



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

Winter 2014/15

Ring out the old....bring in the new

STOP PRESS.....STOP PRESS.....WORK BEGINS ON THE TOWER!

No, you're not dreaming...it's finally happening! After years of discussion, planning and negotiations, work on the refurbishment of our Tower is now underway. Over the next two years the building that we all love to hate will be turned into flats with shiny, new cladding. No longer will it be known as London's ugliest building. Full update in the next edition. Other developments underway include an extension of the piazza outside the tube station into Wandle Park via Baltic Close (in between the pub and estate agent's) and completion of the promenade between the bus garage and Sainsbury's by spring.



© Flickr user: CharlieBubbles, 2010.

Did you also know...?

- The library is due to be rebuilt over the next 18 months. The current planning application is for a seven storey building with 60 flats.
- The doctor's surgery at 58 High Street won't be moving above the library, leaving Colliers Wood without a surgery big enough to support the community. We need to ensure planning for an appropriate facility.
- Over the next two years at least 400 new flats will be built within a stone's throw of Wandle Park, all with no gardens. The redeveloped High Path Estate will create an additional 600 flats and The Broadway development in Tooting over 80. Wandle Park is their nearest park.
- Early indications show that Crossrail 2 may be running parallel to Robinson Road, under the Thameslink railway line. This may well create greater accessibility for people travelling to and from the area.

If you'd like to find out more, please email your questions to: collierswoodra@gmail.com
Next Residents Association Meeting:
6th January, 7.30pm, St Joseph's Hall

Looking for something to do in the New Year?

Then come along to our annual "What's going on in Colliers Wood?" event on Sat 24th January at the Colliers Wood Community Centre from 11am-5pm.

Forty local community groups have been invited to showcase their activities and recruit new members. These include leisure groups and services, plus residents, cultural and faith groups.

There'll also be an all-day café and a range of activities, such as table tennis and the climbing wall.

Entrance is free for children and £1 for adults.

For more information contact Keith Spears, Founder and Coordinator of "Making Colliers Wood Happy!"
(keithaspears@hotmail.com or 07982 721 496)

Library ambassadors wanted

If you're looking for a new challenge and are passionate about libraries, why not consider promoting libraries — as a library ambassador?

Merton Libraries are looking for confident and enthusiastic volunteers to help raise awareness and promote the use of libraries. Our library ambassadors attend a variety of events around Merton to promote and spread the word about our services.

There's so much to gain from volunteering as a library ambassador: you can make new friends, gain new skills to



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improve your career prospects or develop a whole new interest. Plus, we offer ongoing training and support.

If you're creative, energetic and outgoing and would like to help champion libraries in your spare time, please contact the Volunteer Centre Merton on 020 8640 7355 or email: info@volunteercentremerton.org.uk

News from the Residents Association

The Residents Association is working hard to ensure that we get what's best for the area and we really do need your input. We appreciate that many of you don't like committees but as the saying goes: "every little helps". Have a read of some of our agenda items for 2015.

Merton Council has agreed that the Residents Association can control the relevant Section 106 money assigned to the area via planning permission contribution. We need to set priorities for spending this money.

Merton Council has also agreed to our request for a Master Plan to be written for the area. This will ensure we are all clear about what the future holds for the area. Work will commence on this in mid-2015.

Finally, the Council has agreed that it needs to be proactive in communicating with us, particularly as all the building work is being done. We, therefore, need to establish a quick, efficient method of communicating with everyone.

In 2009 Colliers Wood was defined by the Greater London Authority as an Area of Intensification, one of ten in London. Colliers Wood is currently the most densely populated area of Merton. We need to ensure we understand what this means and influence where we can.

If you'd like to contribute your ideas on any of these matters, then please come to our next meeting, 6th January, 7.30pm, St Joseph's Hall.

Dust off your dancing shoes

Now that Strictly Come Dancing is over for another year, why not try practising what you've been watching? At the Community Centre's weekly classes you can learn ballroom, modern jazz, tap and ballet skills. It doesn't matter if you're a Judy Murray or an Anton du Beke – everyone's welcome!

- Tea Dance Session, Tuesdays, 1.45–4pm with tea and cakes. Features a mixture of ballroom dancing, sequence, Latin American, plus line dancing.
- Sequence Dance Club, Wednesdays, 7.45–10pm. Dance plus a break for refreshments.

Dawn of a new era

After 27 years at the top end of the high street, AP Chemist has relocated to smart new premises next to Colliers Wood Underground. The new pharmacy and homeopathic medical centre is twice the size of the old pharmacy with five consultation rooms, a 'Pain Centre' featuring a range of treatments and a touch button diagnostic screen, allowing patients to understand their symptoms.

The good news for residents is that the pharmacy will be open for longer: from 8am to 8pm and on certain Sundays throughout the year. Given all the changes, it's hardly surprising that owner Atul and his wife, Priti, have had to take on more staff. So, it's just as well that Priti qualified as a pharmacist only days before the move!

We wish AP Chemist all the very best in their new brand new premises.

Congratulations to our new babysitters

Ten students have successfully completed the babysitting course for young people. They'll be collecting their certificates in February. Please get in touch with Tom Searle 020 8543 6470 or e-mail cwca@hotmail.com if you require their services.

Thank you Liz!

The editorial team would like to say a big thank you to Liz Newbery for her help with editing the newsletter over the last four years. Her sound editorial judgement and skills have meant that the newsletter has become a staple part of our community. Well done Liz! We also welcome our new editor, Samantha Blighe.

Borough Commander's message

1. If you see something that you think is suspicious or out of place, then please dial 999 and tell us about it.
2. If it's not urgent, we'd still like to hear about it, but please dial 101 instead.
3. Be aware of your surroundings when visiting cashpoints. Have a good look at the front of the machine to ensure that it has not been tampered with. Also, if you try to use a machine and find it has been taken out of service, be especially observant when using another one nearby.

4. There has been a seasonal rise in the number of burglaries. Burglars take advantage of the darker evenings to spot potentially empty houses in the late afternoon/early evening. I would ask you to please call us if you see or hear anything suspicious.
5. Our Volunteer Police Cadets have been incredibly busy over the Christmas period. Please look out for them in the borough over the New Year.
6. Domestic abuse is not just about physical violence but can also be verbal. A lot of victims will feel isolated and alone and that's why Safer Merton would like to inform victims about the services they can access.

www.merton.gov.uk/safermertondomesticviolence
 Merton Victim Support – Independent Domestic Violence Advisors –
 020 7801 1777
 Merton Police Community Safety Team – 020 8649 3170
 National Domestic Violence Helpline & Access to refuges –
 0808 2000 247
 Men's Advice Line (for male victims) 0808 801 0327
 Broken Rainbow (advice for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender
 victims) 08452 604 460



Harvest Festival Campfire, Christ Church Garden, October 2014

OUT AND ABOUT!
 In Colliers Wood this Winter

Fridays, 10am–12 midday

Christ Church Community Garden (see photo, right). You're very welcome to join us for some fresh air and exercise, a harvest of organic vegetables, sparkling conversation and comradery. Activities include constructing a garden shed, building raised beds and composts and planting and maintaining our fruit trees and vegetable plot. Funded by the Merton Partnership we provide free professional cookery and organic gardening classes. Contact Keith Spears: 07982 721 496.

2nd Saturday of each month (January, February, March) 2015

Free organic gardening classes. 2.30–4.30pm, Donald Hope Library. To book call Keith on 07982 721 496 or e-mail: keithaspears@hotmail.com

Saturdays, 10-11am

Girls free football. Age 6–13 years, all abilities welcome. Colliers Wood Recreation Ground. Registration @ 9.45am. Teas, coffees and snacks for supporters.

Friday 16th January

The Power of Elders. 7.30–10.30pm. Local storyteller, Eli Anderson, will facilitate a discussion that explores the importance of inter-generational understanding and how it supports and advances our communities. Part of the Johmard Community Let Young People Meet and Engage (LYME) 2015 programme, this is the first in a series of sessions that will be held on the third Friday of the month. Free entry. Positive Network Centre (Taylor Road Day Centre), Taylor Rd, Mitcham, CR4 3JR. Contact Michelle: 07950 308 033.

Sunday 18th January

Woodland maintenance in Wandle Park. 10am–12 midday. We'll be pruning, tidying and litter picking in and around our community woodlands behind Tesco Express in Wandle Park. Please wear suitable clothing and footwear. Equipment will be provided. Meet outside Colliers Wood Tube Station at 9.50am.

Friday 23rd January

Burns Night celebration. 7.30–11.00pm. Come along to Merton Vision's most popular event! Piper * Drummer * Dancing. The Guardian Centre, 67 Clarendon Road. SW19 2DX. Ticket £15 includes supper: Haggis Neeps and Tatties or Sausages or Vegetarian Option. Licensed Bar, Tickets available from the office: 020 8540 5446

Saturday 14th February

Valentine's Day Dance 7.30-11.00pm featuring ballroom, sequence and Latin American dances. Ticket £6 on the door, which includes light refreshments. Bring your own drink.

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

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"Making Colliers Wood Happy!"

WINTER 2014/15

"YOUR BEST YEAR YET!"

An inspirational workshop based on the book by Jinny Ditzler from 10.30am to 12 midday on Thurs 8th January at the Donald Hope Library. Coffee and cakes will be provided!

"WHAT'S GOING ON IN COLLIERS WOOD?!"

Over 30 local community groups will be publicising and showcasing their activities in the Colliers Wood Community Centre from 11am to 5pm on Sat 24th January. Adults £1, children 50p each.

THE COLLIERS WOOD WALKING GROUP

Meet outside the library at 9.45am on the first Sunday of each month. Call Rita on 0208 540 1560.

THE COLLIERS WOOD CYCLING GROUP

Join us on for a gentle bike ride on the last Saturday of each month. For people of all ages and abilities. Meet at 10.30am outside Cross and Prior on the corner of Cavendish Road. Contact 07982 721 496.

THE COLLIERS WOOD UKULELE ORCHESTRA

Come along and support our mighty Ukulele Orchestra performing a diverse range of music each month @ the Selkirk Pub in Selkirk Road in Tooting. Check the Ukes and/or Selkirk website for details.

LAUGHTER YOGA CLUB

Relax, breathe deeply, be mindful, laugh and have fun with Ibti — a qualified Laughter Yoga Coach. 11am to 12 midday on Sat 10th January at St Joseph's Hall. £5pp. To book call Ibti — 07443 438 197.

COLLIERS WOOD CHORUS

Singing for all, singing for fun! The new term starts at 7.30pm on Mon 12th January. If you would like to join us, go to our website at www.collierswoodchorus.org.uk for further details.

BADMINTON AND TABLE TENNIS CLUB

Every Sunday from 2.30 to 4.30pm @ Colliers Wood Community Centre. For all ages and abilities. For details, contact Chabbra on 07702 634 359 or Keith on 07982 721 496.

JAZZ DANCE CLASSES FOR ADULTS — MEN AND WOMEN

Beginners @ 8 to 9pm, and 9 to 10pm for those with experience of Jazz, Modern & Contemporary Dance, every Monday at the CW Community Centre. £4 per evening. 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 @ 5.30pm — Improvers @ 7.30pm — Intermediates @ 9 pm

TAP DANCE CLASSES FOR ADULTS — MEN AND WOMEN

Beginners 7.30 to 8.30pm and Intermediates from 8.30 to 9.30pm. Every Wednesday @ CW Community Centre. £4 per evening. Contact Tony 07941 488 934.

BALLET CLASSES FOR ADULTS — MEN AND WOMEN

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

POETRY CIRCLE

Read your own poetry or favourite poem relating to WWI, the changing seasons and festivals. 5.30 to 6.30pm on the last Thursday of each month @ the Donald Hope Library.

GAMES AFTERNOON

Come and join us at the Donald Hope Library for a friendly game of cards, chess, dominoes, Scrabble, Connect 4 and Twister! All ages and abilities welcome — from 2.30 to 4.30pm every Saturday.