



Community Newsletter

This newsletter is brought to you by the Colliers Wood Residents' Association and Making Colliers Wood Happy! and is compiled and distributed to 4000 households by volunteers from Colliers Wood. It is also available online at www.collywood.org.uk

Spring 2015

The Remembrance Woodland

Merton Council has finally approved the planting of the Remembrance Woodland in Wandle Park to remember the 240 young men from Colliers Wood who died during the First World War. The planting area has been prepared by the Greenspaces Team and is in the SW corner of the park behind the Istanbul Restaurant. The trees — a mix of mountain ash, hawthorn, hazel, silver birch, dogwood and wild cherry - are a gift from the Woodland Trust. They will provide all year round colour as well as helping to improve air quality, by absorbing diesel particulates, carbon dioxide and nitrous oxide from vehicle emissions, produce oxygen for us to breathe and enhance bio-diversity.

You're very welcome to come and join us to plant and mulch the trees on the following dates — from 10 am to 4 pm each day: Thursday 16th April to Sunday 19th April.

Help would also be appreciated with refreshments and record keeping.

We will be joined by the Mayor of Merton, children from Singlegate School, a local film crew and photographers from the local press.

I've also invited children from All Saints and Garfield Schools, the Merton Tree Wardens, Merton Friends of the Earth, Sustainable Merton and members of the Colliers Wood Residents Association and the Ahmadiyya Muslim Association to help plant the trees.

There will also be an illustrated talk at the Donald Hope Library by local historian, Diane Holmes, about the young men who died in WW1, at a date to be confirmed.

You're very welcome to join us at these significant and historic events.

Keith A. Spears, 07982 721 496 or e-mail keithaspears@hotmail.com



General Election Hustings event

Tuesday 14th April, 7.30pm, St Joseph's Church Hall (entrance in Park Road)

Come along and listen to your candidates for the Mitcham & Morden parliamentary seat. Hear them put forward their policies and get a chance to ask questions. Everyone is welcome but as this is likely to be a popular event, we advise getting there early.

The candidates are:

- Conservative – Paul Holmes
- Green – Mason Redding
- Labour – Siobhain McDonagh
- Liberal Democrat – Diana Coman
- UKIP – Richard Hilton.

This event has been organised by the Colliers Wood Residents Association. Please show your support.

Pledge to Love Your Street

Keep an eye out for the bright 'Love Your Street' stickers being posted around the borough in the coming weeks as the council launches its new anti-litter campaign. The council has launched this 'Love Your Street' campaign to boost the positive work it already does with residents, community groups, schools and businesses to keep Merton clean.

Pledge your commitment and be in with a chance to win a £100 voucher

As part of the campaign, we've set up a way for residents, businesses, schools and community groups to unite against litter and demonstrate their pride in the local community. The council published its anti-litter code last year which sets out what residents can expect from the council and how residents can help to stop people littering the borough. People can show their commitment by signing up to a pledge, taken from this anti-litter code, to keeping Merton clean and taking pride in where they live. When people sign up, they will receive a campaign sticker to stick in their window to demonstrate their

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support for those who work hard to keep the borough tidy. Residents who sign up to the pledge will be automatically entered into a draw for a £100 One4all voucher every three months. The prize vouchers have been sponsored by EddisonWhite estate agents.

To find out more about the campaign and to sign up to the pledge, please visit. <http://www.merton.gov.uk/transport-streets/street-care-cleaning/loveyourstreet.htm>

Community Newsletter runs out of space!

There is more interesting Colliers Wood community news than we have room for in these few pages. Go to www.collywood.org.uk for "Page 5", where we have stories on:

- The Happiness Club
- Colliers Wood Runners
- The complete Residents' Association article

Support the troubled Mills

Hannah White of The Sound Lounge asks you to support Merton Abbey Mills before it closes.

The tiny riverside-arts village of Merton Abbey Mills was once a bustling, thriving, creative hub. Today it is today largely neglected. Many of the little shops and food restaurants simply cannot afford to open during the week as days pass by without a single customer.

What remains of Merton Abbey — the biggest abbey in the country before it was torn down by King Henry VIII in 1538 — can still be found here, as well as the country's only working watermill which powers the local potters' wheel at weekends. Merton Abbey Mills has it all: heritage, beautiful buildings, award-winning world-food restaurants, quirky shops, a tiny children's theatre, live music and great coffee! And the picturesque, riverside site is just a short walk from Deen City Farm and National Trust Gardens.

"The traders simply cannot afford to pitch up without any customers. Customers will not come if there isn't a market."

Years ago, Merton Abbey Mills hosted a booming weekend craft market, and before

Pizza Hut and KFC arrived, that land was home to one of the largest car boot sales in the country. Today things are very different and, despite continuous efforts to bring a farmers market, street food traders and quirky antique sellers, to name just a few, the market remains a sorry reflection of what it could be.

The community of Merton Abbey Mills is working to remind local people that we need their support now more than ever, with the threat of even more businesses shutting for good. Without people coming to visit this wonderful place in the heart of Colliers Wood, Merton Abbey Mills will be developed into posh flats and offices with probably a little Tesco Metro for convenience...and that would be a tragedy.

On the first Sunday of every month The Sound Lounge, a small, independent music studio and arts venue based on the site, hosts a free live-music festival with acoustic, folk, soul, reggae & soft rock played from noon into the early evening. In the spirit of artist and socialist William Morris who was based on our River Wandle, we want to ensure that our rich heritage and culture is kept by and for our community.

What can you do?

If you visit the Sainsbury superstore for a weekly shop, make the most of the 4-hours free parking and take a small detour to Merton Abbey Mills and stroll through. If you're shopping at The Tandem Centre, wander across the busy roads to our peaceful site. Even if you are not spending money, your being there will encourage all of us who are trying to keep the place alive in ways you cannot imagine. Oh, and tell your friends...

News from the Residents' Association

So why is Colliers Wood Residents Association Different? We will tell you...

Things are changing in Colliers Wood and the Colliers Wood Residents are coming to the front to make sure the area develops in a way that we want and becomes an even greater place to live. Here is why you should get involved.

If you ask most people about why they don't get involved in their local residents association they will talk about a group of locals moaning or objecting about everything and actually not getting much done. Well the good news is, for those

who have not been to a recent Colliers Wood Residents Association Meeting, that those days are gone. Just in case you don't know, we are a non-political voluntary group who want to make sure we get the best for where we live. We know we are the most densely populated area in Merton, with the second busiest shopping centre and are undergoing a mass amount of development at the moment. So we want to ensure, as a community, we understand what we want and work with the Council and the Greater London Authority to get it.

Yes, there will be compromises to be made, but we believe that by having a clear vision and being proactive in communicating this, there is a greater chance of us getting what we want.

We have got off to a great start. Merton Council has agreed to work with us and produce a Master Plan which will map out the area and ensure it is clear about how the area is going to develop. Paul McGary, Head of Future Merton is coming to discuss the Master Plan at our next meeting 12th May...

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RESIDENTS' CORNER

Introducing a new column, which allows residents to voice their opinions on local issues. If there's something you're concerned about – parking, the High Street, building work – which you think might impact on the community, please get in touch. Articles should be maximum 300 words and sent to: info@collywood.co.uk. Our first contribution comes from Jonathan Holloway.

Future of the Controlled Parking Zone (CPZ) in Colliers Wood

Like many other residents, I have wondered about the possible repercussions of the new housing developments in Colliers Wood. As I understand it, the area is getting around 1400 new dwellings. Many remember the negative effects of overspill parking from St George's hospital in pre-CPZ days. It seems worth asking if current Colliers Wood car users feel inclined to press for an overhaul of the CPZ? I have posted on Facebook and asked around and three principal issues have cropped up:

1. There are streets that weren't included in the original CPZ and now many of their residents are keen to become part of it. At least one street is forming an association to press for this.
2. There are residents close to the Tube who feel inconvenienced by permit holders driving from the other side of the CPZ to park close to the station. They have suggested a solution might be to subdivide the CPZ into smaller zones.
3. Some of the 2000 plus new residents might keep a car in Colliers Wood at weekends and in the evening. They may have visitors arriving by car, which could mean many more vehicles combing the streets looking for spaces. Also, given the scale of the developments, there is the possibility that contractor vehicles may impinge on space availability during the building period.

Current permit holders may wish to seek a partial solution, possibly following other parts of the borough by extending the CPZ hours.

The Resident's Association is interested to know what you think. Please do contact the committee at this email address (collierswoodra@gmail.com) and make your opinion known. No doubt it would be useful to hear responses that weigh-up the options.

RIP Vic Hamilton

We're sad to announce that Vic Hamilton passed away on Wednesday 18th March after a six months battle since being diagnosed with brain tumours.

Vic, who lived in Cavendish Road, has been known by many local residents over the last 60 years in Colliers Wood. He attended Singlegate and Alpheia Schools, organised the school reunions, did the pools round, was known to local dog walkers with his dog Buster and helped to organise the table top sales in Cavendish Road.

Since his diagnosis, the true spirit of Colliers Wood came alive with many visitors and kind thoughts for Vic and his family.

His funeral will be on Friday 17th April at 3.20 p.m. at the Crematorium in Blackshaw Road. Vic has requested no flowers but encourages people to make a donation to Marie Curie, the Neurological department at St. Georges Hospital, St. Raphael's Hospice or the Royal Marsden Hospital.



Can't wait for the next newsletter? Colliers Wood Social Media

Like a bit of gossip? Need a plumber? Got something to sell? Then join the Colliers Wood News and Views Facebook page, where residents can hook up and share information. The group already has over 1100 members. You might also like to check out other Facebook groups.

Colliers Wood Tower Action Group:
www.facebook.com/groups/CollywoodRunners
www.facebook.com/MakingColliersWoodHappy

Plus, a couple of websites:
www.makingcollierswoodhappy.org.uk
www.collierswoodresidentsassociation.org.uk
www.collierswoodchorus.org.uk

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The general store and post office at the heart of your community
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e: info@eddisonwhite.co.uk
www.eddisonwhite.co.uk

"Making Colliers Wood Happy!"

SPRING 2015

BADMINTON AND TABLE TENNIS CLUB

Every Sunday from 2.30 p.m. to 4.30 p.m. @ Colliers Wood Community Centre. For all ages and abilities.

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

BALLET CLASSES FOR ADULTS — MEN AND WOMEN

Every Thursday from 8.15 p.m. to 9.30 p.m. @ the Colliers Wood Community Centre. £5 per class. For further details, contact Tony on 07941 488 934.

BALLROOM DANCE CLASSES

Every Sunday @ the Colliers Wood Community Centre. £6 per class or £15 for 4 weeks. Beginners @ 5.30 pm — Improvers @ 7.30 pm — Intermediates @ 9 pm.

BELL RINGING

We ring bells at both Christchurch, Colliers Wood and St John's, Merton, with Sunday ringing at 9-9:30am (St John's) and 10:30-11:15am (Christchurch). Practice sessions are on Thursdays and alternate between Christchurch and St John's. All standards welcome, even if you have never rang a bell, training is provided. For more information, please contact Chris Stanley (07770 851328).

BOOK CLUB

Last Tuesday of every month from 5.30 p.m. to 6.30 p.m. @ 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 — from 2.30 p.m. to 4.30 p.m. on Saturday afternoons.

THE COLLIERS WOOD UKULELE ORCHESTRA

The Mighty Ukes will be performing at the Big Lunch/Community Picnic in Wandle Park on Sunday 7 June and the Singlegate School Summer Fair on Saturday 4 July.

COLLIERS WOOD CHORUS

Singing for all, singing for fun! The new term starts at 7.30 p.m. on Monday 13th. April. The Chorus will be performing at the Big Lunch/Community Picnic in Wandle Park on Sunday 7 June and the Singlegate School Summer Fair on Saturday 4 July. If you would like to join us, go to our website at www.collierswoodchorus.org.uk for further details.

THE COLLIERS WOOD WALKING GROUP

Meet outside the library at 9.45 a.m. on Sunday 3rd. May for a May Day Walk around Highgate and on Sunday 7 June for a walk from Leigh to Southend. Call Rita on 8540 1560 for details.

JAZZ DANCE CLASSES FOR ADULTS — MEN AND WOMEN

Beginners 8 p.m. to 9 p.m. and those with experience of Jazz, Modern & Contemporary Dance 9 p.m. to 10 p.m. every Monday at the C. W. Community Centre. £4 per evening. Contact Tony on 07941 488 934.

LAUGHTER YOGA CLUB

Relax, breathe deeply, be mindful, laugh and have fun with Ibti — a qualified Laughter Yoga Coach. From 11 a.m. on the second Saturday at St. Joseph's Hall. Call Ibti on 07443 438 197 to book.

MUSIC MAYHEM!

Singing for pre-school children and their parents and carers from 10 a.m. to 10.45 a.m. every Monday morning at the Donald Hope Library with Keith, Lindsay and Colin.

POETRY CIRCLE

Read your own poetry or favourite poems relating to the changing seasons and festivals 5.30 p.m. to 6.30 p.m. on the last Thursday @ the Donald Hope Library.

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. £4 per evening. Contact Tony 07941 488 934.

*"Making Colliers Wood Happy!" is a community building group and is currently seeking sponsorship
www.makingcollierswoodhappy.org.uk, keithaspears@hotmail.com,
07982 721 496.*

OUT AND ABOUT!

In Colliers Wood this Spring

Do you have a story or event for our Summer 2015 edition? Send it to info@collywood.org.uk by the 1st June.

Yoga with Doretta

Tuesday evenings, Christchurch Church Hall, Christchurch Road, Colliers Wood. Yoga to calm, relax and rejuvenate you in Colliers Wood Mix-level classes: beginners and already practicing yogis Time: 7-8.30pm. Hour and a half class. Six weeks courses available @ £60 for the full course. Drop-in classes available @ £12 a class

LauraYoga

Yoga and Pregnancy Yoga classes in Colliers Wood, at the Johmard Community Centre on Monday evenings. Pregnancy class 6.45pm and all levels class 8pm. £12 drop in rate, discounted multi-class passes available also. Contact Laura, 07753 334 681, laura@laurayoga.co.uk, www.laurayoga.co.uk

Fulham Football Club

Coming to North East Mitcham Community Centre Training sessions for 11-18 yr olds, boys and girls. Date to be confirmed. Call 0208 685 9452 for details.

Saturday 18 April

3pm to 5pm, Tour of the Parks and Open Spaces in Colliers Wood. Meet in the Memorial Garden in the Recreation Ground next to Singlegate School.

Tuesday 21 April

7.30pm, meeting of the Parks and Open Spaces Group, St. Joseph's Hall in Park Road.

Thursday 23 April

Events throughout the day at the Donald Hope Library to celebrate World Book Night and Shakespeare's Birthday.

Saturday 25 April

Celebrating the life, music, poetry and artwork of Kevin Walsh and raising money for his chosen charities — from 7.30pm on Saturday at St. Joseph's Hall in Park Road.

Saturday 9 May

10am to 2pm, The Cavendish Road Table Top Sale

Friday 15 May

The Colliers Wood Ukulele Orchestra will be performing at a fund-raising event for Merton Vision — further details on www.mertonvision.org.uk

Saturday 30 May

6.30-10.30pm, Fusion's Big Show, a celebration of music, dance and food from different cultural backgrounds, including African, Filipino, Indian and Caribbean at the Colliers Wood Community Centre. Entrance £5 per adult. Children free.

Sunday 7th June

12-5pm, the Big Lunch/Community Picnic in Wandle. There will be a Big Sing with the Colliers Wood Chorus, activities for children, games for all, a Nature Walk and Tai Chi. Bring something to share! For further details visit www.makingcollierswoodhappy.org.uk

Saturday 20th June

2.30-4pm, the Merton Abbey Horticultural Show at the Colliers Wood Community Centre. From 7.30 pm, Mid-Summer Ceilidh at the Colliers Wood Community Centre. For further details visit www.makingcollierswoodhappy.org.uk

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NEW GROUPS

When you're smiling....

Launch of Happiness Club, 25th April, 11am–noon, St Joseph's Hall, Park Road

Why not come along to our taster session and start your journey to happiness?

Launched by Psychologies Magazine at the start of the year this new initiative encourages groups of four or more people to come together in the pursuit of happiness, using a range of thought-provoking exercises* outlined in the magazine each month to get the group's happiness hormones into gear. The magazine's happiness experiment consists of monthly hour long meet-ups followed by at home activities designed to bring a daily ray of sunshine into Happiness Club members' lives.

The Club will be hosted by Miriam Habtesellasié, a local resident, part-time primary teacher and Mind, Body & Spirit blogger (www.girlmeetszen.wordpress.com) and supported by the community building group "Making Colliers Wood Happy!" The event will be FREE, but donations will be welcome to cover the hire of the hall and refreshments.

**Based on Action for Happiness' 10 Keys to Happier Living*

Colliers Wood Runners

Saturdays, 10am, outside Coffee in the Wood

We cater for all ages & abilities from jogger/walkers to those who are training for running events. It's a fun and friendly group and after our run we enjoy a coffee (and sometimes cake) together at Coffee in the Wood.

We run for about 45–50 minutes, usually covering 5–7kms depending on fitness. The usual route is from the High Street, up past Sainsburys and Merton Abbey Mills, alongside the farm and into Morden Hall Park. Heading up through the park to Phipps Bridge tram stop and around the loop at the top of the park. Experienced runners do 2 or 3 loops and others will take a rest stop, before we all turn back to Coffee in the Wood.

We have a Facebook group <https://www.facebook.com/groups/CollywoodRunners> for anyone interested or you can just turn up on the day. Everyone is welcome, so please come and join us.

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We have got off to a great start, Merton Council have agreed to work with us and produce a Master Plan which will map out the area and ensure it is clear about how the area is going to develop. Paul McGary, Head of Future Merton is coming to discuss the Master Plan at our next meeting 12th May. There is a team of 3 residents preparing a brief for how we introduce a Neighborhood Plan which, if we agree, will give us more say in how community money is spent amongst many other things. Sustainable Merton are working with us to monitor the pollution levels with in the area so that we can task the Council to improve these. We are in discussions with the Council about the importance of a proper health centre. We are reviewing the options on creating a catchment area for Singlegate School to ensure local children can attend. Again, engaging with the Council, we have

already ensured that we are protecting our community spaces, both buildings and parks. There is a team working on a new website with interfaces into social media. We are working with local businesses to establish how we regenerate the High Street!

Some of you reading this will be saying, "that's great, but I really don't have the time", and we know that life is busy and many of you can't get to meetings. All we ask is that you register an interest by either emailing us at collierswoodra@gmail.com or dropping a letter into Coffee in the Wood. Tell us your name and address. We can then insure that you are kept up to date with what is going on. If you are able to help, tell us what interests you and we will get you involved.

We are all really excited about what is happening and hope that you are too.