



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

Summer 2013

High-rise hopes: plans announced

Hundreds of local residents packed into the Guardian Centre on Thursday, 13th June, to be told by the Future Merton Team that:

- the Tower will be re-clad and that 150 one- and two-bedroom flats will be created and sold on the open market;
- there will be a major retail unit on the ground floor;
- the development will be completed by August 2015.

Concern was expressed by members of the public about the impact on the local infrastructure — e.g. public transport and school places — the lack of affordable housing — the lack of parking on-site and concern that more cars would be parked in residential streets plus years of disruption to local residents.

Residents were also told about the £2.5 million Mayor's Regeneration Fund which would create a new Town Centre in Colliers Wood. Construction is planned to start in Summer 2014 and completed in March 2015. Concern was expressed that Colliers Wood High Street would not directly benefit from the Fund.

Residents were invited to share their ideas about the new Town Centre with the Future Merton Team:

- from 3pm to 7pm on Friday, 19th July, outside the Colliers Wood Tube Station.
- from 11.30am to 3pm on Saturday, 20th July, at Sainsburys/M&S.

For more information visit

www.merton.gov.uk/futureMerton

To e-mail: future.Merton@merton.gov.uk

Twitter: @futureMerton

Facebook: Colliers Wood Tower Action Group

We will be discussing these proposals at the next meeting of the Colliers Wood Residents Association which will be held at 7.30pm on Tuesday, 2nd July, at St. Joseph's Hall in Park Road.

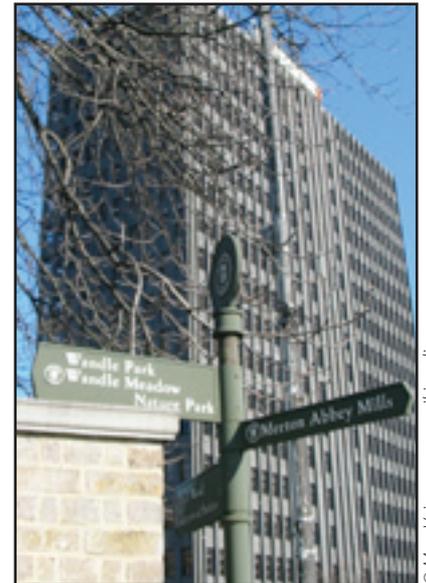
Wandle Linear Park

The Heritage Lottery Fund has just announced that it will give £1.9 million to help develop a linear park the length of the Wandle.

At a conference at the Hub sports complex on June the 19th delegates heard that the money will be spent in a wide variety of areas including:

- £200,000 for the Chapter House (see article)
- Restoring the Wandle through Ravensbury Park, replacing concrete channels with natural banks
- Removing invasive pondweed
- Encouraging 'pop-up' theatre and children's fishing along the banks
- Mapping the Wandle's industrial heritage in partnership with the Wandle Industrial Museum in Mitcham
- Recruiting up to 1300 volunteers to work on maintenance and improvements

The plan is to create a park in South London every bit as exciting as the Lea Valley in North London. As Colliers Wood's Abbey Mills are central to the park, I hope we'll all work to help make it happen.



© Man Yi, commons.wikimedia.org

The Chapter House

Merton Priory Trust have just won £200,000 towards building a fitting 'home' for the remains of the Priory Chapter House, which are situated under Merantun Way.

The plan is to replace the wall on the Abbey Mills side of the Chapter House with a glass wall and to make the ruins much more accessible, so they can be visited throughout the year. Among other plans is the planting of a 13th century 'Apothecary Garden' which will face on to the glass wall.

All being well, the project will be completed in 2015, at which point Colliers Wood will at last regain some of the heritage Henry VIII took away from us!

Councillor Gam Gurung

We're sad to announce that Gam Gurung, elected as a Councillor in 2010, has died following a fight against cancer. Gam, a former Gurkha, was a respected member of the Nepalese community who joined the Labour Party to serve Merton where he made his home. He will be sadly missed by his fellow Councillors Nick & Laxmi, as he will by his young family.

Arts Festival 2013 – looking back

Liz Newbery writes: Now the programme has come to a close it's worth reflecting on the first full scale Colliers Wood Arts Festival and the tremendous achievement it represents.

Spring 2012 saw the birth of the festival – a very small scale programme of events delivered on a shoestring budget. Encouraged by its success a steering group of local people, active in one or another of the arts, came together to plan and run a fully-fledged two month festival for 2013. The aim was to work in partnership with existing groups in Merton to provide a diverse programme of arts events and activities, attractive and accessible to a broad spectrum of people. Recognising the project's value to the community, Merton supported the work with £1500 from its Arts Development Fund.

The result was a mixture of hands-on activities, participatory workshops, community performances and professional touring productions. Approx. 1400 participants attended 18 scheduled events and they ranged from primary school pupils to pensioners. Music, dance, theatre, poetry, cinema, visual arts and crafts were represented, as were many of the minority cultures which make our area the vibrant place it is. The Festival Coordinator would like to congratulate Debbie Johnson for organising 4 additional events – "Freedom to be" – the fringe of the Arts Festival. Here's to next year!

20's Plenty

It's a shocking fact that every day in the UK, 19 adults and 7 children are killed or seriously hurt when on foot or bike; 2 of these are children going to or from school. And these are facts that motivate the campaigners of 20's Plenty For Merton to press for safer speed limits on our residential streets.

Well-founded research shows that 20 mph limits save lives and injuries, encourage walking & cycling, reduce congestion & pollution, help reduce noise, improve the

residential street environment and bring benefit to local businesses. What's more, these limits are popular: in recent surveys 20 mph limits (without humps) for residential roads were supported by 80% of those asked – and even by 72% of motorists. It's no surprise that NICE (National Institute for Clinical Excellence), the Association for Directors of Public Health, and the World Health Organisation are among the influential groups backing their introduction.

Already 12 million people live on streets with a 20 mph speed limit in cities across the UK and in boroughs across London. Merton members of national organisation 20's Plenty For Us aim to keep up pressure on this council to come in line. Plans are afoot for a profile-raising walk to Merton Civic Centre past casualty blackspots, and to present a residents' petition of concern.

To join in or find out more contact Keith Walton 07806 663023 or email merton@20splentyforus.org.uk. Full details at www.merton.20splentyforus.org.uk

Keith Walton will be presenting at the CWRA meeting on 2nd July

Looking for Internet access on your doorstep? Drop into Donald Hope Library

Donald Hope Library which is located in High Street, Colliers Wood has just had an IT overhaul. Only last week ten new computers were installed in the library replacing the older PCs, which enables faster access than before. Of these ten PCs there is a quick use PC allowing you to check emails on the go, there is also an accessible PC available, as well as a computer with a scanner, while the three children's computers are filtered to a higher level. You can print from all ten PCs with black & white prints costing 15p per page, while colour prints cost 50p per page.

Another new IT improvement is the availability of WIFI in the library, so if you have a smartphone, tablet or laptop, you can surf away during library hours. All you need to avail of computer access or WIFI in your local library is a library card number and a four digit Pin. Library membership is free to everyone, so you will just need some proof of identity such as a bank card, driving licence or passport. Best of all Donald Hope Library is open from 9.30am until 7.00pm on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays and from 9.30am until 5.00pm on Saturdays. So come in and try it out!

"Page 5" — there's more online!

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

- Summer sports coaching for kids
- Positive feedback
- Merton Adult Education Open Day
- Oasis Church Alpha Course
- Coffee in the Wood

From Prince to Provenance

A new pub for Colliers Wood, as the Antic group make their long awaited arrival.

The Provenance is a beautiful pub, serving the community it's proud to sit within, fine food, fine wine and great ale!

David the manager, is keen to get involved with community projects in our neighbourhood, please get in touch if you want to hold an event, or if there's something you want from your local pub.

We have a weekly quiz on Tuesdays, an ever-changing selection of ale, several of which will always be locally brewed, and we serve delicious fresh food every day.

Summer in the City

Sports coaching for 11 to 16 year olds during the summer holidays – it's FREE because we've got funding from Merton's Positive Activities Fund. The activities will be run by qualified coaches from Merton School's Sports Partnership.

The paddling pool in the Colliers Wood Recreation will be open from 10am to 5pm every day from Saturday, 20th July, to Sunday, 1st September.

More coaching info can be found on "Page 5"

Get Fit for Summer

Get Fit for Summer returns for 6 weeks offering keep fit and table tennis. After last year's successful exercise sessions, I am intending to restart the programme designed for 16+ and adults who would like to increase their fitness. The sessions will be held in a local hall and cost £3 per session, beginners and over 50s welcome.

Please register your interest, email: jogandtone@hotmail.co.uk or Caroline on 07944 662388

High flyers in Wandle Park

Great to learn that wildlife of the winged kind is on the up and up, as the quality of Wandle Park's natural habitat improves.

One well established park resident is the Banded Demoiselle (or damselfly) with its distinctive metallic sheen. Now local naturalist David Element is pleased to report the first known sighting of a second, similar species, the Beautiful Demoiselle (pictured). He caught the newcomer on camera and believes it stayed in the park at least a week –



A Beautiful Demoiselle, spotted in Wandle Park

despite a near miss involving a House Sparrow. Keep an eye open on areas of bramble blossom for recent UK arrival the Tree Bumble Bee, with its clear sequence of orange, black and white patches from head through to tail.

Bird visitors in the past year have included Peregrine Falcons, a male Reed Bunting calling from the reed bed and a male Wren, bold enough to sing very close to human observers. (Listen closely to him leaving pauses as he sings, in order to exchange bursts of song with a rival male!) Male Blackcaps in the park are also loud singers, though they're harder to spot – unlike the fine displays of hunting and fishing from local Grey Herons.

Growing — cooking — eating

We've begun picking our first crop of salad vegetables – rocket, lettuce, coriander and beetroot leaves – at our community garden at Christ Church; and now Rosemary Jeboo, who makes chutneys and jams for the Balham Country Market and the Gooseberry Bush cafe in Merton Park, will be teaching us how to make meals from our produce each month.

The gardening, cooking and healthy lifestyle classes are FREE to local residents as we are funded by the Merton Partnership.

For help spotting these species watch David's fascinating videos on YouTube:

Beautiful Demoiselle
<http://bit.ly/14lfewf>
Banded Demoiselle
<http://bit.ly/16egztO>

Wren
<http://bit.ly/1bScrAZ>

Grey Heron
<http://bit.ly/14fOtW>

Plus recent hedgehog activity in his garden
<http://bit.ly/12ThanO>

If you would like to join the community gardening project call Keith on 07982 721 496 or e-mail keithaspears@hotmail.com

The end of the unfinished bridge is in sight!

The Colliers Wood Residents Association celebrated the 6th birthday of the "Unfinished Bridge" on Thursday, 20th June, with unfinished poems, unfinished songs and a delicious unfinished birthday cake provided by Katavento, the Brazilian restaurant at Merton Abbey Mills.

The Unfinished Bridge is the missing link in the Wandle Trail between Bewley Street and the Wandle Meadow Nature Park. However, local residents were assured by Councillor Nick Draper that funding has now been allocated by the Transport For London, and that work will begin in November to complete the bridge and that it will be open to the public in Spring 2014.

The Charles Holden

"The Charles Holden is a traditional English pub offering the best of British food, brilliant ales and wines, in a relaxed environment for all the family and the whole of the community.

Enjoy the summer sunshine in our fabulous garden with the bouncy castle and face painting at weekends during the summer months.

Our allotment and kitchen garden is open to the local community to plant, grow and eat..."

For details of the Mummas and Cuppas Club, the Film Club, Wine Appreciation Society and the Dinner Club go to www.thecharlesholden.co.uk or follow us on Twitter @CHoldenSW19

Peter Linacre — Managing Director of the New Pub Company.

Colliers Wood Little League Football

We provide friendly, organised football matches for boys and girls, ages 5 to 13 (Year 8), and all abilities.

The 2013/14 season kicks off in September, but before then we are holding a couple of Fun Days on 22nd June and 20th July in the Colliers Wood Recreation Ground.

We are also currently running a great raffle with top prizes of signed football shirts from Arsenal and Chelsea. Tickets £1 each or 6 for £5. The draw is on 7th September.

For more information on CW Little League Football, see their website www.cwllf.org; Facebook [facebook.com/cwllf](https://www.facebook.com/cwllf); or Twitter @cwllf

OUT AND ABOUT!

In Colliers Wood this Summer

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

Tuesday 2nd July

Colliers Wood Residents Association.
7.30pm at St. Joseph's Hall in Park Road.

Friday 5th July

The launch of Abbeyfest with free live music on the bandstand at Merton Abbey Mills.

Saturday 6th July

The Cavendish Road front garden table-top sale from 10am–3pm

Saturday 13th July

Singlegate School Summer Fair. Please come along and join in the fun on from 11am–2pm. On the playing field opposite Singlegate Primary School, South Gardens. Lots of stalls and entertainment for the children. Musical entertainment will be provided by the School's own steel band, The Colliers Wood Chorus and the Colliers Wood Ukelele band. A fun day out for all!

Tuesday 16th July

The AGM of the Colliers Wood Community Centre at 7.30pm.

Saturday 20th July

Colliers Wood Little League Football Fun Day from 10am to midday.

Tuesday 6th August

Parks and Open Spaces – meeting in the Memorial Garden in the Recreation Ground at 7.30pm and then walking around the local parks and open spaces in Colliers Wood.

Saturday 10th August

Charity Symphony Orchestra playing music from the films and the Last Night of the Proms – free evening concert on the bandstand at Merton Abbey Mills.

Friday 23rd to Sunday 25th August

Abbeyfest Bank Holiday Blues Festival at Merton Abbey Mills.

Sunday 1st September

Myrna Close Nature Reserve tidy up from 10am–12.30pm.

Tuesday 3rd September

Colliers Wood Residents Association – 7.30pm at St. Joseph's Hall in Park Road.

Saturday 7th September

Autumn Show at the Colliers Wood Community Centre from 2.30pm.

Sunday 8th September

Community Picnic in Wandle Park from midday to 5pm.

Every Monday

Whist Drive. From 1.30–4pm at the Colliers Wood Community Centre. Beginners welcome. £1.50, includes tea and biscuits and money prizes for the winners.

Every Wednesday

Sequence Dancing – 7.45–10pm at the Colliers Wood Community Centre.

Every Friday

Bingo – 7.30pm at the Colliers Wood Community Centre.



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Page 5: the online stories

Summer in the City

Sports coaching for 11 to 16 year olds during the summer holidays – it's FREE because we've got funding from Merton's Positive Activities Fund. The activities will be run by qualified coaches from Merton School's Sports Partnership.

- Tennis and hockey coaching – from 10 to 12 every Monday morning – in the Colliers Wood Recreation Ground.
- Basketball coaching – from 10 to 12 every Wednesday morning – in the Colliers Wood Recreation ground.
- Multi-sports coaching – from 10 to 12 every Friday morning – including table tennis, uni-hoc, kwik cricket and dodgeball – at the Colliers Wood Community Centre.

To book contact Keith on 07982 721 496 or e-mail keithaspears@hotmail.com

The paddling pool in the Colliers Wood Recreation will be open from 10am to 5pm every day from Saturday, 20th July, to Sunday, 1st September.

Tennis coaching for children aged 5 to 8 from 10am to 11am and young people aged 9 to 16 from 11am to 12 midday every Saturday morning during the school holidays – in the Colliers Wood Recreation Ground.

Positive feedback

We have lived in Colliers Wood just over a year, and we thought it was about time to congratulate you on the newsletter. We think it's great, and we're always pleased to hear about the good things going on in the area and positive changes. Thanks, and keep up the good work for us all!

— Simon & Anna

Adults are encouraged to learn something new

Merton Adult Education (MAE) is having an open day on Tuesday 9 July, between 4–6pm.

The open day at the Whatley Centre will give learners the chance to preview some of the many courses on offer including desktop publishing, photography and languages.

MAE gives residents and visitors the chance to learn for fun or challenge themselves. It provides people will all ages and educational backgrounds the opportunity to learn new skills both in their careers or personal lives.

Cabinet member for education, Councillor Martin Whelton said: "This is an opportunity for adults of all ages to explore the many classes on offer, along with seeing the extensive range of courses that Merton Adult Education run. Learning a new skill can boost your CV, enhance educational skills, along with giving support to help you start your own business."

A brand new prospectus will be available mid June for people to see all courses in detail. For more information visit www.maec.ac.uk/ or call 020 8274 5222.

Thanks,

Sapphira van Assema

Marketing and Outreach Officer

Tel: 0208 274 5234

Oasis Church September Alpha Course — Starts Sept 26, 2013!

The Alpha course is for everyone. It gives you an opportunity to explore the meaning of life in an informal, fun, and friendly environment. The Alpha course consists of a series of talks that look at topics including 'Who is Jesus?' and 'Why and how do I pray? We meet for supper and a talk. Small group discussion then follows.

You do not have to come to the whole course – just pop along for the first session and see what you think. No pressure. Alpha is for everyone; no question is out of bounds and you are free to discuss as much or as little as you wish. We don't assume that you have any background knowledge of or belief in Christianity and everyone is welcome.

The next Alpha course at Oasis Church, Colliers Wood starts from Thursday 26th September and runs for 10 weeks to Thursday 28th November 2013, with the option of a weekend away.

Address: Oasis Church, 1–27 Fortescue Road, Colliers Wood, London, SW19 2AF (4th road on the left from Colliers Wood tube station, just before the Tandem Centre). Tel: 020 8288 8866.

Email: admin@oasischurch.org.uk

Coffee in the Wood

For those who haven't heard through the Colliers Wood grape vine, Coffee in the Wood, a family run community coffee shop, is coming soon. After a year and a half setting it up, we are almost ready to open. Follow us on Facebook to hear more about us, as well

as our open date. Fingers crossed we will see
you all very soon!

Sophie Godding