibility as a driver. Arrangements are flexible enough to cope with the weather – café stops, route changes and even an unscheduled indoor visits when essential to dodge the rain.

Walks are Sunday events, with a 10am rendezvous outside Donald Hope Library. Group size is usually 8–15, and outings are designed to be comfortable with distances of 3–8 miles. On longer walks there is usually an opportunity to shorten the route and reconnect with public transport if you wish. Check the Making Colliers Wood Happy schedule for details of the next walk.



Photo: L-R Volunteer Nick Payton, an experienced organic gardener on the team that has developed and maintained the community garden, and Keith Spears, project co-ordinator. Some of this year's harvest is on the table!

## Christ Church Community Garden

The Christ Church Community Garden started life 2 years ago, when local residents took on the clearing and cultivation of neglected land behind the Church buildings. After weeks of hard work - clearing brambles and rubble, removing unwanted sycamore trees and repairing fences, the land was ready for the next phase. Our volunteers have installed a donated greenhouse, raised beds, compost bins and water butts. The garden is now beginning to flourish as you can see. What's more, we've been awarded Merton Partnership funding to run horticulture, cookery and healthy lifestyle classes. If you would like to join us, contact the coordinator, Keith Spears on 07982 721 496 or e-mail keithaspears@hotmail.com. Look forward to hearing from you.

## New parent's diary

As a new parent in the Colliers Wood area Amy Christian wasn't sure what was available to her besides walking with her baby to Mothercare and the Tandem Centre! But using a little research, social media and contact with other parents she has discovered how much there is. Here she sets out her typical week:

*Monday 10am:* Music Mayhem at Donald Hope Library (it's free, which is always appealing!) then across to the Charles Holden pub for coffee at their 'Mamas and Cuppas' session

*Tuesday 11.30am:* interactive classes for babies at Deen City Farm cost £5 and include a free coffee (get your TITCH loyalty card stamped and your 6th session is free). Alternatively there's Shake 'n' Sing at Merton Abbey Mills if we don't want to venture as far as the farm.

*Wednesday:* Might start at the Wacky Warehouse play area inside the Kiss Me Hardy, but I like to keep the day free in case we need to visit the afternoon Children's Health Clinic at High Path.

*Thursday 2–3.30pm:* the Lavender Fields Children's Centre 'Baby and You' session. Again it's free, with toys and singing available, and a chance for me to meet up with the friends I made at ante-natal classes.

*Friday 10am:* Colliwobbles at Christchurch Hall or, if we've had a late start, Donald Hope Library plays host to Rhyme Time at 11.15am. For something more active, the newly refurbished Wimbledon Leisure Centre has a swimming class for babies from 11.30am.

Amy says she checks a variety of websites for activities and weekly events – including Merton Council's website, Mumsnet Merton and NCT Wimbledon and District. She also follows Colliers Wood news and views Facebook group for info on yoga and fitness sessions in the recreation ground.

Great to know how many opportunities are on our doorstep for new parents to keep active and connected, here in Colliers Wood.

## Johmard LYME

Johmard LYME, in collaboration with the Merton Partnership and other Community Groups in Merton, presents the Johmard Community LYME. This is a special programme offering a range of free activities, primarily for communities in the east of the Merton Borough. It will feature intergenerational sessions and keep fit for the family. For this special programme LYME stands for Let Young-People Meet Elders as it aims to bring together generations and communities to learn, play and inspire each other.

If you're interested in taking part (individuals & community groups) or want to know more please contact John David on 020 8378 5756: email [john.david@4biz.co.uk](mailto:john.david@4biz.co.uk) or Michelle Asantewa on 07950 308 033

## Looking after other people's children

A babysitting course for 13+ year olds. Free of charge and certificated by the Red Cross, 10 Monday evenings from Oct 7, 8-9pm. Colliers Wood Woodcraft Folk Youth Club (opens 7.30pm). Colliers Wood Community Centre, 66-72 High Street. Will enable participants to:

- Understand a babysitter's responsibilities
- Learn how to create a safe environment
- Develop skills in the use of lifesaving first aid
- Develop the self-esteem and social skills required in a babysitter

### Bookings and further info:

Tom Searle,  
Tomo6491@  
yahoo.com  
07975 756189 or  
020 8543 6470

## OUT AND ABOUT! In Colliers Wood this Autumn

### 23 September

Merton Youth Partnership meeting at Merton Voluntary Service Council, 4.00 - 6.30pm

### 27 September

Cavendish Road "Front Garden Table Top Sale" 10am - 3pm

### 27-28 September

Merton Arts Trail and Open House Weekend

### 5 October

The Sound Lounge "Music Festival" with local musicians playing live, 12 noon - 8pm at Merton Abbey Mills

### 7 October

You're invited to the Parks and Open Spaces meeting at St Joseph's Hall in Park Road, from 7.30pm to discuss how our parks and open spaces can be improved

### 11 October

Are you a runner? We hope to set up a local running group for runners of all abilities. Join us at Coffee in the Wood from 10 - 10.30am to discuss what we'd like from the group and how to get started. See our new Facebook group <https://www.facebook.com/groups/CollywoodRunners/> or email us on [collywoodrunners@gmail.com](mailto:collywoodrunners@gmail.com) Looking forward to meeting other runners!

### 14 October

Neighbourhood Partnership Meeting with staff from Circle Housing (formerly Merton Priory Homes) from 6.30pm at Colliers Wood Community Centre - refreshments provided

### 17 October

"Los Rialtos" perform at Merton Vision - tickets £15 - call 0208 540 5446

Do you have a story or event for our Winter 2014 edition? Send it to [info@collywood.org.uk](mailto:info@collywood.org.uk) by the 1st November.

### 18 October

Black History Month Donald Hope Library is welcoming AECHO to give a talk on 'African Migration to Merton' at 3pm. Suitable for adults; free of charge

### 4 November

Colliers Wood Residents Association - 7.15 for 7.30pm at St Joseph's Hall, Park Road, discussing local issues and aiming to improve the area for local people

### 29 November

South West London Film Festival at a venue near you!

### Tuesdays, ongoing

South London Irish Dancers: social dance classes at the Johmard Centre 19.45-21.00 Contact us via [www.facebook.com/irishdancers](http://www.facebook.com/irishdancers) or [southlondonirishdancers@gmail.com](mailto:southlondonirishdancers@gmail.com)

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# "Making Colliers Wood Happy!"

## AUTUMN 2014

### COLLIERS WOOD CHORUS - "IT'LL BE OVER BY CHRISTMAS".

Our concert to commemorate the First World War is going to be a very special event, with fellow performers Going for a Song! and piano/violin/cello trio Cherry Mint Koala from 5 p.m. on Sunday 30th November at Christ Church.

For further details, or if you would like to join our Chorus — both men and women are welcome — go to our website on [www.collierswoodchorus.org.uk](http://www.collierswoodchorus.org.uk)

### THE COLLIERS WOOD WALKING GROUP

Once a month, on a Sunday morning, our group meets outside the library and visits places of interest.

5th October - Walton on Thames to Hampton Court

2nd November - the Keats Walk through Hampstead

7th December - ramble around Carshalton. For further details contact Rita on 0208 540 1560.

### BADMINTON AND TABLE TENNIS CLUB

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

For details, contact Chhabra on 07702 634 359 or Keith on 07982 721 496.

### \*\*\*\*\*NEW! JAZZ DANCE CLASSES FOR ADULTS!\*\*\*\*\*

Beginners from 8 p.m. to 9 p.m. and those with some experience of Jazz, Contemporary or Modern Dance, from 9 p.m. to 10 p.m. every Monday evening at the Colliers Wood Community Centre.

Only £4 per class.

### BALLROOM DANCE CLASSES

An opportunity to learn the Quickstep and Slow Foxtrot in September; Rumba and Cha-Cha in October; Ballroom Tango and Jive in November; and the Slow and Viennese Waltz in December; with a professional dance tutor.

Every Sunday @ C. W. Community Centre. £6 per class or £15 for 4 weeks.

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

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

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

Every Wednesday @ C.W. Community Centre. Contact Tony 07941 488 934.

### BALLET CLASSES FOR BOTH MEN AND WOMEN

Every Thursday from 8.15 p.m. @ the Colliers Wood Community Centre.

For further details contact Tony on 07941 488 934.

### "MUSIC MAYHEM!"

Share the pleasure of music and singing from 10 to 10.45 every Monday morning @ Donald Hope Library with pre-school children, parents and carers.

### BOOK CLUB

Last Tuesday of every month from 5.30 p.m. to 6.30 p.m. @ the 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

Come and join us at the Donald Hope Library for a friendly game of chess. All ages and abilities welcome — every Saturday from 2.30 p.m. to 4.30 p.m.

*"Making Colliers Wood Happy!" is a community building project, but is currently unfunded and seeking a local sponsor.*

*For further details of local activities — [makingcollierswoodhappy.org.uk](http://makingcollierswoodhappy.org.uk) or contact [keithaspears@hotmail.com](mailto:keithaspears@hotmail.com) or call Keith on 07982 721 496.*