



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.collywood.org.uk

Spring 2012

LET'S TIDY UP COLLIERS WOOD!

Over the past 3 months local volunteers, including children from Singlegate School, have planted over 400 shrubs and trees in 7 different locations in Colliers Wood. They will help to soften the urban landscape, provide habitats for wildlife and give visual pleasure as they change with the seasons. However, for every tree that we've planted, we've had to clear up an equal amount of litter – mostly cans, bottles, plastic bags, fast food containers and newspapers – some of it within a few feet of a bin! When we've gone back the following week to mulch the trees and shrubs, there's more rubbish. It's very demoralising for those of us who are trying to make Colliers Wood a better place to live in... *but* we're not going to give up!

The Colliers Wood Residents Association has decided to launch a campaign this Spring and will be working in partnership with Merton Council, local residents, businesses and schools to Tidy Up Colliers Wood. We will be reminding residents that the fine for dropping **litter** is £75; **dog-fouling** in a public place is not only anti-social and a health hazard, it's also against the law and the fine is £75; **fly-tipping** is anti-social and illegal and the fines are enormous – Merton Council recently took a resident to court for fly-tipping and he was fined £1215!

Merton Council's Environmental Services Enforcement Team are targeting Colliers Wood in April and issuing offenders with on-the-spot fines. They will also be reminding residents that we should leave our household waste inside our properties on the day of collection, *not* in the road or on the pavement where it blows around and litters the streets. There's a free collection for bulky household waste which includes fridges, freezers, mattresses, TVs and furniture. Call 0208 274 4902. Alternatively,

if you have unwanted furniture or other good quality household goods you could call the Vine Project on 0208 685 6640. They will collect them free of charge and distribute them to local people on low incomes. If you have unwanted paper, cardboard, paint, plastic, fabric or DIY materials, you can call the Squirrels Community Scrap Scheme on 0208 641 1881. They will distribute them to schools, playgroups and holiday playschemes. One person's rubbish can be another person's treasure! In addition, you can call Merton Council on 0208 274 4902 to get **graffiti** removed and "Trolleyline" on 0800 316 1241 to collect abandoned **shopping trolleys**.

The Colliers Wood Residents Association will be lobbying shops to stop giving plastic bags away and encouraging shoppers to stop taking them unnecessarily – they are a blight on the landscape, left blowing around the streets, stuck up in trees, stuffed in bushes, blocking up drains and endangering wildlife in local ponds and streams.

We are all part of the problem in some way or other, but we can also be part of the solution. We can all help to make Colliers Wood a better place to live in.

To discuss the problems and solutions with other residents, council officers and our local councillors, come and join us:

@ the coffee afternoon from 2 pm to 3.30 pm on Thursday 1st March at the Donald Hope Library *and/or*

@ the next meeting of the Colliers Wood Residents Association at the Community Centre at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 6th March.

Keith A Spears, Chair of the Colliers Wood Residents Association, 07982 721 496

“Open Doors, Open Books, Open Minds” at Donald Hope Library

This exciting campaign in Merton libraries runs from Saturday 4th February until the end of April, aiming to raise awareness of the wide range of services we provide, increase library usage, and add to people’s enjoyment of our facilities and activities.

Users of the “**Peoples Network**” and anyone borrowing a book will automatically be entered into our **Prize Draw** for prizes which include:

- Annual gym membership
- Theatre and cinema tickets
- A meal for two, wine included
- Annual DVD rentals

- “**Opening Doors**” in February, we’ll endeavour to welcome readers old and new by giving incentives to you, our most valued asset.
- We’ll be “**Opening Books**” in March. During “World Book Day” and our “Six Book Challenge”, we’ll be promoting diverse categories of books to increase your enjoyment and fulfilment as readers. Discover new authors and find new heroes!
- April will see us promoting the range of opportunities and activities available, with the aim of enriching lives and “**Opening Minds**” – satisfying and enjoyable activities such as Adult Learning, volunteering and work in the Heritage Service to name a few.

At Donald Hope Library we are reaching out to neighbours and friends to show our appreciation – and add to your enjoyment. Do come and join us!

Bob Brunning, blues musician

Dave Laing writes: Colliers Wood resident Bob Brunning, a stalwart of the British blues music scene for five decades, has died aged 68. A founder member in the late 60s of legendary band Fleetwood Mac, Bob was active in the British blues scene throughout the 70s, leading his own bands and supporting visiting American musicians. Among his many south London blues associates were esteemed musicians Dave and Jo Ann Kelly, and Bob Hall. His life as a musician was combined – not always easily – with the day job he loved in the teaching profession. In the 80s, Bob branched out as an author of books that were informed by his first-hand experience of the blues scene and, drawing on his teaching experience, wrote a series of books on popular music for children. He issued CDs on his own record label and continued to

perform regularly, even occasionally with Fleetwood Bac, a well-regarded tribute band. Bob’s musical legacy lives on at Merton Abbey Mills, in BB’s Blues Club (Sundays at the Colour House) and through Abbeyfest and the August Bank Holiday Blues Weekend. Most fitting then that early this month the Colour House itself was the location for a great musical tribute to Bob’s life and lasting contribution to the wider musical community.

“What is going on in Colliers Wood?”

It often feels that Colliers Wood lives in the shadow of Wimbledon, its more illustrious neighbour, and that whatever it is you want to do, you need to go somewhere else to do it. However, on Saturday 28th January, over 200 local people went along to the Community Centre to find out what was going on in Colliers Wood. They met representatives from over 40 local community groups who were promoting their leisure, social, environmental and educational activities plus members of local churches and political parties, the Fire Brigade and the Safer Neighbourhood Police Team who were publicising their activities. In addition, there were performances of singing and dancing, table tennis, hat-making, storytelling and even an opportunity to try out the climbing wall!

Beau Fadasu from the Volunteer Centre said it was good to see “such a wide and diverse spectrum of the community and to be able to recruit new volunteers” and Fran Hibbert from Merton Vision said that “there was a real community feel, and so many groups and activities that it needs to be in a bigger venue next year!”

The event was organised by Keith Spears from the community building group “Making Colliers Wood Happy!” and raised funds for the “Colliers Wood’s 1st International Spring Arts Festival”.

Colliers Wood Chorus and Merton Music Foundation

Young musicians and singers from Merton Music Foundation join Colliers Wood Chorus on 3rd March for a performance of Carl Orff’s *Carmina Burana* to mark the beginning of London 2012’s Cultural Olympiad. St Barnabas, a lofty, spacious church in Mitcham, will play host to the orchestra and combined choirs for the 80 minute masterpiece. Dramatic tenor Ian Massa-Harris and rising coloratura star Milena Dobrzycka are the soloists for the evening, with Colliers Wood Chorus’ Musical Director, Christopher Killerby, conducting the 120-strong cast. In the true spirit of Orff’s epic cantata there

will be plenty of spectacle and drama. As well as lighting effects, artist Sally Booth is working with year five pupils from three local primary schools to create artwork inspired by the music, which will be projected during the performance.

Saturday 3rd March at 7:30, St Barnabas,
Gorrington Park Ave, Mitcham
Tickets £10 full price or £5 concessions
To book tickets visit collierswoodchorus.org.uk

Wizard of Oz, Colourhouse Theatre

Linda Kirby's musical adaptation of the Frank Baum Classic, directed by Kathryn Haywood.

11th February–15th April, Sat & Suns, 2 and 4 pm
£9 Adults, £7 Children
Box office: 02085425511, www.colourhouse.co.uk

Holiday Inn extension near completion

The Holiday Inn writes: Following a long delay due to unknown services close to our build area, we are now progressing at pace towards a July/August completion date. During the following month we will continue with the foundations for the building and installation of a steel frame up to first floor level. Next month will see the three-storey timber frame installation along with prefabricated bathroom "pods". Alongside the external works, we are removing the existing interior walls and services while maintaining a fully operational hotel. The staff, guests and local community are to be praised for tolerating the disruption and we welcome both positive and negative feedback as this will help us improve our service.

OUT AND ABOUT! In Colliers Wood this Spring

Do you have a story or event for our Summer 2011 edition? Send it to info@collywood.org.uk or contact Keith Spears, 07982721496

Sunday 4 March

The next Myrna Close Nature Reserve Workday, 10am–12.30pm. Meet near the bridge. Tea, coffee and biscuits provided. Over 16s only. Wear old clothes.

Wednesday 7 March

Live music at the Prince, High Street: Jazz, Gabriel Horricks, 8.30pm

Saturday 10 March

Merton Abbey Horticultural Society. The Spring Show, 2.30pm, at the Colliers Wood Community Centre.

Saturday 10 March

Spring Dance, 7.30–11pm, Colliers Wood Community Centre. Entry £4.

Tuesday 13 March

Friends of Donald Hope Library AGM, 7pm.

Wednesday 14 March

Live music at the Prince, High Street: Irish music, The Navigators, 9pm.

Saturday 17 March

What do you think we can do to improve the range of activities available to children and young people in Colliers Wood? Youth and Play Working Party meeting, 2.30pm at St Joseph's Hall, Park Road, and have your say! Children, young people and parents are all welcome.

Tuesday 20 March

"Poetry Slam", Donald Hope Library, 7pm. Offers local poets, of all ages and genres, the opportunity to perform their own poetry and win a prize of £25! Compered by Russell Thompson of the Merton Poetry Group. Guest poet: Keith Drake, current Slam Champion.

Friday 23 March

MertonVision Charity Quiz Night, 7.30–10.30pm, £6 (incl. supper), 02085405446

Saturday 24 March

Celebration of the life and times of William Morris, William Morris Pub at Merton Abbey Mills, 7.30pm, with live music, poetry and politics.

Saturday 7 April

St Joseph's Easter Vigil service, 8pm.

Sunday 8 April

St Joseph's Easter Sunday services, 9am and 10.45am.

Saturday 21 April

Colliers Wood 3rd Ukelele Festival, 7–11pm, bar and food, £5 entry, ColliersWood Community Centre. uketoo@gmail.com.

Friday 25 May

MertonVision Roaring Twenties Night, 7.30–11pm, £10 (incl. supper). The Colliers Wood Ukelele Orchestra, and some local singers, will perform songs from the 1920s and other eras.

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"Making Colliers Wood Happy!"

SPRING 2012

COLLIERS WOOD'S 1st. INTERNATIONAL SPRING ARTS FESTIVAL

Beginning on Saturday 21st April with the Ukulele Festival and finishing on Friday 11th May with the Colliers Wood Chorus and including a photographic competition, poetry slam, storytelling workshop, cabaret night, acoustic music, fabric workshop, African Drumming and an exhibition of ephemeral art. Check our website for further details.

INTRA-VENUS QUIZ NIGHT

Quiz night at Venus Bar at 7.30 pm on Saturday 17th March. £2 per person. £40 prize money. Max. 4 per team.

COMMUNITY GAMES AND MUSIC NIGHT

Where else could you go to play table-tennis, pool, scrabble, cards and dominoes, listen to local singers and musicians and join in with karaoke, other than at St. Joseph's Hall on Saturday 31st March?

COLLIERS WOOD RAMBLING GROUP

Enjoy gentle exercise, fresh air and good company on monthly rambles. Contact Rita on 8540 1560 for further details.

POETRY CIRCLE

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

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

Football for children aged 5 to 8 from 10 am to 11 am and young people aged 9 to 13 from 11 am to 12 midday every Saturday morning until the 31st March in the Colliers Wood Recreation Ground.

"THE COLLIERS WOOD CHORUS"

If you are a tenor or bass singer and would like to join us for rehearsals from 7.30 pm on Monday evenings call Christopher 07918 183 459.

CHESS CLUB

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

"THE COLLIERS WOOD UKULELE ORCHESTRA"

For details contact Derek on uketoo@gmail.com.

BADMINTON AND TABLE TENNIS CLUB

Every Sunday from 2.30 pm to 4.30 pm @ 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, Improvers @ 7.30, Intermediates @ 9 pm. £5 per class or £15 for a 4-week course @ the Community Centre.

BALLET CLASSES FOR BOTH MEN AND WOMEN

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

TAP DANCE CLASSES FOR ADULTS — MEN AND WOMEN

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

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

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

www.makingcollierswoodhappy.org.uk

Keith A. Spears - founder and coordinator of "MCWH!"