



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 2013

Spring into Action!

Individually we can sometimes feel powerless to make any changes in our local environment, but as a group we can become more powerful and have more influence to bring about change.

If 10% of the people who live in Colliers Wood became actively involved in our Residents Association, we could transform the area and make it a much better place to live and work.

In the past year the Residents Association has set up a community gardening project, provided a range of activities for children, young people and families including tennis, hockey and basketball coaching, planted more trees and cleared up piles of litter that's been dropped in our parks and open spaces.

But there is so much more that we could do to make Colliers Wood a better place for us to live and work in, and for our children to grow up in.

If you would like to make a difference come along and join us on the first Tuesday of each month at St. Joseph's Hall in Park Road.

At our next **sub-committee meeting on 2nd April**, we will be:

- discussing our Parks and Open Spaces from 7.30 pm – would you like to see any changes and improvements?
- and then re-launching the Youth and Play Working Party at 8.30 pm This is a forum for improving youth and play provision for children and young people in Colliers Wood – do you think that we could be doing more?

At the **main meeting on 7th May** there will be:

- a presentation from Sharon Thomas from Merton Adult Education
- a report from the Safer Neighbourhood Police Team
- an update on the Tower site and new Town Centre from the Future Merton Team
- a Soapbox for you to raise local issues and promote local projects.



"Making a difference!"

On a cold morning in March, members of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Association joined local residents in Crusoe Road to tidy up an alleyway plagued by littering and flytipping. They also helped to plant "edible hedgerow trees" – a mixture of hazel, elder, blackthorn, dog rose and crab apple – which were donated by the Woodland Trust.

Local resident and founder of the Crusoe Road Plus action group, Caroline Cooper-Marbiah, said "Thank you for helping us to make Crusoe Road cleaner and greener".

CW Gardening Project

The Colliers Wood Residents Association has been awarded £6248 by the Merton Partnership to extend its community gardening project. This will enable the CWRA to create more community gardens in Colliers Wood and provide more local residents with the opportunity to grow their own fruit and vegetables. We will also be able to provide gardening, healthy lifestyle and cookery classes for local residents. Would you like to enrol with the project?

Do you know of a suitable open space behind a block of flats where we could build raised beds and grow fruit and vegetables? If so, contact Keith on 07982 721 496 or e-mail keithaspears@hotmail.com

Merton Libraries are always with you!

It's now even easier for customers to access a whole range of library services around the clock after the launch of new technology initiatives.

In recent months we have successfully rolled out email pre-notifications for overdue books and an automated 24/7 renewal and enquiry line and customers now have access to over 20 000 titles in electronic formats available as either e-book, e-magazines or e-encyclopaedias. These e-resources can be viewed on e-readers, phones, and computers and can be borrowed with the added benefit of never having to incur any library fines.

Merton's libraries are also ensuring that their computers and technology are up to speed with all public computers being upgraded by May 2013 and Wi-Fi being introduced in the coming months.

Cabinet member for community and culture, Councillor Nick Draper, said: "Not only have our libraries managed to stay open in these difficult times, they are going the extra mile to meet the needs of their customers and make the library experience as convenient and enjoyable as possible, which is all down to the excellent and visionary management of the libraries. Merton's libraries are considered to be amongst the best in London as they are very well run and really provide a great service to the local community with the help of our fantastic army of volunteers. These technological advances and 24 hour access to library resources add greatly to that service and I hope everyone makes the most of it.



Honesty is still the best policy

You might think an area hit by 2011's riots and mass-looting is entirely the wrong place to open an Honesty Shop. Yet here in Colliers Wood, sited between the bandstand and the River Wandle at Merton Abbey Mills, you'll find the world's only city shop in which customers are free to self-administer their own payments for the goods on sale. And, as Trusty the bus is showing, there's a ray of hope shining.

Trusty is a 1962 Leyland Titan double-decker bus and inside is a shop with a difference. By allowing customers to manage their own payments for the British handcrafts, household goodies and toys for sale, The Honesty Shop is innovating where others might not dare to follow. Customers put the correct money in 'honesty envelopes' and then in the 'honesty box' – a specially-installed authentic British postbox. Some of their heart-warming messages are on display. A conductor is on

Community Newsletter runs out of space!

There is more interesting Colliers Wood community news than we have room for in within these few pages. Go to www.collywood.org.uk for stories on:

- Merton police's local crime stats
- Update on the Colliers Food project
- Successful local babysitting and Playwork courses
- A new Lavender Fields and Colliers Wood bus service?

Do Something Different!

Feel stuck in a rut? Confidence a bit low? Are you unemployed or underemployed?

In keeping with the spirit of Making Colliers Wood Happy, 2013 will see a new project launched locally in conjunction with the organisation 'Do Something Different' www.dsd.me which helps people to make positive changes in their lives, improving their physical and mental health and sense of wellbeing.

Run by Gina Musa www.ginamusa.com a personal development coach and trainer, with support from Keith Spears, MCWH co-ordinator, the programme is for anyone who'd like to make changes in their life. The first group is planned for people who are free during the day, but evening groups may follow. 10 places are available and participants begin by completing an online questionnaire during May. The 8 week programme involves committing to try out different things 3 or 4 times a week, and meeting weekly with other participants at St Joseph's Hall, Park Road, on Weds mornings (10.30–12.00) from 5th June–24th July.

MCWH will part-fund the programme but participants are asked to contribute £3 per weekly meeting (concessions available if payment presents a difficulty).

We all have 'comfort zones' and habits that may prevent us adapting to change or doing things we're capable of. 'Do Something Different' gets you to tackle things by small steps, helping you take a fresh perspective, try new behaviours, and break old habits. Start simply, and develop as your confidence grows, having fun along the way.

To find out more contact Gina ginacmusa@gmail.com or Keith on 07982 721 496 by 30th April

hand to give assistance or change.

The bus radiates a feel-good factor and offers a unique experience for individuals and families who can explore, engage in and enjoy the virtues of honesty. Something that London, and Merton Abbey Mills can be proud of: a strong bounce back to pride in one's area, and an encouraging response to the disheartening events of 2011 which took place just a few hundred metres from where the shop stands!

A treat for lovers of arts and crafts as well as for bus enthusiasts who can inspect a British road-going classic, Trusty will be at Merton Abbey Mills, Watermill Lane for at least the next 6 weeks; shop opening times are 10.30–17.30, Wed to Fri, and 10.00–17.30, Sat & Sun.

Coffee in the Wood

Sophie Godding writes: We're excited to announce that soon Coffee in the Wood, a local, family run coffee shop will occupy the empty double unit at 101-99 Colliers Wood High Street. Our focus is on providing a good quality, affordable cup of coffee from a family-run roasters, and using locally sourced products to ensure we're supporting our community as much as possible. I've lived in Colliers Wood all my life so that's important for us. We aim to open in May, but until then you can follow us on Facebook. See you soon!

Do you have a story or event for our Summer 2013 edition? Send it to info@collywood.org.uk by the 1st June.

Another new name on the High Street

Meet Charles Holden!
Peter Linacre, Managing Director of the New Pub Company, says: "We are in the process of re-naming the former Colliers TUp as The Charles Holden and re-orientating the pub towards the local community. We're proud to announce that we're also the new sponsors of community-building group 'Making Colliers Wood Happy'.

At The Charles Holden we're planning: fresh seasonal food – our terrific French Head Chef is building a very talented team; an excellent wine list; traditional Sunday roasts for all the family; a child and dog friendly pub; new allotment/herb garden/kitchen garden; a sustainable food operation; a film and dining club; a Wine Appreciation Society.

We'll still have room to show rugby and other sport, and have some great local musicians playing. The emphasis however will be on providing a new facility for the community of Colliers Wood."

Launch weekend: 12-14 April.

OUT AND ABOUT!

In Colliers Wood this Spring

Friday-Sunday 12th-14th April

PUB LAUNCH WEEKEND. The launch of The Charles Holden Pub – formerly the Colliers TUp.

Tuesday 23rd April

WORLD BOOK NIGHT. 20 copies of "Why be happy, when you could be normal" by Jeanette Winterson, available on request at the Donald Hope Library.

Saturday 25th May

THE PASTORAL MESSIAH. 6pm at St Barnabas Church, Gorringer Park Avenue, N.E. Mitcham. The Colliers Wood Chorus will be performing with Unexpected Opera for a staged and costumed version of Handel's famous oratorio. The performance is in two parts, with refreshments available during the interval. £10 in advance and £12 on the door. www.collierswoodchorus.org.uk

Friday 31st May

MERTON VISION SOCIAL NIGHT. 7.30pm, The Colliers Wood Ukulele Orchestra will be performing at the Guardian Centre in Clarendon Road to help raise funds for MertonVision

Saturday/Sunday, 1st/2nd and 8th/9th June

THE WANDLE FESTIVAL. Family activities along the River Wandle. For further details look at www.wandlevalleyfestival.org.uk.

Saturday 22nd June

THE SUMMER SHOW. Merton Abbey Horticultural Society – The Summer Show – from 2.30pm to 4.30pm at the Colliers Wood Community Centre.

Saturday 22nd June

THE SUMMER DANCE. Doors open at 7pm at the Colliers Wood Community Centre. Dancing from 7.30pm to 11pm. Tickets on the door – £6 includes refreshments with strawberries and cream.

Monday 6th May; Monday 27th May

World Music/Dance/Food Festivals on the bandstand at Merton Abbey Mills on the May Bank Holidays. Great events for families and the local area. 12 midday to 8pm. These will be free events.

Qi-Gong classes

Every Wednesday at the Yuan Centre in Colwood Gardens. 8.30pm-9.30pm. No need to book. £7/£5 concession per class. www.yuantmc.co.uk.

Sequence dancing

Every Wednesday from 7.45pm to 10pm at the Colliers Wood Community Centre.

Table-top games

Every Thursday morning, 10am-12pm at the Donald Hope Library, including games of cards, scrabble, dominoes and chess.

Bingo

Every Friday evening from 7.30pm at the Colliers Wood Community Centre.



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"Making Colliers Wood Happy!"

APRIL/MAY/JUNE 2013

SPRING ARTS FESTIVAL

Singing, dancing, drumming, poetry, storytelling, theatre, a film night, children's activities, a "pop-up art gallery" and much more... For further details of events, venues, prices and bookings go to collywood.org.uk

COMMUNITY PICNIC

Join us in Wandle Park from 12 to 5pm on Sunday 2nd June for a community picnic with singing, music and games to celebrate the Wandle Weekend.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Come and join us to make a difference in your local area from 10am to 12 midday on the 2nd Sunday of each month. For further details contact Keith.

THE COLLIERS WOOD CHORUS

"The chorus of the community - singing for all and singing for fun!" For further details check our website on www.collierswoodchorus.org.uk

THE COLLIERS WOOD WALKING GROUP

Meet at the bus stop outside the library at 9.45am to walk along the Hogsmill River on Sunday 21st April, from Edgecombe to Hamsley Green on Sunday 19th May, and Primrose Hill to Little Venice on Sunday 9th June.

BADMINTON AND TABLE TENNIS CLUB

Every Sunday from 2.30pm to 4.30pm @ the Community Centre. Contact Chubbra on 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 p.m. £6 per class or £15 for 4 weeks @ the Community Centre.

BALLET CLASSES FOR BOTH MEN AND WOMEN

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

TAP DANCE CLASSES FOR ADULTS - MEN AND WOMEN

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

DONALD HOPE LIBRARY - EVEN MORE ACTIVITIES!

Share the pleasure of music and singing from 10am to 10.45am every Monday with pre-school children, parents and carers at our "Music Mayhem!"

AND THE BOOK GROUP

Discussion about the "Book of the Month" from 5.30pm on the last Tuesday of each month.

AND THE POETRY CIRCLE

Read your own poetry or favourite poem relating to the changing seasons, festivals and events from 5.30pm on the last Thursday of each month.

AND THE CHESS CLUB

For all ages and all abilities every Saturday from 2.30pm to 4.30pm.

MERTON SCHOOL SPORTS PARTNERSHIP

Positive activities for young people aged 11 to 16 during the Easter Holidays.

Basketball coaching (April 2), Tennis and hockey coaching (April 3), Football coaching (April 4), all at Colliers Wood Recreation Ground. Multi-sports coaching at the Colliers Wood Community Centre (April 5).

All of these coaching sessions will run from 10 to 12 each morning and will be led by experienced and qualified coaches from the Merton School Sports Partnership.

"Making Colliers Wood Happy!" is now proudly funded by The Charles Holden Pub - formerly the Colliers Tap.

www.makingcollierswoodhappy.org.uk

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

keithaspears@hotmail.com Tel. 07982 721 496

New Bus Service for Lavender Fields & Colliers Wood?

For many years your local councillors have led a campaign to improve access to public transport. Transport for London has eventually agreed to public consultation on a change to the route of the single deck S1 service which runs from Banstead and Sutton. This would extend the route from Mitcham town centre, along London Road and Victoria Road and provide three services per hour at peak times. It is expected that the revised route could be in operation by late 2013.

If you would like to find out more or express any views on this proposal, please attend the public meeting. Representatives of Transport for London and the Council will be in attendance to answer any questions.

S1 Bus Route Consultation
Tuesday, 2 April 2013
at

Positive Networks
Taylor Road Day Centre
Commencing at 7:00 pm

Neil Malcolm, Lavender Resident's & Tenants
Association

In Partnership with:
Colliers Wood Residents Association
Positive Networks

Colliers Food: progress update

Thank you for a great response to our information stalls, at the Community Centre and library, where many of you signed up for email updates and expressed interest in our activities. We're pleased to hear a majority of you support the idea of a natural organic food co-op for Colliers Wood and the surrounding area. The Colliers Food buying group is now up and running in a small way, testing things out before we invite a wider group to join us. We'll shortly be conducting a survey amongst those on our email contact list, which will be your chance to send us feedback on our ideas and to contribute your own. The survey will also be posted on <http://Facebook.com/ColliersFood>

There's plenty of work ahead so, if you're interested in being involved in some way, we want to hear from you. All offers of time and skills are welcome though we are especially keen just now to hear from people with accountancy and database skills. Contact us

at eat@colliersfood.co.uk ; to receive email updates please use the subject line 'Add Me'. We look forward to seeing you at the next event!

Sabina, Matthew, Belinda, James, Abbi, Phil & team

Introduction to Playwork

Tome Searle writes: Following our successful Babysitting course, we shall be running a short course: Introduction to Playwork. This course will help young people to gain skills needed to work on Holiday Pay Schemes and Afterschool clubs.

The course covers the following: prepare for children's play; contribute to children's development through play; deal with accidents and emergencies, support the work of a team.

The course will be run on Mondays during June and July, starting on 3rd June at 8pm at the Colliers Wood Community Centre. The course is part of the activities offered by the Woodcraft Folk Youth Club and is open to all 13+ years.

For more information, ring Tom Searle on 0208 543 6470, or just come along.

Congratulations to the 17 young people from the Colliers Wood area that completed the 16-week babysitting course: Looking After Other People's Children.

Extract from a message from the Chief Superattendant, Merton Borough on burglary and how best to avoid it

February 8, 2013

"We are in the process of re-designing our approach to Neighbourhood Policing so that we can put more officers back out on patrol in your wards. This is obviously taking some time as we have to get it right if we are going to continue to provide you with the high quality policing response that you have come to expect here in Merton. You all have a chance to discuss and debate these plans with me together with the Deputy Mayor for Policing and the Assistant Commissioner on 26th Feb at 6.00pm at Civic Centre. If you want to attend please visit the MOPAC website and register.

Several of you asked me to pick a crime type and focus some advice into my weekly message and so this week I have picked Burglary. This time of year is still within the seasonal rise in burglary and there are some simple things that you can do to limit your chance of becoming a victim. I have previously mentioned securing your homes and it appears that across Merton you have become much better at this as so far this year there have been 80 fewer victims of burglary than last year.

However, we are still suffering from a spate of burglaries where sheds are broken into and then garden tools / furniture (particularly spades) used to gain entry into homes. I would suggest the following crime prevention advice:

- Lock away all garden tools, patio furniture and ladders. These items could then be used by the intruder to break into your house.
- Invest in decent locks for your sheds - you wouldn't secure your house with a simple padlock would you ?
- Gates, fences and walls should be kept in good repair to stop intruders getting in.
- The boundaries of your property are your first line of defence against burglars. Strong gates, fences and walls which are kept in good repair can deter intruders from getting to the back and sides of your property.
- Make sure rear garden fences are high enough to make climbing them difficult. Flimsy trellis can be used to add additional height and make it less likely that someone will risk climbing over
- Side gates need to be positioned as close to the front of the house as possible.

Thieves will be put off by the fact that they are in full view of the neighbours

- Gates are kept locked at all times
- Ladders are locked to a secure fixture in the shed or garage so they cannot be used to reach top floor windows of your house.
- If you see ANYTHING suspicious at or near you or your neighbours house – call 999

As you would expect I have increased patrols in areas most affected and we are monitoring burglaries / intelligence on a daily basis. If any of you know or suspect who is responsible for either committing burglaries in Merton or dealing in / accepting stolen goods please call us. We continually need you to help us telling us what you know or suspect about any criminal behaviour not just burglary. If you see, believe or even think that a crime is happening please call 999. If it is not a crime in progress please call us on 101 or call anonymously via crimestoppers 0800 555 1111.

We have had some fantastic results from this recently and they all started by someone picking up the phone to us. Here are two examples from this week alone;

At the start of the week there was some fantastic work by our officers who reacting to intelligence you had given us. They searched a house and recovered a loaded handgun. A suspect has been arrested and charged and another dangerous weapon has been removed from the streets of London.

Last night officers in my Grip & Pace Centre (GPC) received information from Crimestoppers that a burglar was in an address, still with the stolen property. Within 30 mins of getting this information, we had actioned it, the suspect was in custody and we had recovered the property. It had been stolen a few days before from a 88 year old man's house."

Darren Williams, Chief Superintendent
Borough Commander, Merton Borough
Wimbledon Police Station, 15 Queens Road,
Wimbledon, London SW19 8NN
33010 / 0208 649 3010 / 07733 307215

@MPSMerton

Year	2012	2013
Residential burglary	10	4
Non-residential burglary	5	5
Robbery	5	1
Theft from a motor vehicle	16	8

Core crimes during February 2012 and 2013