



## 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](http://www.collywood.org.uk)

# Winter 2012

## What's going on in the Wood?

You are welcome to come to our annual "What's going on in Colliers Wood" event at the Colliers Wood Community Centre on Saturday 26th January 2013. It's funded by Merton Priory Homes and will be free to community groups and visitors. Doors will open at 11 a.m. and close at 5 p.m.

In January 2012, over 30 local community groups and hundreds of local residents came along to find out what was going on in Colliers Wood. Beau Fadasu from the Volunteer Centre said "It was a well organised event, engaging a wide and diverse spectrum of the community"; Siobhain McDonagh MP said "Well done! It brought together a wide range of groups and a diverse range of residents"; and Councillor Nick Draper said "The community that I work for, and with, benefited...Colliers Wood is becoming an aspirational place to live!"

I'm expecting this year's event to be even bigger and more successful and the following groups have already been invited:

Alive and Kicking, The Positive Network, Little League Football, Sustainable Merton, Greensleeves Morris Men, Deen City Farm, Chapter House, Merton Mind, South London Tamil Welfare Association, Christ Church, Merton Priory Homes, The Association of Filipino Families, The Colliers Wood Chorus, The Colliers Wood Ukulele Orchestra, Ballroom dancing, The Rambling Group, The University of the Third Age, The Donald Hope Library, Merton Abbey Horticultural Society, The Johmard Centre, St Joseph's Church, The Safer Neighbourhood Police Team, The Association of Polish Families, The South London Cultural and Arts Group, The Colliers Wood Pastorate of the QRBC, The Badminton and Table-tennis Club, The Colliers Wood Chess Club, Dance Express, The Greensleeves Morris Men, The Woodcraft Folk, Merton Vision, The Colour House Children's Theatre, BB's Blues Club, Merton Credit Union, The Community Centre Association, The Colliers Wood Residents Association, Tennis Coaching, Wimbledon Fire Brigade

The event will provide an opportunity for all community groups in Colliers Wood to

promote their activities, recruit new members, raise funds, perform on stage and "showcase" what they do at present, and/or would like to do in future.

Keith A. Spears, Chair of the Colliers Wood Residents Association and Founder and Coordinator of "Making Colliers Wood Happy!" Contact details: [keithaspears@hotmail.com](mailto:keithaspears@hotmail.com) – 07982 721 496. 38 Cavendish Road, Colliers Wood, SW19 2EU.

## New Healthcare Forum Gives Residents A Voice

Each of us from time to time needs to make use of the NHS. But how many of us understand how it works – or how some major changes will soon be affecting us personally? Merton Residents Healthcare Forum exists to make sure local residents have the information they need to make sense of the new structures and titles that will soon be part of health care and the way we make use of it.

For instance, how will we tell the Health and Well Being Board from the 'Healthwatch' watchdog that's set to replace LINKMerton? Will Patient Participation be a good thing? What's a Clinical Commissioning Group? How about GP surgery finance, or the question of private patient numbers? Oh, and what's the latest on a St George's Foundation Trust, and on the St Helier A&E department?

MRHF is itself made up of residents and is committed to giving local people a voice in some of the key areas that will affect health care services in this borough. Over the last three months, the Forum has been building a network of contacts and planning a programme of activities for 2013, which will include looking carefully at how the 'Better Services Better Value' team weighs up proposals for local hospital and GP services.

To continue exercising influence on residents' behalf MRHF aims to build a strong membership based on Residents Associations across the borough and have invited Colliers Wood Residents Association to join it. Please let Keith Spears know ([keithaspears@hotmail.com](mailto:keithaspears@hotmail.com)) if you would like MRHF to attend a meeting of CWRA in 2013.

Find out more about the Forum on [mrhf@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:mrhf@hotmail.co.uk)

## The Green Deal

As part of the Government's commitment to reduce Britain's CO<sub>2</sub> production by 80% in the next 40 years, they have launched a scheme called the Green Deal.

This will enable households and small businesses to carry out insulation and other energy saving measures on their properties using a loan which will be repaid from the savings made on reduced energy bills.

As a prelude to this, Sustainable Merton and Merton Council have bid for funds from DECC in order to run a 'Preparing for the Green Deal' pilot in Merton.

This would allow us to interview up to 200 Colliers Wood residents about their knowledge of and attitude to the Green Deal. It would also allow us to explain as far as is possible the pros and cons of such a deal to all interested residents.

A second scheme we are hoping to work on will enable us to help Merton residents access the best energy tariffs available and so go some way to reducing the negative impact of ever rising energy costs.

If either or both of these bids are successful, we will post the information on local notice boards and ask Keith to circulate it via the local email network.

If you think you might be interested in these schemes, should we be successful in our bids, please send me an email so that I can keep you up to date on any progress.

Tom Walsh, Sustainable Merton. [tjwalsh56@hotmail.com](mailto:tjwalsh56@hotmail.com)

this Christmas they held a party for the street at Taylor Road day centre. Good news on the horizon is that the Council has allowed plans for knocking down the business premises and building new homes. Hopefully, when problems are resolved, Crusoe Road Plus will join with CWRA.

## The Tower

The Tower project has been delayed, as the developer has had difficulty attaching cladding to the existing building, but we're assured this will be in place early in the New Year. Other preliminary work, including architectural surveys, continues as planned with the developer is as keen as ever to proceed. Further snags are bound to mean delays in completion – so we'll keep you posted. The Council has asked the developer to decorate the black fencing, ideally with information about the project.

For the latest council information on the ongoing Tower and piazza development go to [www.merton.gov.uk/collierswood#futureMerton](http://www.merton.gov.uk/collierswood#futureMerton)

### Colliers Wood Resident's Association

*Dates of meetings, Winter/Autumn 2013*

The aims of the Association are to promote the interests of local residents and the local environment. Membership is open to all residents of Colliers Wood. All our meetings are held at St Joseph's Hall in Park Rd. Refreshments will be served from 7.15 p.m. Meetings at 7.30 p.m. on Tuesday 8th January, Tuesday 5th March, and Tuesday 7th May. The Parks and Open Spaces sub-committee will meet at 7.30 p.m. on Tuesday 5th February, Tuesday 2nd April, and Tuesday 4th June.

## Crusoe Road

*Councillor Nick Draper writes:* Cllr Laxmi Attawar and I have worked hard this year with residents of Crusoe Road, in the part of Colliers Wood Ward near Figges Marsh. Following antisocial behaviour from two businesses – drunkenness, street repairing of cars, heavy fly-tipping, violent behaviour, and parties well into the night – we helped residents form their own residents' association, Crusoe Road Plus. With their help, and that of the Council and Police, we persuaded the landlord to evict both businesses, and in the process found that 10 people were living illegally in squalor and danger above one of the premises. Now plans are in place to install alley-gating to deter further fly-tipping. The success of Crusoe Road Plus means that nearby roads have asked to join them, and



## Food news, everybody!

*Come and join us in this new, exciting venture!*

Fed up with supermarkets? Interested in reasonably-priced organic, local and seasonal food?

Colliers Food is a new project which is planning to open an organic food co-op. We are just at the beginning of this marvellous adventure and we want local people to get involved. At present we have a core of 5 people driving the project forward, but would be happier to have 6–8 to act as founders of the project in its first year, as we work ultimately towards opening a shop. Could that be you? A commitment of about 4–5 hours a week would be necessary for this role.

If this is not for you, we would still welcome your contribution if you have a skill to offer from time to time. Currently we have around 15 people who are offering skills ranging from IT to carpentry – but we need more! Could you offer a skill?

And if that is not for you, we do of course need to gauge what degree of support we will have. So we are continuing an existing buying group which buys organic food cheaply in bulk and shares it out between members. If you would like to join this group and test out the produce, we'd like to hear from you.

Our next meeting will be on  
January 14, 10 a.m. @ the Holiday Inn.

Please contact Belinda Thomas at  
[belinda.j.thomas@phonecoop.coop](mailto:belinda.j.thomas@phonecoop.coop). Our  
website is currently being developed and will be  
advertised soon.

## Johmard LYME (Let Young-people Meet & Engage)

This youth group provides services for young people aged 11–16. Activities are held at the Johmard Centre: 65–67 High Street, Colliers Wood, SW19 2JF

Forthcoming activities:

- Christmas Party on 16th December 4–6 pm (FREE Admission)
- Voice coaching workshop – date tbc
- Creative Writing workshop – date tbc
- Music (make/record/perform) workshop – date tbc
- Story telling workshop – date tbc
- Hands-on T-shirt printing workshop – date tbc
- Hands-on Film Making workshop – date tbc.

Please contact John David for an application form to attend any  
of the workshops.

Telephone: 07956 579828

email: [john.david@4biz.co.uk](mailto:john.david@4biz.co.uk)

Find us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/thejohmardlyme](http://www.facebook.com/thejohmardlyme)



## OUT AND ABOUT! In Colliers Wood this Winter

Do you have a story or event for our  
Spring 2013 edition? Send it to [info@collywood.org.uk](mailto:info@collywood.org.uk) by the 1st March.

### Saturday 12th January

Colliers Wood Spring Arts Festival 2013. All interested parties are invited to the steering group meeting to organise this year's festival of the arts, 3 p.m. in the Donald Hope Library.

### Tuesday 15th January

Come along and join the "Friends of Donald Hope Library" at our meeting from 7 to 8.30 p.m.

### Friday 25th January

MertonVision's annual Burns Night Celebration, 7.30–11.00 p.m. Come along and enjoy a supper of haggis "neeps" and tatties, or sausages (veggie or meat). We will pipe in the haggis, listen to a selection of tunes played by Philip the piper, sing some traditional scottish songs and also dance. £10 per person, including supper. The Guardian Centre, 67 Clarendon Rd, Colliers Wood SW19 2DX. T: 020 8540 5446.

### Saturday 9th February

30th Anniversary Dance, Community Centre, 7 p.m. to midnight, with famous ballroom DJ Mr Wonderful. £6 tickets (in advance, only) – dancers and on-lookers alike are welcome and may bring their own alcohol. Contact: Suzie Tudor Hart, 32 Park Rd SW19 2HT, with a SAE. Cheque to 'Tudor-Hart'.

### Thursday 21st February

Open Day at the Donald Hope Library from 9.30 a.m. until 7 p.m. with special activities for children and taster classes for adults.

### Saturday 10th March

Merton Abbey Horticultural Society – the Spring Show. At the Colliers Wood Community Centre from 2.30 p.m.

### Interior design classes/fun sessions

for home owners/and creative souls alike. Subjects include: What is interior design? Concept ideas and mood boards; 'wow factor' schemes; colour study & colour theory; floor plans for lounges;

and an educational museum visit. With Maxine Morgan (BA.Hons) Retail Design & Management. To book your place call 0750 763 5394. For six weeks, 1.30–2.30 p.m. each Wednesday. £60 for adults, £42 for concessions and senior citizens.

### Elliaart: The Art of Learning

Creative messy fun for pre-schoolers. Explore, make and create with us @ The Colour House Theatre, Merton Abbey Mills. Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9.45–10.35 am, 10.50–11.40 am. [info@ellioart.co.uk](mailto:info@ellioart.co.uk). 07591 062 520/494.

### Colliers Wood Little League Football

Saturday mornings in the Recreation Ground. New season starts Saturday 12th Jan. Children in year groups 1, 2, 3 and 4 will start their matches at 10 a.m. Years 5, 6, 7, and 8 start at 11 a.m. Football boots and shin pads must be worn. Our AGM will be held at St. Joseph's Hall, Park Road, at 7.30 p.m. on Tuesday 22nd Jan. All parents and volunteers are welcome.

**Costcutter**  
Proud to be local  
The general store and  
post office at the heart of  
your community  
Supporting Colliers Wood Residents' Association  
and Making Colliers Wood Happy

**eddison  
white**  
Specialising in  
sales, lettings  
& property management  
Supporting  
Colliers Wood Residents Association &  
Making Colliers Wood Happy  
Colliers Wood Office: 020 8540 9828  
Wimbledon Office: 020 8540 5544  
e: [info@eddisonwhite.co.uk](mailto:info@eddisonwhite.co.uk)  
[www.eddisonwhite.co.uk](http://www.eddisonwhite.co.uk)

# "Making Colliers Wood Happy!"

**JANUARY/FEBRUARY/MARCH 2013**

## SPRING ARTS FESTIVAL

The Colliers Wood Spring Arts Festival 2013 will be launched with a celebration of the life and achievements of William Morris, with music, poetry and politics @ William Morris Pub @ 7.30 p.m. on Sunday 24th March

## MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

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

## "COME YE ALL AND JOIN THE CHORUS!"

After the triumph of the "Music of Revolution" and a successful series of carol concerts, we will be rehearsing for the "Pastoral Messiah" in the Spring.

For further details, check our website on [www.collierswoodchorus.org.uk](http://www.collierswoodchorus.org.uk)

## THE COLLIERS WOOD WALKING GROUP

Meet at the bus stop outside the library at 9.45 a.m. to visit the Olympic Park on Sunday 20th January, see the snowdrops in Nonsuch Park and Cheam on Sunday 24th February, walk around the Kew Riverside Circular Route on Sunday 17th March.

## DONALD HOPE LIBRARY - EVEN MORE ACTIVITIES!

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

PLUS share the pleasure of reading, favourite authors and favourite books, over a cup of tea and biscuits, from 11.15 a.m. every Monday morning.

## AND THE BOOK GROUP

Discussion about the "Book of the Month" from 5.30 p.m. on the last Tuesday

## AND THE POETRY CIRCLE

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

## PLUS THE CHESS CLUB

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

## BADMINTON AND TABLE TENNIS CLUB

Every Sunday from 2.30 to 4.30 p.m. @ 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 8.15 to 9.45 p.m.  
@ the Colliers Community Centre.

## TAP DANCE CLASSES FOR ADULTS - MEN AND WOMEN

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

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

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

Keith A. Spears — founder and coordinator of "MCWH!"  
[keithaspears@hotmail.com](mailto:keithaspears@hotmail.com) Tel. 07982 721 496