

Parish Council Report

'Dreda Gordon
Chair of Parish Council



'Dreda
Gordon

By the time you read this article the children will have gone back to school, goods for Halloween will be on the shop shelves and then the run up to Christmas!

The Parish Council held its Annual Meeting in May and I took over as

Chair from Councillor Chris Flynn. I would like to thank Chris for all his efforts and hard work he has put in over the past year as Chair and look forward to his support in the coming year.

Pray For Rain

The Summer so far has been mixed, with good weather early on burning all the grass and now thunder and lightning, how very, very frightening! This time of year, the ground staff make repairs to the pitches where they have been worn away during the football season so they are ready for the next. We count any rain at this time a blessing!

Larks in the Parks

Larks in the parks in June was again a great success and I would like to thank everyone who helped organise the event: To the staff who worked so hard to ensure that everything ran smoothly, and to everyone who visited the park. Next year I've been told that the District Council may

not fund Larks in the Parks, but the Parish Council is committed to try and find the funding for this popular community event. We always welcome volunteers, so perhaps more of you can get involved to help out.

Napsbury Park Sport

The Napsbury facilities are going from strength to strength, Chris Flynn and Senior Groundsman Leigh Casling are currently meeting a resident who is keen to use the courts for Netball. I've been told that it's the top most played sport by women in the country and England is ranked 3rd in the world and Scotland about 16th!

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Evening sky from the village green in July. Photo by Ken Peak

hope we can accommodate them at Napsbury.

No More Jokes Please

The world cup has come and gone and no doubt like me you've had all the text jokes regarding the teams performance! Enough said about that. The Caledon showed all the England games, there was a great turnout, the atmosphere was good, and everyone had a great time. We had the big Lunch in July at the Club and it was nice to see residents come to the Centre for this event. This was the first time we have taken part in this national project. I understand residents of Seaton Road organised their own Big Lunch – well done to them I wonder if they have any photographs we could put in the next edition. Did any other streets organise their own Big Lunch? – we would love to hear from you.

Good Food Story

Tony the Cook at the Caledon Centre is organising a Food and Drink event at the Centre in conjunction with St. Albans District Council. Local businesses including Sainsbury's will staff stalls and give demonstrations, mainly on healthy eating for all age groups. We will be notifying the local schools nearer the time and handing out flyers.

There will be Halloween activities at the Centre from late afternoon to early evening for the kids with Tony providing ghoulish food for them to feast on, and later a family fancy dress party - details will be available from the Parish Office nearer the time.

Traffic Calming

I'm pleased to see that the planned traffic calming along the High Street and Barnet Road has started, and on time. It will be a great improvement and something that the Parish Council has worked very hard to get for people in this part of the Village; it's been long overdue.

Cotlandswick

We hear a lot about Westminster Lodge in the papers and the size of

the pool but very little about what we in London Colney are actually going to get on the Cotlandswick playing field. We have been very concerned that the administration at St Albans District Council have not consulted with residents nearby on what they would like to see on the site or what they thought about losing this green space. (See article on page 18.) If you have a view on this you need to contact St. Albans District Council.

Christmas Cover

For the next issue of London Colney News we are going to ask the children from the 3 schools to design the front cover of the Parish Magazine. The theme will be Christmas/Winter. We know it is always popular when

our young people contribute to the magazine. The colour layout will give them a great opportunity to be creative.



SATURDAY MORNING GROUP TENNIS COURSES

Beginning September 2010
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Four Heads

An Interview with Barbara Fitton,
Head Teacher of London Colney
Nursery and Childcare Centre



Hello. my name is Barbara Fitton and I have been Headteacher at London Colney Nursery School and Children's Centre since 2001. Before that I worked in several nursery classes in primary schools in North London. It was always my ambition to be a Nursery School Headteacher. I came to London Colney because it was a Nursery School... in a county which has a strong tradition of maintained Nursery Schools and because it was at the point of developing extended services to parents.

Long History

There has been a Nursery School in London Colney since the 1940s. It was originally opened as a day nursery for the children of women returning to work in the war. The original building was on the grounds of London Colney Primary and in the 1980s it was rehoused in our current building on Alexander Road. Our children transfer to both Bowmansgreen Primary School and London Colney Primary. London Colney Nursery School was successful in its bid to become a Children's Centre in 2006 and is now the hub school for all

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Parish Council Events to Jan 2011

Salsa Lessons - Friday 11th & 24th September

Don't miss the popular Salsa Lessons given by professional instructor Elliot Johnston. Beginners and advanced classes followed by Disco. 8.30pm until midnight in the Caledon Club. £5 (members £3)

London Colney Food Festival 2010 - Thursday 7th October, 12 - 5pm

A variety of exhibitors from the food industry will offer product information, dietary advice and special offers. 3 Course lunch only £3. Bar open for refreshments. Free entry. Free recipes. Kids Games. 'Fun with Food' Show.

Halloween Festivities - Saturday 30th October

The Parish Council are organising a Halloween event for children and adults at the Community Centre. Look for more info on the Parish Noticeboards nearer the time.

Fireworks Display - Sunday 7 November - 6.30pm

Local Schools, Churches and groups come together with the Parish Council to run this spectacular event of Fireworks and music, at Morris Playing Field, Whitehorse Lane. No entrance fee. The bucket donations made on the night go to those local groups that assist the Council with the event.

Remembrance Sunday - Sunday 14 November - 10.30am

The general public start to gather at the War Memorial in the High Street from 10.30am. The groups marching from the Village Club in St Annes Road, will be the Royal British Legion, Parish Councillors, The local Scouts, Guides, Cubs, Brownies and Rainbows. They march round to the Memorial at 10.45am. A short service is held at the Memorial where the names of the fallen will be read and a collection will be taken for the Poppy Appeal. The High Street from the junction of Haseldine Road to the junction of St Annes Road will be closed off by the Police during the marching and service.

Christmas Lights Switch on - Friday 26 November - 5.30pm

Come and join us on Chester Gibbons Green by the Millennium Clock and help members from the cast of the St Albans and London Colney Pantomimes count down to switching on the lights in the High Street and on the big Christmas tree. Children from the three local junior Schools will also be singing carols.

Christmas Ball - Friday 17 December 7.00pm

A magical night in the great hall at the Pastoral Centre, Shenley Lane. Music and dancing till midnight, a five course meal and charity raffle. Tickets are £34 to include a five course meal, vegetarian menu available.

Carol Singing - 16 & 21 December 6.30pm

Every one is welcome to join us when we perform in the front hall at Sainsbury's, London Colney. We have a bucket collection for local Groups. Last year we collected for the Over 60's Club and the 3 Village Primary Schools and we received £358.58.

There will be a rehearsal night, date to be advised.

Village Panto 2011 - Sunday 16 January, 12.30pm

A family event at the Caledon Community Centre. It will be the fourth year Chaplin's Pantomime Company has performed for us. This year's Panto will be Cinderella. Tickets at £5 each or £15 for a family of 4 are available from the Parish Council Offices

services for families in London Colney with children from 1-5years old.

Great Daycare Provision

We provide daycare facilities, pre-school, mother and toddler groups, parenting support, baby massage, a childminding network, health visitor sessions, family learning and so much more. I am very proud of London Colney Nursery School and Children's Centre. We have a great staff and fantastic resources so that every child can have the best possible start in life. Ofsted found that we are a "good school" (March 2006). Come along and see. You are always welcome.

Back Home

I was brought up in a Slough and particularly enjoyed my secondary

education at Slough High School for Girls. I still maintain many of the friendships I formed there. I started my career as a KS2 teacher but after the birth of my first son I moved into nursery education, loved it so much and have stayed there ever since!

After a very busy day at London Colney Nursery and Children's Centre my favourite way to relax is reading. Currently I am completely enthralled by The Millenium Trilogy by Steig Larsson. I can really recommend these books to anyone who enjoys a good thriller. I also enjoy trips to the cinema and theatre and travelling. Last year I was lucky enough to visit both Krakov and Venice. I enjoy music and on my way to work I listen to Radio 4 and Chris Evans on Radio 2. And of course most of all I also enjoy time spent with my family.

Keep Warm This Winter

Karen Shaw

(Advice from the Energy Saving Trust)

Winter will be here before we know it, so now is the time to make sure your home is ready for the colder months.

Insulation

Improved insulation will keep your home heated for longer without wasting energy or money. The thicker the insulation, the more you'll save. We recommend using 270mm of insulation, which could save you up to £150 on fuel bills, depending on your current insulation level. As well as the loft, you should also check your walls. About one third of heat lost in an uninsulated home is through the walls.

NEXT ISSUE

WINTER 2010

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Copy deadline - 1st Sept 2010

Articles should be sent to the editors c/o: Maria Aguado, 369 High Street, London Colney, AL2 1EA Tel: 823528 (phone manned evenings and weekends only) or e-mail:

editor@londoncolney.com

The editors of this magazine rely on contributors for the accuracy of their articles. We regret that we cannot check all the facts, but we are happy to consider printing corrections if errors are brought to our attention. Whilst the editors endeavour to include all items submitted by the deadline given, pressure on space may sometimes mean that items will be held over for consideration in future issues and may not therefore appear in the current issue. Articles may be edited for length or clarity.

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**Dr. John Hibbs(01727) 826183
johnhibbs@btconnect.com**



If cavity wall insulation is not suitable for your home, try solid wall insulation.

Draughts

Draught proofing is one of the most inexpensive and effective energy efficiency measures you can carry out – no matter how big or small your home. Draught proofing could save you £25 on your energy bills and 130kg of carbon dioxide a year. Check for the typical sources of draughts - gaps between or around floorboards, around windows or doors, pipe-work, windows, loft hatches, electrical fittings, ceiling-to-wall joints, letterboxes, chimneys, redundant extractor fans and cracks in walls.

Energy Saving Lights

You will be using your lights a lot more during the darker winter months, so switch to energy saving lightbulbs. Just one energy saving lightbulb could save you on average around £2.50 a year, and around £6 for brighter bulbs or those used for more hours a day.

Healthy Boiler and Heating Controls

Service your boiler to make sure your heating system is healthy before winter sets in. You can also bleed your radiators so they work more effectively. Check if your water pipes and hot water tank are properly insulated. If not, lag the pipes and tank to prevent hot water cooling. This could save you around £35 a year. Use heating controls to make sure you only heat the rooms you are using. Keep doors closed so that the heat stays where you want it.

Daylight Saving

Finally, remember to adjust your heating controls when daylight saving time moves our clocks backwards.

London Colney Parish Council
presents

11th London Colney Christmas Ball Friday 17 December 2010 7.30pm – Midnight

Enjoy a five course meal* and dance till midnight with a great atmosphere in the beautiful setting of the Pastoral centre.



Grand Draw in aid of Local Charities
Late Bar

Tickets £34.00

Book early to avoid disappointment as tickets are limited

Please complete and return the booking form below to:
Chris Flynn, c/o London Colney Parish Council, Caledon Community Centre,
Caledon Road, London Colney, AL2 1PU



11th London Colney Christmas Ball Booking Form

Please send me _____ tickets @ £34.00 each Total _____
(Tables seat 10 people)



Cheques, payable to London Colney Parish Council,
must be sent with this booking form

Name _____

Address _____

Tel No _____

Please indicate number of Vegetarian Meals required _____

*To view the Menu please see the Information Board at the Caledon Community Centre



Christmas Biscuits



The Parish Council has given boxes of biscuits to the over 75s and house-bound in London Colney for the last nine years and would like to update its delivery list.

If you, or a friend or neighbour in the village, are 75 years or over or house-bound would like to receive a gift from the Council the please complete the form below and sent it to:

Parish Council Office, Caledon Community Centre
Caledon Road, London Colney, AL2 1PU



Parish Council Christmas Gift

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone Number _____

World Wildlife

Dave Ansell

The giraffe is the tallest of all animals, growing to a height of more than 18 feet. The giraffe's extra long neck allows it to reach leaves, fruit and twigs 20 feet above the ground using its long tongue and curled upper lip to strip the branches.

Giraffes spread their forelegs wide apart when drinking so that they can reach down to the water.

Giraffes usually stay in the area in which they were born for most of their lives.

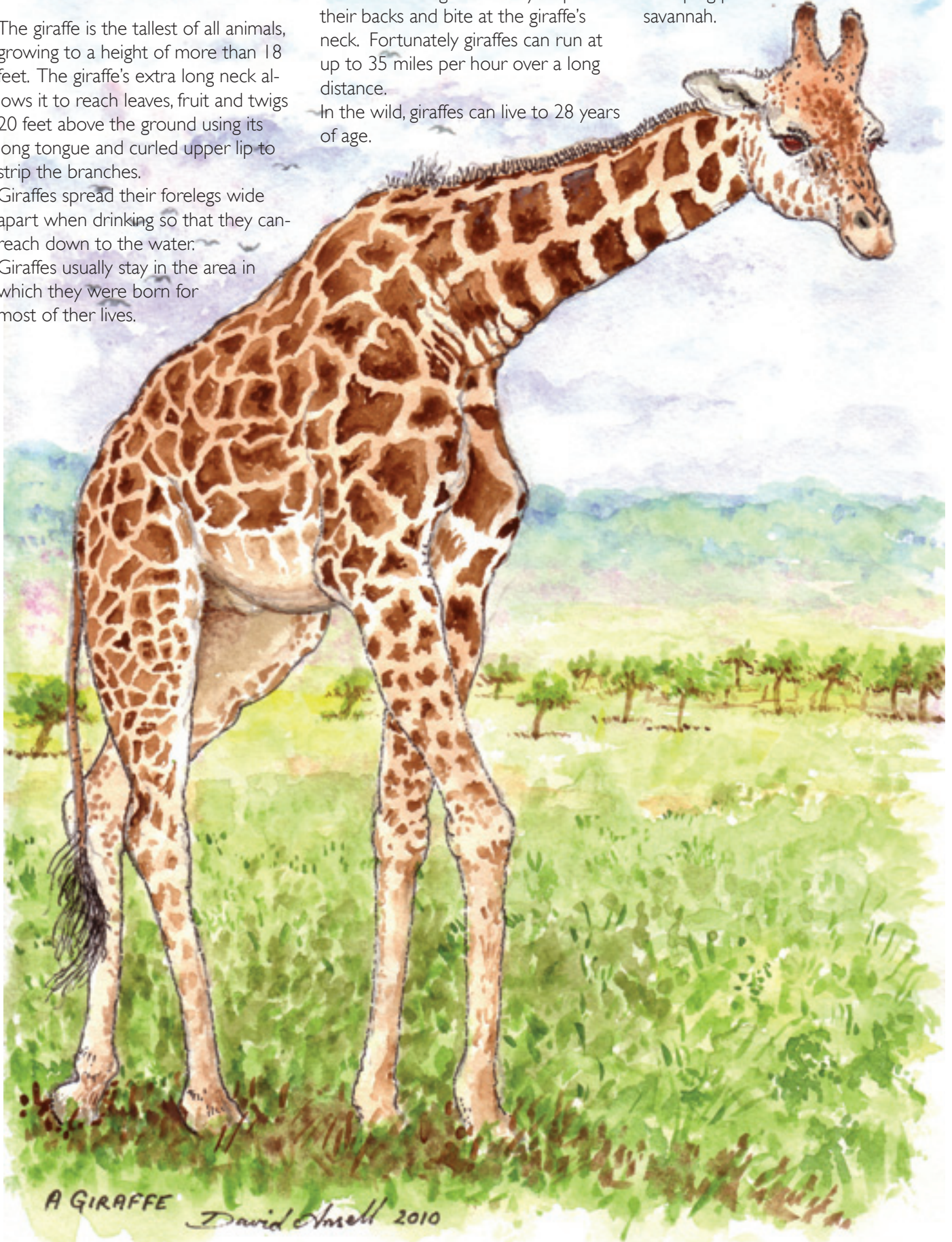
Their territory usually covers an area of about 30 square miles.

Lions are the only predator that can attack an adult giraffe. They leap onto their backs and bite at the giraffe's neck. Fortunately giraffes can run at up to 35 miles per hour over a long distance.

In the wild, giraffes can live to 28 years of age.

Today they mainly live in game reserves for their own protection.

The giraffe's natural habitat are the sweeping plains of the African savannah.



Gardening

Anne Kitchener

However much you may think you have control over your garden, it is very much the weather which has the upper hand. This year, in particular, has been one of extremes. It started with heavy snow, the worst for 30 years we were told, and a prolonged cold spell. For weeks the temperature did not manage to struggle even as high as 5° centigrade and it seemed that spring would never arrive. Despite all the snow we have had a very dry first half of the year, breaking further records for dry starts to years, and then followed a dry, hot summer. All this, of course, has had varying, mostly adverse, effects on the garden.

Spring bulbs, snowdrops, crocuses and daffodils were all up to 3 weeks later than in recent years. A clematis armandii which grows up the front of the house, and perfumes the garden entrance usually in late winter did not fully appear until early April. The yellow flowers of forsythia were also delayed and gave a very poor show. My winter jasmine which has not failed before, and usually always manages to brighten up a corner all winter with its yellow blooms, hardly flowered at all and seemed completely defeated by the weather conditions. Fortunately, however, I did not lose any plants to the harsh winter, all seem to have survived. Once the warmer weather finally arrived, the garden got into its stride and by the end of April everything seemed to be trying to catch up, however my bearded irises which are a particular favourite were later than usual, but they also seemed to bloom for longer. As June arrived things seemed to be getting back to



normal with what I rather grandly call my herbaceous border full of colour and plants back to their usual flowering times. By midsummer, in the balmy summer evenings, I could enjoy walking through from the back of the garden smelling the heady perfumes first of philadelphus, then passing on to summer jasmine covering a pergola, and on to honeysuckle climbing up the side and front of the house. Then the hot, dry spell began to take its toll, and those plants waiting to give the borders splashes of later summer colour started to suffer. Monbretia which adds oranges and reds to brighten the later summer show is only flowering in more shaded parts, where it is in full sun has completely wilted and is dying down. Rudbekia, which I have in clumps all round the garden to bring colour into autumn, is also giving a very poor show and helenium 'Lemon Queen' is struggling to cope. My bearded irises which should be lifted and divided in July to improve next year's show will have to wait until later as the ground is much too hard to dig into. Still, they should

respond well to all the sun that they are getting.

There are, however, some plants which are thriving in this year's conditions, a reflection of the climate they encounter in their natural habitat. Lavenders love the dry conditions, marjoram and thyme are flowering well and a white flowering echinacea is putting on a lovely show. Plants in the gravel garden are doing much better than those in the borders as the deep covering of gravel helps counteract the lack of water. Some plants in the herbaceous border do not seem to be affected at all by the lack of water. Echinops, hardy fuchsias, ice plant, penstemons, and fennel are all flowering well in the dry conditions. Lilies, which I have in pots, have given a good show, as has an agapanthus which is also in a pot. Tomatoes are thriving, and given the dry conditions hopefully blight will not be a problem this year. It may have been a year of extremes so far, but this all adds to the challenge and enjoyment of looking after a garden and makes each year different.

GOOD FOOD AT LONDON COLNEY COMMUNITY CENTRE
Caledon Road, London Colney

Luncheon Club every Tuesday and Thursday from 12 until 2pm

Enjoy a 3 course meal + Tea or Coffee for £3.50

Sunday Roast 12 - 3pm

Sunday BBQ (Weather Permitting)

3 courses for £5, Childrens Menu and Snacks available



Parish Council Big Lunch 2010

Some 'Big Lunchers' enjoying themselves at the Community Centre, Caledon Road on Sunday 18th July 2010. Big Lunches were held all over the country. The idea grew from a 'wild seed' at the Eden Project in 2009 where 'people believe the world can get better by working together, with nature, optimism and common sense.'

Environment Matters

Maria Aguado
Chair of Parish Environmental Action Plan Working Party

The Parish Environmental Action Working Party (PEAP) is a group made up of Parish Councillors and representatives from local environmental groups and businesses.

Objectives

Our objectives are to improve the village environment and to promote sound use and reuse of resources. Currently we intend to increase the recycling opportunities for local residents. In addition to the Oxfam recycling banks at the Community Centre we aim to have a battery recycling point and one for TetraPak cartons in the village.

Pond Improvements

The next stage of improvements to the pond area adjacent to the Colney Fox will soon be under way. Removal of years worth of silt will, we hope, mean that the pond keeps some water throughout the year and the silt will be used on Parish flowerbeds and to build up an area towards the back of the pond area where marginal plants can thrive.

Greener Facilities

We are anxious to make Parish Facilities more environmentally friendly and we are currently looking for ways to improve both heating and insulation at the Community Centre in Caledon Road.

Join Us

Please tell us what improvements you would like to see in London Colney and get involved in the work. We can always use more help. Phone me on 01727 823528 (eves) or email maria.aguado@dsl.pipex.com Hope to hear from you.

St Bernadettes Breakfast Club
 At St Bernadette School, London Colney.
 For children aged 4-11 years.
 Open term time, Mon-Fri, from 7.30 a.m to 8.55 a.m.
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Larks In The Parks

Linda Gibling
Parish Council Projects Manager

This summer family fun day has been running since 2000, when it started as a millennium event. It was such a success that when the Parish Council was approached by the District Council's Leisure Connections to be part of the St Albans Festival and become one of six venues around the St Albans area it was easy for the Parish Council's Millennium Working Party to become the Events Working Party and continue organising the fun day as Larks in the Parks. This meant that Leisure Connections shared a budget out between the six venues allowing each site at least five different entertainers, which London Colney have always mixed in with local talent. This year most of the professional and non professional stage and arena acts volunteered their time, so a big thank you to all those wonderful and talented people; they made it a magical day.

The entertainers that gave their time were West End star Nadine Cox, TV and West End Star Steven Houghton who opened the event with Exel Performance Arts dance group, Cabaret Artist Dave Anthony, Elvis Tribute Leigh Casling, who also sang with the winners of Strictly Schools Dance 2010. JMI School Choir; Folk singer Chris Fleg, Bowmansgreen School Cheerleaders, Classic Bikes, local Tug of War teams and the Master of Ceremonies who kept the show running so smoothly, Mark Bilsby. Thank you to Leisure Connections for providing local band The Big Push, Mad Bikes display team, Graffiti Street Art, the Queen of Hearts & Mad Hatter and Drum Workshop. We also had Temporary Tattoos and free Face Painting. Tasty food was provided the Scouts BBQ and St Peters Church Teas and cakes.

Twenty six local groups, societies and businesses ran stalls promoting their work and ran raffles, games or competitions raising funds for their groups or local charities. Among these was the Parish Environmental Action Group made up of Parish Councillors and representatives of local organisations and businesses. They made a large felt village map which was added to throughout the day by children who created different parts of the felt picture. Materials were donated by NFT and the final piece is now being mounted ready for display.

It was a wonderful day attended by at least 2,000 members of the public. Organised by the Parish Council's Events Working Party, most of whom are volunteers, with the Parish Council's office and Groundstaff, in conjunction with Leisure Connections Festival Co-ordinators.

If you would like to volunteer to help with next year's event please contact the Parish Council's Project Manager
t: 01727 821314
e: projectmanager@londoncolney.com



From the top...
Bowmansgreen Belles
Felt Making
Tug O'War
& Mad Bikes Display Team



Come As You Are

Peter Laws

Churches can be pretty off-putting. Visiting one can feel like venturing to another planet. Will they Bible-Bash me? What if I stand up at the wrong time? Do I have to be a 'holy' type to fit in?

Back To Church

The good news is that most churches, (including ours) simply say this: Come as you are. You don't have to be a certain type to be welcomed, and we will do everything we can to make your visit worthwhile. You are of course welcome to join us at any time, but Sunday 26th September is a great day to try us out. We are taking part in National Back to Church Sunday, which encourages people to try out their local church, perhaps for the first time. If you'd like to join us for a one off, just to see what it's like, we'd love to meet you.

Services

Sunday Service, 10:30-11:30am
The service includes activities for children, a talk on a relevant issue, singing and prayer (but don't worry you don't have to take part if you'd rather just observe). There are free refreshments at the end, and cakes and biscuits



often crop up! Like most churches, we do take a collection but it's entirely voluntary. Wear whatever you are comfortable in.

Other Activities

As well as the Sunday service we offer other activities, including:

Parents and Toddlers

Parents and Toddlers Group, Fridays (Term Time), In the Hall, 9:30-11:30am, £1 Voluntary Contribution.

Solicitor's Surgery

Solicitors Surgery, Wednesdays (1st of the month), Church Office, 7:30-8:30pm, Free Legal advice (no appointment necessary)

Open Door

Open Door, Thursdays, Church, 2:15 - 3:00pm, Chat, prayer and refreshments.

Prayer Group

Prayer Group, Saturdays, Church, 1:30-3:00pm, A prayer meeting. All welcome. If you have anything you would like us to pray for let us know.

Thanks again for your interest, we look forward to getting to know you,

Audio Podcast

Rev Peter Laws and London Colney Baptist Church, 30 Kings Road, London Colney, AL2 1EN. Why not visit our website at www.lcbc.uk.com Which includes our audio Podcast. Contact: 01727 825450, jlaws@ntlworld.com,



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Back To The Old Routine?

Erica Green



The summer holidays are over and you've returned to your usual pattern of after school childrens' activities, lark-early alarm calls and the regimented routine required to squeeze everything else into the nanosecond between school runs. Well why not try something different? You could give yourself the best start to the autumn term by overhauling your health regime. Here's the plan. The first thing to do is to take stock, just

as the kids do when preparing for school to start up again. Using your diary, or a calendar, start putting in all the necessary events and appointments for the next month or term so that you have a clear idea of where your "you time" exists. Next make a list of what you'd like to do with that precious time; learn tennis, paint, join a book club etc. At this point I need to jump in and double check that your lists definitely include exercise of some sort as we're all urged to do at least 40 minutes of moderate to vigorous exercise 5 to 7 times a week for optimal health benefits. It might sound a lot but it is achievable with some planning and forethought. Now, when you glance at your calendar or diary, you'll see it peppered with the fun and fulfilling things you've chosen to enrich your week. If you're going to

start jogging or joining a body conditioning class you'll need a good pair of trainers which will offer your feet good support and cushioning which in turn will protect all of your joints up through the body. Following on, you'll also need good support underwear for any high impact activities and some cool, comfortable and breathable fitness wear in general. You need very little to achieve a lot so long as it's the right bit of kit for you. So now you're pretty much set, timetable looks exciting and appealing, uniform is enticing for the first time ever and your satchel and sharp pencil equivalents will look all shiny and new ... of course no-one likes brand spanking new trainers but don't worry as once you've been out in them a couple of times they'll look more tried and tested! Here's to a new school year ... Mondays never have to be a nightmare again!

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Bowmansgreen Belles

Jacky Potter

Cheerleaders from Bowmansgreen Belles are celebrating after international success at the British Cheerleading Association's annual international tournament.

Early Start

18 girls from year five and six travelled to the Ricoh Arena in Coventry, setting out from London Colney with their parents at 5am. The girls were amazed at the size of the arena – over 2000 spectators and 1700 cheerleaders from across the world packed the seats. With an early first performance before 9am, the girls soon conquered their nerves and showed the crowd how well their after school and weekend practices with teachers Miss Temple and Miss Smith had prepared them for the big time. With a group of twelve experienced squads in our division, the Bowmansgreen Belles were thrilled to discover we were placed fourth after the first round.

Second Round Success

Five hours later, the second round of performances began, and again the girls rose to the challenge. One slight modification to the routine was made to keep the judges on their toes, before another flawless performance. Other teams dropped points for stumbling and stepping out of bounds, but the Belles cheered their way to a clean score sheet.

Towering Trophy for Tired Troupe

When the awards were finally announced at 10pm, the girls were half asleep, but quickly woke up when they heard their name – they had won the third place! An astonishing achievement for an afterschool club, and an astonishing trophy which towered above the girls was their reward.

Congratulations

Bowmansgreen Belles can now proudly call themselves the 3rd ranked squad in the international league of youth cheerleaders.

Everyone at Bowmansgreen is incredibly proud of them – what a great way to finish the school year!



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Excel Performing Arts

Saantha Payton

This time last year, leading West End performer Steven Houghton and I were preparing to open 'Excel Performing Arts' at Bowmansgreen

School in London Colney. The school was set up with the objective of providing good quality training in the performing arts that is not only fun but taught by professionals with a wealth of performance and teaching experience. Steven said, "It has been so exciting setting up the school and getting to know the students. One of the

definite highs over the last year has to be opening 'Larks in the Park' with my students performing alongside me. They have come on so much from when they first started last September and I am very proud of their hard work and commitment they have shown."
t: 07866 274703
w: www.excelperformingarts.co.uk



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Call in for a Chat

St Peter's - A New History

Ken Barker

St Peter's Church has served the community of London Colney for 185 years although, until now, there has never been a detailed history of the church. This omission has now been remedied by the publication of 'The History of St Peter's Church, London Colney'. Research has uncovered many original records, never previously published, deposited in national and county archives. Illustrated with over 55 photographs, maps and plans, the 12 chapters of the book include descriptions of the founding of the church, the church building and furnishings, churchyard, vicarage, vicars, parish centre and the village school.

Remedy for Neglect of the Sabbath

In 1825, the boundaries of four parishes converged at London Colney with the local population living some distance from each of the respective parish churches. There were a large number of inns in the village catering for the passing stage coach trade and, in the opinion of one parson, such temptations caused the 'Sabbath to be lamentably neglected or spent in an indecent and disorderly manner'. The foundation of St Peter's Church was due to the persistence of Thomas Newcome, rector of Shenley, and the 3rd Earl of Hardwicke, owner of the Tyttenhanger estate, who provided the site for the church together with financial assistance. At the time Shenley parish extended to the banks of the River Colne and it was the intention of Thomas Newcome that the church was built within the Shenley boundaries. However, a suitable site was not available but had the initial plan materialised then the church and vicarage would have been established on the other side of the river from their present location.



A vigorous campaign was implemented to raise sufficient funds to build the church and the book contains a full list of the contributors that included the Duke of Devonshire, the Earls of Hardwicke and Verulam, members of parliament, other local worthies and also more humble subscribers. The church was consecrated in July 1826 by the Bishop of London, who, within two years of his visit to London Colney, became Archbishop of Canterbury and later officiated at the coronations of William IV in 1831 and Queen Victoria in 1838. There have been seven incumbents of the church including Markland Barnard, the first parson, who served for 67 years until his retirement in 1893 aged 89.

If there is a common strand flowing through the history of St Peter's Church it is the efforts of successive

generations of clergy and parishioners to maintain and adapt the church in order to meet changing needs. Once again, in 2010, the church is undergoing extensive works of repair and alteration in order to improve the accommodation for the congregation and create a more welcoming environment. All proceeds from the book will go towards church funds so that not only can readers discover more about the local history of London Colney but also help to maintain the church building for future generations.

The price of the book is £8 and copies can be obtained from

Ken Barker
64 Morris Way
London Colney AL2 1JN
Telephone: 01727 822564



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www.willowsfarmvillage.com
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14563a 0110

Village Memorial Service

Rev Lynne Fawns

The Village Memorial Service will take place on Remembrance Sunday, 14th November at 4pm in St Peter's Church. This service is open to all that want to attend. It will be a simple and hopeful service with well-known and well-loved hymns, prayers and a short talk. There will be an Act of Remembrance and candles will be lit as our loved ones are remembered by name. At the end of the service you will be invited to take a candle away with you. You are warmly invited to join us for refreshments in the centre after the service. If you would like to attend and would like your loved

one(s) to be remembered by name in the service, then please place a note through the Vicarage door with your name and telephone number and your loved one(s)

name clearly printed. We hope you will join us for this simple but moving village service
Blessings
Lynne

Finance Support Officer



The Parish Council are seeking to contract with an appropriately qualified person for approximately 8 hours per week to provide support to the Parish Clerk/ RFO in the financial duties of the council, including the council run community centres in the Parish, and be responsible for safe banking of cash and cheques from these activities, reconciling the various bank accounts, producing, entering and settling invoices in the council's accounting system and producing reports.

A good working knowledge of Microsoft Excel and Word will be required, along with a book-keeping qualification and a qualification in Sage or similar. References will also be required.

For further information please contact Gill Patschinsky, Parish Clerk on 01727 821314 or by email at parishclerk@londoncolney-pc.gov.uk

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Quiz Night

Saturday 23rd October 2010

London Colney Community Centre, Caledon Road,
London Colney
(by kind permission of the London Colney Parish Council)

7.30pm for a prompt start **Tables of up to 10**

Tickets £10 each

(includes fish & chips supper/chicken & chips/veggie burger & chips)

Raffle

Tickets from Avril Foster on 01727 862079 or Monica Marshall on 01727 822162

Please bring your own knife and fork. Parking available

Men of the Air

Ken Peak

'Those Magnificent Men in their Flying Machines' was a song recalling the heyday of fun-aviation in the inter-war years of the Thirties, as crowds watched stunt-flying and air races from local fields set with bell-tents serving tea and cakes.

Amateurs To Saviours

Yet a few years later, those pilots were fighting to save this country from invasion during the Battle of Britain, using later versions of the bi-planes they had flown for fun.

Now powered by huge Rolls Royce Merlin engines, and with a streamlined shape and daunting firepower, the airborne guardians like the Hurricane and Spitfire sought out the enemy bombers aiming at our many air-fields, where any resistance would be mounted.

Battle of Britain

For several months in the summer of 1940 the offensive continued, with casualties on both sides and tales of epic dog-fights over SouthEast England as contrails carved the skies above us. We still remember those brave lads with memorials to The Few,

Factory Heroes

But there were other heroes, too, in other armed forces and in factories, - especially aero-engineering, which was the wartime work for many in this area, with De Havilland and Handley Page producing fine military aircraft nearby. These machines were transport planes or bombers for retaliation, as the motto of NO.25 Squadron RAF suggests - it means Strike to Defend in English - and the various designs found fame with their crews and with the general public as they attacked targets across Europe to cripple road and railway links behind enemy lines. The damage was awful, but the price was high... and the stories rarely told by those who lived through it all.

Commemoration

A 'new' book has appeared (on garden-centre shelves!) recalling the horror of those desperate times - it's called MEN OF AIR by Kevin Wilson, and his accounts cover the lives of so many young men who flew together on raids which altered the course of the conflict some 70 years ago. Just recently the part played by bomber crews (both RAF and USAF) has been recognised, whereas previously their stoic courage in the face of appalling odds was not celebrated to avoid

political embarrassment. They will get a monument! On June 26 and 27 this year, some of the remaining veterans of those days met again at the famous DH Heritage Centre (the Mosquito Museum) close to London Colney, where the secret plans for the Wooden Wonder were drawn up in Salisbury Hall, and the first dramatic prototypes were built. Most of these gentlemen flew as pilots or navigators in the dual seats of a great twin-engined plane that could out-fly any rivals, served in any capacity asked of it, and earned a reputation as 'the safest kite you could want' because of the close relationship of driver and guide working in unison.

4 Generations

The photo (by Garry Lakin) shows a group beneath a Mark-35 Mosquito, with Chantal De Havilland-Ingham (Sir Geoffrey's great granddaughter) and son, and our own special navman Reg Davey in the back row, 3rd from the left.

Lest We Forget

The DH Heritage Trust is on our doorstep, demonstrating civil and military air achievements from the DH stable based at Hatfield. Come and visit us, and discover why we are proud of the past.



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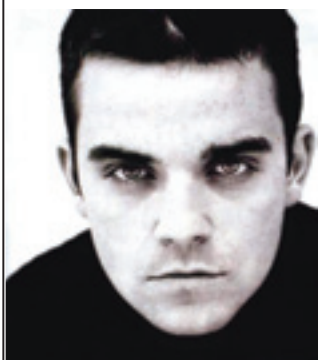


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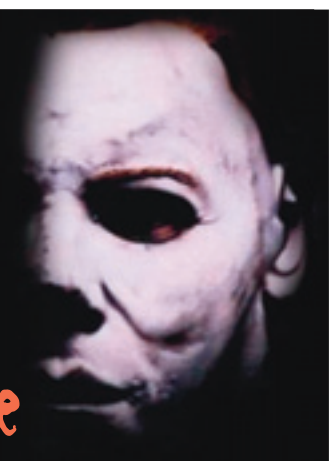
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-pc.gov.uk

New Years Eve



LCPC presents
Monsters Ball
Halloween Fancy Dress Party & Disco
entry £5
Sat 30th October 8 till late



New Leisure Facility Planned

Julie Simpson
Project Manager
St Albans Leisure Facilities

Planning continues for a new London Colney leisure facility.

St Albans City & District Council is in the process of bringing two exciting new leisure facilities to the District – the re-development of Westminster Lodge Leisure Centre and the development of a new leisure facility in London Colney.

The Council has recognised the need for new leisure facilities for some time.

In 2005 the District Sport and Recreation Facilities Strategy confirmed that both Westminster Lodge Leisure Centre and London Colney Recreation Centre were reaching the end of their useful life, and that new facilities were needed to meet the sports and leisure needs of District residents and visitors both now and in the future.

A study in 2007 took a close look at potential locations and mix of



Aerial shot of Cotlandswick Open Space, London Colney. Part of this site is proposed for the new leisure facility.

facilities, following which the Council decided to go ahead with two brand new leisure facilities, one at the Westminster Lodge site off Holywell Hill in St Albans, and one at Cotlandswick Open Space, London Colney.

Subject to planning permission, the new facility at Cotlandswick will replace Bricket Wood Sports Centre, which closed in February 2010, and London Colney Recreation Centre on Perham Way, which will remain open until the new centre at Cotlandswick is completed and open to the public, perhaps as early as 2012.

Good progress has been made by the District Council's project management team towards planning the new leisure facility. The Council has shortlisted three companies, each of which has submitted detailed proposals including initial design concepts, funding proposals and information on how they would operate the new centre.

As a minimum, the facility will include:

- A multi use room or rooms to accommodate a variety of activities e.g. fitness classes, children's activities / parties, a martial arts dojo, suitable sporting activities (table tennis, badminton etc) and short mat bowls;
- A fitness gym;
- Meeting rooms for clubs, associations, local groups and/or courses;
- Synthetic turf pitch(es) and changing rooms;

The Council is now in detailed talks with these developers and, following further planning, residents will be invited to give their feedback on the various ideas and proposed facilities.

For more information, please visit www.stalbans.gov.uk/new-london-colney.

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Artist Embraces Three Dimensions

Maria Aguado

Inspired by visits to several 'Birds of Prey Centres', local artist David Ansell decided to diversify. Instead of painting these beautiful creatures he has been making realistic lifesize models from balsa wood.

Working from his own drawings made on visits to the Natural History Museum at Tring has enabled him to capture the size, shape, posture and colouring of the birds, their habitat and even, their prey!

David started small with Britain's tiniest owl - the Little Owl but has since moved on to render all Britain's owl species up to the largest, the Long Eared Owl. He uses a combination of techniques and materials; first carving the basic shape from balsa then applying modelling plaster with specially shaped tools he has made himself to give the correct feather textures.

The models are sealed with gesso and finally painted with acrylic paints. The legs, toes and talons are made from various grades of plumbers' solder and textured with glue and fine sawdust before painting. Glass eyes are bought from specialist model makers suppliers. Expanding on his theme, David has made a field vole and a wood mouse; common prey animals of British owl species.

His collection is housed in cabinets furnished with leaves, berries and toadstools. The Barn Owl has a clutch of chalk white eggs and three chicks, as well as a section of tree trunk to live in.

All the birds are currently touring local schools, clubs and societies with David who explains his working methods and talks about the natural history of the birds.



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*"London Colney Nursery is a
 good school and gives good
 value for money." Ofsted
 Report March 2009*

InTouch with Age Concern

Alison Smith
 Herts Age Concern Publicity Officer



Trudie Harrington,
 In Touch Team Leader

What is InTouch?

InTouch is a free countywide telephone service, provided by Age UK Hertfordshire, which supports people aged 50 plus who are not currently receiving any other form of statutory help because their needs may not require that level of support.

Who needs InTouch?

However, they may be experiencing life changing and emotionally challenging situations like:

- a bereavement
- facing retirement
- being a victim of a crime
- following a fall or a stay in hospital
- or even considering moving to private, sheltered or residential accommodation.

The aim of InTouch is to enable older people to live independently in their own homes for longer with improved health and wellbeing from a social, physical and mental health perspective.

Elsie, living alone, has a nasty fall at home. She is really shaken, worried about continuing to live alone and scared of falling again. She has no broken bones but her confidence is shattered.

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No Job Too Small - Call 05603 303 259

Bill, loses his wife to Alzheimer's and watches her slip away from him over 16 long years, until her eventual death from pneumonia. He is one of the old school so does not admit how frightened and lost he feels.

How can InTouch Help?

It is for people like Elsie and Bill that Age UK Hertfordshire has launched InTouch, a new service offering in depth and on going telephone support which can involve signposting to other organisations, where relevant. It works with each individual on a one to one basis at a time convenient to them, by listening, giving empathy and support to enable the person to move forward from the situation that is causing them anxiety.

How do I contact InTouch?

Do you or do you know someone who can benefit from this service but might not know about it? Perhaps a neighbour, friend or a member of your family?

For more information or to be referred to the scheme please contact Age Concern UK Hertfordshire's InTouch Team
T 01992 629358/634964
E intouch@acherts.org.uk



The OV Chariots soon kick off their 6th season of Mini/Junior rugby with a registration day on Sunday 5th September.

Situated on the A414 opposite Aylett Nurseries, the club offers a friendly, family-orientated club. There is a 'Credit Crunch' Joining Fee of just £25 per child for a whole season. Call Youth Chairman Rob Lines on 01727 759613.



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London Colney Children's Centre provides a range of services and offers information for children under the age of five years and their parents/carers.

The nursery school and children's centre are having an extension built throughout the autumn term please note that we remain open.

Timetable for the autumn term September - December

Day	Time	Activity / group
Monday	9.15am - 11.15am	Parent & Toddler drop in group For 0 - 4 years Lots of toys and lots of fun
Monday	1.30pm - 3.00pm	Bumps & babies Expecting a baby or have a new arrival Come along and meet other parents
Tuesday	9.10am - 10.15am	Well child clinic Baby weighing and Health Visitor advice
Tuesday	12.45pm - 2.30pm	Getting through the day workshops These sessions must be booked
Wednesday	10.30am - 11.45am	Baby massage These sessions must be booked
Wednesday	12.45pm - 2.30pm	Friendship group A group for our Bengali parents
Thursday	Time to be confirmed	Well child clinic Baby weighing and Health Visitor advice
Friday	9.15am - 11.15am	Under 2's playtime A stay and play group for the under 2's

Coming soon.....

☺ Toy library

☺ Saturday Play & Stay. This group is specifically for working parents, Dads and Grandparents and their children aged 0-4 years.

4 September, 2 October, 6 November, 4 December drop in from 10am - midday.

☺ October half term holiday Stay and Play sessions will be running every Monday and Friday mornings 9.15am - 11.15am and every Wednesday afternoons 1.00pm - 3.00pm.

For further information or to request the outreach service please phone or text Julie 07825933809 or Helen 07825933810

We look forward to seeing you.

Industry Links

Lisa Valla

On Sunday the 4th of July, London Colney Primary School held a party to celebrate the school's 70th birthday. 'It was an amazing success,' said the school's Head teacher, Lisa Valla. 'The school was full from the moment the party started. Many past pupils and staff travelled to attend the event. It really was very overwhelming.'

New Links

The success of London Colney

Primary School's reunion brought many new links within the village. Amongst the supporters of this event were the distribution company NFT, who kindly donated £200 towards the reunion and helped to widely advertise the event.

Practical Thank You

In order to repay this kindness, the pupils of London Colney Primary School created a large collage to brighten up the community space in the NFT warehouse. The enormous, 13 foot picture was donated to NFT by the school in July and

was received by the Operations Manager, Scott Beeke.

Enjoyable Project

'The children really enjoyed making the collage' said Mrs. Valla, 'NFT is one of the largest companies in London Colney and it has been very interesting for the children to explore what the company does. Understanding how the food is grown and then sent to the supermarkets plays a large part in the collage. We are really looking forward to visiting the collage in the warehouse, in September.'



Naturalists' Local Find

Merle Gwyn

Fourteen members of the Hertfordshire Branch of the British Naturalists' Association (BNA) met on Sunday 25th July 2010 to explore the area between London Colney and Shenley and to look at its wildlife. One of the main reasons for visiting the area was to see the special arable weed flora on a field near Barley Mow Farm.

The Cornflower, a beautiful plant with blue flowers, has decreased substantially over the years but has been flourishing in this field thanks to agri-environmental grant. The seeds are harvested and used in restoration

schemes elsewhere in the country. Therefore conserving this colony of Cornflowers is very important.



To great excitement another plant was also discovered. Annual Knawel is a rare plant in Hertfordshire and on the UK endangered list even though it is very small and insignificant! During our walk, many other plants, birds and insects were identified including some beautiful butterflies.

The BNA programme for the autumn and winter is being prepared. Further information about Herts Branch walks is available from the secretary, Chris James.

t: 01462 742684.

e: chrisjames56@btinternet.com

www.bna-naturalists.org

Annual Knawel (below, magnified) is one of the original Bach Flower Remedies - allegedly a cure for indecisiveness. Ed.



Autumn Foraging

Jon Daniels

This article reaches you during the autumn so recipes for elderflower and crab apple are not of much use unless you have dried or preserved them, and generally speaking if you've managed that then you probably do not need recipes from me. Instead the rest of my ink and paper will be spent on what you can possibly do with foraged items from the London Colney area this autumn.

Elderberry Soup

Ingredients

2 1/2 lb Elderberries, Lemon rind
6 tbsps Cold water, 3/4 cup Sugar
9 cups Water, 4 tbsp Cornflower
2 tb Lemon juice

Preparation

Wash berries and place in a large pan. Add water and a twist or two of

lemon rind. Cook until the berries are soft. Strain into a bowl, pushing through as much of the pulp as possible. Return the liquid to the pan, bring to a boil, and remove from the stove. Combine the cornflower, cold water, and lemon juice, pressing out all the lumps. Add to

the soup, together with the sugar, and stir thoroughly. Place over medium-low heat and cook, stirring constantly, until thick and clear. Adjust the sugar and lemon to suit your taste. Serve hot or cold. *From: The New York Times Bread and Soup Cookbook.*

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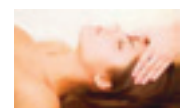


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Reiki

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I look forward to hearing from you.

Judith Maag

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What a Knight!

Jacky Potter

Family and friends were wowed by Bowmansgreen Primary School's end of year production of the musical 'What a Knight!' and what a night it was! The young actors delivered a host of corny jokes with great timing and humour to the groans of their audience.

Best Ever!

Producer, Richard Wilding and Musical Director, Zoe Flatt, had rehearsed the children culminating in one of the best performances seen at the school. The hall rocked to the catchy songs and the children's enthusiasm was exhilarating!

The story of young Watt and his efforts to become a knight take him on a quest of adventure. He strives to find the lost sword Excalibur and thwart the evil Black Knight and his henchmen the Blackhead brothers as they seek to overthrow King Arthur and Queen Guinevere. In true fairytale style, good triumphs over evil and Watt saves the day.



"Put a sock in it!" Watt helps Kitty under the watchful eye of Earl Axminster



Jake, The Jolly Jester – "I spend all day bringing happiness to others and go to bed more depressed than when I woke up!"

A credit to us all...

Mrs White, the head teacher, ended the evening by expressing her pride in the children's confidence and talent. 'They really are a credit to the school and their families,' she said.



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