



## 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 2013

## Community choir hosts Christmas celebration and charity fundraiser

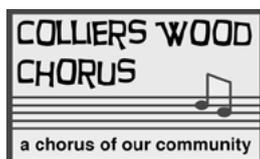
*Ian Johnson writes:* Earlier this year members of Colliers Wood Chorus were saddened by the death of their former chairman Les Bass. Also a stalwart member of the Colliers Wood International Ukulele Orchestra. Les will be missed by many in Colliers Wood where he and his family lived for 30 years. Les was cared for by wonderful people at St Raphael's Hospice and was the second person in two years whom I knew and who called on their care.

St Raphael's is almost entirely self funded and has to raise approximately 80% of its £5m per year running costs. It's a cause I've supported in the past (some of you will remember sponsoring me on the walk last year) so I'm delighted that, as a chorus of the community, we're adding a donation to St Raphael's to the price of tickets for our forthcoming concert: **Noël: A Christmas Celebration at St Barnabas Church, Gorrington Park Avenue, Mitcham on Dec 21, 2013, 7pm.**

Tickets are great value for money (£12.50 adults, £10 concessions, family ticket £30) with around 20% of sales donated to St Raphael's, so please help us support this worthy cause. We will greet you with a complimentary glass of mulled wine, or spiced apple juice, and a mince pie. You can buy more refreshments before the performance and again at the interval.

Festive pieces from around the world will offer the chance for everyone to join in some of the better known as well as to learn something new! It promises to be a great night. Buy your tickets on the event page of our website [www.collierswoodchorus.org.uk](http://www.collierswoodchorus.org.uk) or by contacting a member of the chorus. You could take a chance on there being some tickets available on the door, but...

If you can't make the concert, you can still make a donation to St Raphael's Hospice at [www.straphaelshospice.org.uk](http://www.straphaelshospice.org.uk)



Hear Colliers Wood Chorus again on the band stand in Merton Abbey Mills, Sunday Dec 22, approx. 2pm

## Friday opening is back at Donald Hope Library,

The Friends of Donald Hope Library are delighted to announce the restoration of Friday opening at our library in the heart of Colliers Wood, from **Jan 3, 2014**. But that's just the beginning of the story...

Come and join us at the Library Open Day on **Friday Jan 10, 2014** — a grand day for trying a taster of the many and varied free activities provided at the library. Donald Hope Library, High Street Colliers Wood from 9:30am to 7:00pm

And specially for the New Year, a workshop on **Friday Jan 17, 2014: How to read your labels (food and more)**. Workshop led by Elena Lestini, PhD in Chemistry, with a keen interest in responsible and eco-friendly consumption, from 10 to 11.30am (includes half an hour for Q&A and networking).

Join the Friends' newsletter via link on our Facebook page:  
<https://www.facebook.com/friendsofdonaldhopelibrary>  
Contact: [friendscwlibrary@gmail.com](mailto:friendscwlibrary@gmail.com)

## Need help fulfilling New Year resolutions? 2014 starts here!

January may be the month of good intentions but many of us will still need a bit of encouragement. Community-building group Making Colliers Wood Happy is offering just that, at an event for people of all ages to find out about the huge variety of social activities and community groups there are in our area.

'What's Going On in Colliers Wood' is aimed at residents who are interested in starting something new in the New Year — perhaps taking up a hobby, finding a support group, or volunteering with a local organisation.

Participants in the friendly and informal information sharing event will include leisure, social and environmental interest groups such as Sustainable Merton, Colliers Wood Chorus,

*Cont'd next page*

Colliers Wood ballroom dancing, the Rambling Group, Little League Football, Merton Abbey Horticultural Society, the Safer Neighbourhood Police Team, the Association of Polish Families, the Badminton and Table-Tennis Club, Colliers Wood Tennis Coaching, Woodcraft Folk, Merton Credit Union, The Community Centre Association, and Colliers Wood Residents Association.

Join us for performances of music, dance and storytelling during the day. There will also be hands-on activities for children and young people including art and craft workshops, face-painting and a climbing wall. An all-day cafe will serve locally made cakes and sandwiches.

Saturday Jan 25, 2014, 11am-5pm. Free admission.  
Colliers Wood Community Centre, 66-72 High Street, Colliers Wood SW19 2BY. More information at:  
[www.collierswoodresidentsassociation.org.uk](http://www.collierswoodresidentsassociation.org.uk)  
or email: [collierswoodra@gmail.com](mailto:collierswoodra@gmail.com)

### New shop in Christchurch Rd

Green Ginger, 32 Christchurch Rd, SW19 2XN  
— Primary sponsor for this issue



GREEN GINGER

Open from 6am to 11pm, coffee shop and sandwich and salad bar by day and Indian take-away by night, Green Ginger boasts a wide range of offerings, from croissants and pains au chocolat to hot pies and sausage rolls, via full English breakfast. You'll be able to compose your made-to-order sandwich with freshly baked bread on the premises, fancy breads, or invent your own salad from the salad bar and still be tempted with the choice of cakes, from exotic Sicilian cannolis to velvet chocolate cakes. It doubles as a Indian take-away in the evening with South Indian cuisine.

With three friendly waitresses and a manager, bright with apple-green and white decor, the shop is at the moment a bit Spartan, but this is to be expected for a establishment only recently opened — Raj the manager, told us that there will soon be seating inside and outside, English weather permitting...

### The tower and its surroundings...

Nick Draper writes: Anyone looking at the tower in Colliers Wood might believe nothing has been happening all year: nothing is further from the truth! Work was due to start on the tower in September. A company called Weston was going to convert it into apartments for sale. However, the scheme they proposed proved to be too costly and the company controlling the tower, Criterion, made the decision in October to complete the works themselves, with a simpler scheme providing the original 150 flats for rental with a supermarket and restaurant on the ground floor. All the preparation work has been completed, and the first workers should now appear on site early in the New Year, with the glass cladding being installed later in the year.

We all wish them well with the project. Colliers Wood deserves a useful, presentable building at its centre after all these years.

Meanwhile, the plans for the new square around the tower are going ahead very successfully. As I write, the council's 'Future Merton' department is concluding its consultaion, which has had a strong, positive response. There are likely to be trees on the square, and new shop fronts and street furniture, as well as more sympathetic paving. The road around the tower will also be improved, with safer easier crossing for pedestrians and cycles. The entrance to Wandle Park will be made more welcoming, with the railings taken down. We'll also get an improved riverside walk to Sainsbury's, and if we can persuade the National Trust to do the necessary work, I hope that the ancient Priory Wall that runs between Sainbury's and the Pickle Ditch will be restored to its former glory.

What makes me particularly happy is that the council has listened to local residents and incorporated many of our ideas in its plans by 2015: I'm so looking forward to it!

### ...But don't forget the High Street

Kevin Godding writes: I think it's fair to say that the majority of people who have seen 'Connecting Colliers Wood', the plans to create a Colliers Wood Town Centre, are pleased with what is being proposed. Okay, none of us is holding our breath about when work will start refurbishing the tower, but creating a piazza around the Tube and opening up Wandle Park in my opinion can only improve the area.

Sadly though some people have forgotten that we already have a High Street, albeit a tired and staggered one. The proposed plans show all the development is to be between the Tube station and Sainsbury's. Nothing will be done to improve the areas towards the Library and beyond. They are not even on the plans. Which is sad as I see the library as the focal point of Colliers Wood. Designers are very good at steering people where they want them to go and, in my opinion, if they bear this in mind now they could create a natural overflow as our new Town Centre reaches capacity, allowing the High Street to regenerate naturally. I understand that the GLA are being very specific about the area that their money can be spent on, but Merton Council have also invested in this project and could easily amend the plans to create a natural flow round to the library at least. I have spoken to Merton Council officers who are open to the idea but it would help if you let them know your views.

My second area of concern is the traffic. I try not to drive out of Colliers Wood in rush hour or at the weekend as it's just too congested. Had anyone thought about the ramifications of reducing the width of the road? I wonder if anyone has measured what the pollution levels are in Colliers Wood recently and if so whether they fall within legal limits?

We all have the opportunity to feed back our views to Merton Council by Friday Dec 20. I've done so and I hope you will too.

online. They also exhibit local artists and photographers, all available for purchase.

Now Polish children and their peers in Merton will exhibit photographic work at Coffee in the Wood, 99 High Street, Colliers Wood from Dec 17. Their work is the creative output of learning from professional photography tutor Andy Smart, under the Positive Activities Project. The project provides open access workshops for 11-16 year olds, 6pm on Tuesdays at Colliers Wood Community Centre, 66-72 High Street. It is organised by registered charity the Association for the Polish Family, whose after school activities promote community cohesion and encourage Polish children to bring their classmates and friends with them. Other activities available include ping pong, badminton, wall climbing and woodcraft, for a minimum size group of 10 children.



Sophie Godding

### Provenance becomes a picture house for the day

Creative imagination puts Colliers Wood on the film festival circuit

The Provenance on Colliers Wood High Street was home to the second South West London International Film Festival on Saturday Nov 30. Part of the pub became a temporary cinema, with rows of seating, dimmed lights and all the expectation of a full scale festival and awards ceremony.

SWIFF Director and local resident Laurentiu Huianu explains the festival, launched last year, is 'a great opportunity to see movies... by up-and-coming local film directors as well as renowned international names. Laurentiu himself, an experienced filmmaker, was responsible for *Living in the Shadow* (2012), a response to life alongside our very own black Tower. He says of the event "Once again it was a huge success, largely owed to the

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#### Colliers Wood Spring Arts Festival 2014

Sponsored by Merton, the 2014 Colliers Wood Spring Arts Festival will include rock, folk, jazz and opera concerts, film and documentary nights, arts and music workshops, an arts and crafts fair, family and children's activities. The festival will run from March until May. To keep updated on the festival's events line up go to <http://collywood.org.uk/arts/> and sign up to the festival's newsletter.

Facebook: <http://facebook.com/Colliers-Wood-Spring-Arts-Festival>

email: [cwartsfestival@gmail.com](mailto:cwartsfestival@gmail.com)

#### Arts Festival Photographic Competition 2014 — Exhibition 10 May 2014!

Following the success of this year's great Colliers Wood Spring Arts Festival, the 2014 Festival fun will include a bigger photographic Competition for all to enter.

- The theme will be "My favourite..." — This can be a person, place, animal, thing or activity.
- There will be 3 age categories:
  1. Under 11
  2. Between 12 and 17
  3. 18 and above
- The competition will open the 1st of March and end with a great prize giving for the winners on 26th April 2014 at the community centre in Colliers Wood.

- Pictures must have been taken in Merton.
- Maximum 5 photographs per entrant

So if you have a favourite picture of your Mum, Dad, Spouse, Brother, Sister, neighbour, best friend, etc., or a favourite shot of a garden, park, pet or someone you know skateboarding, playing football, cooking, knitting, etc, it's all good to enter this competition.

More details to come on the Colliers Wood Arts festival web site <http://www.collywood.org.uk/arts/> or the Colliers Wood Festival Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Colliers-Wood-Spring-Arts-Festival/>

### Thriving new business Coffee in the Wood hosts children's photographic exhibition

Fantastic to see how much is happening besides consumption of coffee at our locally owned and run coffee shop — always a strong connection between good food and drink and great creative thinking! This Spring, they'll be a ticket office for the Colliers Wood Spring Arts Festival (with the Provenance pub), for people who are not

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Marineall Setti with prize by, the CW International Ukelele Orchestra ready to entertain.

wonderful community of Colliers Wood who embrace anything cultural which may not be part of main stream entertainment”.

Laurentiu writes: SWIFF is a world cinema cultural festival that brings the SW community together with world talent in a non-intimidating environment. The multicultural diversity of the participants in this festival shows how open our community is, and that we should be proud to live in Colliers Wood.

This year we had 27 films from 14 countries and over 300 guests came to enjoy this amazing community festival. Many film directors flew in from abroad to introduce their films and collect awards. Prizes were won by Directors with budgets from £200 to £300,000. There was also some local young talent, including

youngsters who created films for under £10. This is the spirit of SWIFF where everyone has a chance to compete equally. 2013's winner was British fiction film 'Sea Change' by Marinella Setti, featuring renowned actor Toby Jones.

The festival not only gives people the chance to see unusual and interesting films from all over the world, but also the chance to mingle among kindred spirits. If other places are lacking in creative imagination, this is not the case for Colliers Wood. We hope to double the seating capacity next year.

Here's an extract of a personal review from Jenny: "Between 1.15 and 8pm I watched 15 films from around the world... The shortest lasting a mere minute, the longest almost a full length feature. A personal favourite was 'Don't Be Tired', a compelling and heart-warming tale of a Canadian couple facing difficulties on holiday in Iran. The documentary which most held my attention showed the plight of women in the mining areas of Bolivia, some of whom work at breaking rocks and who fire dynamite twice a night to scare away male pursuers. Another documentary told the life story of '70s punk musician Bruno Wizard, who made a surprise appearance at the screening. Next year, do come and take part in this special event exposing Colliers Wood to the range of the international filmmaking community. One not to be missed."

## OUT AND ABOUT! In Colliers Wood this Winter

Do you have a story or event for our Spring 2014 edition? Send it to [info@collywood.org.uk](mailto:info@collywood.org.uk) by the 1st March.

### Community garden project

Christ Church gardens. Fridays from 2.30 to 4.30pm (Nick and Peter).

### Recurrent dance classes and Leisure classes in Community Centre

See latest MCWH Nov-Dec newsletter

### Sunday, 22nd December

Colliers Wood Chorus Carols In Merton Abbey Mills, 2pm. After the Mayor opens the Merton Abbey Mills Christmas Market, we're taking over to serenade the shoppers for an hour.

### Tuesday, 7th January

Residents Association meeting, St Joseph's Hall, 7pm. [collierswoodra@gmail.com](mailto:collierswoodra@gmail.com)

### Thursday, 9th January

Colliers Wood International Ukulele Orchestra, The Provenance. Every second Thursday of the month.

### Sunday, 12th January

Acoustic music, Coffe in the Wood, Sundays 10am-2pm. For more details, go to Facebook page.

### Friday, 17th January

How to read your food labels and more... workshop, Donald Hope Library. See front page. <https://arena.yourlondonlibrary.net/web/merton/donald-hope-library>.

### Friday, 24th January

MertonVision Fund raising Event— Burns night. [www.mertonvision.org.uk](http://www.mertonvision.org.uk), Tel: 020 8540 5446. 7.30-11pm, £15 per head.

Phillip the Piper playing the bagpipes accompanied by Alan the Drummer and some members of the Scottish Dance Society leading the dancing. Closing date to buy tickets is 17 January. Supper will be the traditional haggis, neeps and tatties and, of course, a vegetarian option

### Thursday, 30th January

Poetry circle, Donald Hope Library, 5-6pm.

### Saturday, 1st March

Start of the 2014 Colliers Wood Spring Arts Festival and Photographic Competition. See page 2.

### Saturday, 1st March

Zoe and Haydn's Fundraising Concert, Merton Abbey Opera, Colliers Wood Chorus, Christ Church. Concert to raise money for a new wheelchair and Freewheel ("4WD conversion") for Merton Abbey Opera's Zoe Watson.

### Friday, 21st March

MertonVision Fund raising event, Quiz night. The Guardian Centre, 67 Clarendon Rd, Colliers Wood SW19 2DX. 7:30-11 pm, [www.mertonvision.org.uk](http://www.mertonvision.org.uk). Tel: 020 8540 5446

### Saturday, 29th March

Colliers Wood Chorus and Philharmonia Britannica, St Barnabas Church, Mitcham. Rutter's Sprig of Thyme and Copland's Five American Songs will be in the programme for our Spring concert with orchestra, our old friends Philharmonia Britannica, as part of the Colliers Wood Spring Arts Festival. Tickets are £10, with concessions £8 and Family Tickets £25 (2 Adults + 2 under 16s) also available.