



SPRING  
2009

### Community Newsletter

This newsletter is compiled and distributed to 4000 households by volunteers from Colliers Wood and is also available at [www.collywood.org.uk](http://www.collywood.org.uk)

## **Colliers Wood, it's between Wimbledon and Tooting**

*by Sally Nettleton*

Everyone's heard of Wimbledon, everyone's heard of Tooting. Colliers Wood is that under-appreciated corridor between the two. Why? We've got big shops, free parking and Merton Abbey Mills is absolutely South London's answer to Camden, but without the falafel.

And where else, after a good downpour, do you see the surreal sight of a cyclist gliding through the rising waters of the flooded High Street, past the sandbags keeping the floods out the library?

Of course there's that Tower. Shouldn't mention it really, but everyone does. Come out of the Tube station and there it is, looming like the computer in *2001: A Space Odyssey*. If aliens ever land in South London the Tower's the spot they'll make contact. Like a scene from *Close Encounters* I'll be in the grip of some miniature tower-building exercise in my front room. Manically sticking cereal packets together and searching the shelves of Homebase to find the right colour of disgusting brown paint, which will of course be sold out due to high demand. On second thoughts, I'll go for the mashed potato option...

Yes it's a top place to live, it's a secret gem. Next time someone asks me where it is, I might just keep them guessing.

## **Do you have a story for our Summer edition?**

**Get it to us by May 15th and yours could be our cover story!**

Contact the editor, Christopher at [info@collywood.org.uk](mailto:info@collywood.org.uk), or leave a voice or text message on 07588 812078

editing, artwork and design by C. W. Killerby

## Where will our library go?

by C. W. Killerby

The lease on the property that the council rent from Golfrate runs out in 2010 and this provides the Donald Hope Library with the opportunity to move to other, cheaper premises. But where to? The question was raised by 3 local residents at the last Residents Association meeting in February.

Councillor Nick Draper's preferred option is the old Nissan dealership site on the corner of the High Street and Robinson Road. However, this site is at the very Northern edge of Colliers Wood.

Councillor George Reynolds has proposed the now empty Rainbow Nursery building next to St Joseph's Church on the High Street. Despite needing refurbishment, it seems ideally situated near the Community Centre.

To complicate matters further, the head of library Services in Merton, Councillor Maurice Groves, seems to prefer moving the library to the Sainsbury's building further down at the Southern end of the ward.

Of course moving from the present site will mean that yet another building on the High Street will become completely vacant as the old Job Centre site above still remains empty. One has to wonder if Golfrate wouldn't be better off lowering the rent for the library site in order to keep hold of a reliable tenant as the current economic climate is boarding up High Streets all over the country. But then again, on their website Golfrate still lists its address as "The Tower" - another gem in their colourful property portfolio. Maybe derelict is the new bling!

The library functions as a hub for so many residents in Colliers Wood, it is in our interest to raise issues and objections and to discuss all the options.

With this in mind, come along to the next meeting on Tuesday the 7th of April in the Community Centre and discuss the location of our library with Nick Draper and Maurice Groves. If you are unable to attend the meeting but would like to contribute to the discussion please email the editor or leave a message on our dedicated voicemail (see cover). It is up to us to make the most of the move!

*Many thanks to Ms J. Buchanan who brought this matter to our attention.*

## Parking charges are to go up - again!

In last week's Local Guardian, Merton Council issued a public notice laying out the pricing structure as of April 09. From the implementation, in 1999 (happy 10 year anniversary!), the price for a visitor's pass (half day) has gone up from 50p to the proposed £2.50! I don't make much of statistics but increased by a factor of 5 in 10 years - is this just another "money-making scheme" after all? Some visitor permits have increased by 67%, and most of the others have increases above 15% - Remind me - what is the inflation rate again? As this newsletter is aimed specifically at local residents it seems an ideal opportunity to break the new price scheme down for you here in case you missed it in the paper:

1st Resident Permit- from £60 up to £65  
2nd Resident- from £95 up to £110  
3rd and Subsequent- from £120 to £140  
Annual Visitor Permit- from £120 to £140  
Address Permit- from £60 up to £65  
Visitor permits will be £2.50 for both half and full day permits - full day has dropped by 50p - so as they now cost the same it seems silly to still issue half day permits.

Now, I'm off to buy an Annual Visitor Permit while they're still only £120... bargain?



# Colliers Wood Residents Association

Tuesday 7th April 2009

@ the Colliers Wood Community Centre

[www.collierswoodresidentsassociation.org.uk](http://www.collierswoodresidentsassociation.org.uk)

Join us in the hall upstairs from 7 pm for refreshments.

The meeting will start at 7:30 pm



## For the Colliers Wood Residents Association;

Chair - Keith Spears - 07982 721 496 [keithaspears@hotmail.com](mailto:keithaspears@hotmail.com)

Vice-Chair - Tracey Reynolds - 07986 097 542

Treasurer - Keith Allen - 0208 542 5801

Secretary - SITUATION VACANT - It could be you!



*photo by M. Marks*

For more info visit [collierswoodresidentsassociation.org.uk](http://collierswoodresidentsassociation.org.uk)

# Making Colliers Wood Happy

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

## **APRIL 2009**

### **CAVENDISH ROAD TABLE TOP SALE**

11 a.m to 3 p.m. on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup>. April

Raising money to plant more trees and shrubs in our recreation ground. Supported by Sustainable Merton.

For more details contact Ron on 8540 6020 or  
Liz on 07759 662747

### **COMMUNITY GAMES NIGHT**

Games for all ages, plus real ale, live music and karaoke!

£2 for adults, £1 for children @ St. Joseph's Hall.

From 7.30 p.m. on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup>. April

### **"THE RAMBLING COLLIERS!"**

Join us for a ramble to the Isabella Plantation in Richmond  
Park

Meet outside the library at 10 a.m. on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April.

### **THE READING GROUP**

5. p.m. on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup>. April 2009 at the library.

### **"COLLIERS WOOD CHORUS"**

Every Monday from 7.30 p.m. to 9.30 p.m.

For more info check out [collierswoodchorus.org.uk](http://collierswoodchorus.org.uk)

### **COLLIERS WOOD COME DANCING!"**

Ballroom dance classes every Sunday at 7.30 p.m.

@ Colliers Wood Community Centre. Only £4.

### **BALLET CLASSES FOR BOTH MEN AND WOMEN**

Every Tuesday from 9.15 p.m. to 10.30 p.m and every  
Thursday from 8.30 p.m. to 10 p.m. @ the Community  
Centre. [www.makingcollierswoodhappy.org.uk/ballet.html](http://www.makingcollierswoodhappy.org.uk/ballet.html)

### **TAP DANCE CLASSES FOR ADULTS**

From 7.30 p.m. every Wednesday at the Community Centre.

Call Luzahnn on 0771 9001 240 for further details.

### **THE UKELELE ORCHESTRA OF COLLIERS WOOD**

For further details call Derek on 07956 561799.

### **FORTHCOMING EVENTS!**

**Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup>. May** - Merton's Cultural Olympiad, a celebration of sport and culture, will be held in Colliers Wood Recreation Ground.

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup>. June** - Wandle Valley Festival. Join the Colliers Wood Chorus for a picnic and afternoon of music.