

## Parish Council Report

Ian Orton, Chair of Parish Council

It is now almost spring and the Parish Council have lots of things planned for the next few months to help get rid of the winter blues and to look forward to the summer months ahead!

We have arranged over 20 events during the coming year but the biggies will be the St George's Day Celebration, the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Weekend and helping celebrate the Olympics.

St George's Day will be start at 1pm on Saturday 21st April at the Community Centre and will consist of live music, food and drink plus traditional entertainment such as hog roast, tug of war and St George rescuing a maiden and killing a dragon (though not a real one!). The Diamond Jubilee bank holiday weekend will consist of a Ball on Saturday 2nd June, the Parish Council helping with Street Parties on Sunday 3rd June and on Monday 4th June a Jubilee Festival on Morris Playing Fields starting at 2pm with live music, entertainment, fairground, food and at just after 10pm the lighting of a Beacon to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee.

But we still need some people to help light the Beacon – do you know anyone with a strong connection to London Colney who was born on the 4th June? If so please let me know!

As part of the Cultural Olympiad we plan to hold a festival of films between Tuesday 31st July and Saturday 4th August; these will be films 'you' have voted for as your favourite and inside you will find a voting section. Please vote for your favourite films and we will show the most popular films at the Community Centre during the Olympic week. It will be your choice!

Last summer the Parish Council increased the opening hours of the Council Offices to include Friday morning so we are now open every morning from 10am till 12 noon for personal visits but are open for telephone enquiries 10am till 4pm every day. In addition our improved web site is now receiving over a thousand hits a month so if you want any information about any aspect of Parish

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As the sun sets on London Colney Pastoral Centre, see Money Trumps Community on page 8



Council activities try [www.londoncolney-pc.gov.uk](http://www.londoncolney-pc.gov.uk) or pop in during the opening hours.

As part of improved communications the Parish Council are about to introduce a Customer Care set of promises including service standards and promising to acknowledge the receipt of letters and e-mails within three days and a full reply within 10 days. The delivery of these promises will be reported to the Parish Council on a quarterly basis to make sure the promises are happening!

The Shenley Playing Fields are about to get a major face-lift. Using planning monies from the Napsbury Housing development Shenley Playing Fields are in the process of getting a all weather surface all around the park, ideal for prams, pushchairs, cycling and wheelchairs; a flying fox with a 25m downhill run, a number of trim trails elements ranging from pleasant to challenging, some new benches and refurbishment of the changing facility for football and cricket teams. It is planned that the new facilities will be open by the end of April at the latest.

*Shenley Lane Playing Field - Currently well used football pitches, will soon be improved to provide more sport and recreation facilities for the whole family.*



As you know, protecting open our open space is a priority for the Parish Council and our two applications for Village Green status are now being considered by Hertfordshire County Council; the site at Waterside will be considered by HCC on 28th February and the site at Thamesdale is about to go out for public consultation. If agreed both sites will be excluded from any development.

The London Colney Community Centre was built in 1967 and is coming to the end of its life. The Parish Council is getting prices for major repairs to the building, for repairs and refurbishment and costs for a new building. Details of these costs and the options will go on the web site and I welcome any views on how the Parish Council should meet the challenge of ensuring that we retain such a well-used facility.

The Parish Council took over the management of the Caledon Club in the summer of 2008 with the bar being used by Caledon Club members who also received a reduction for council events in return for an annual subscription. This

arrangement was never cost effective and so this arrangement for Caledon Club members has now ceased. The meeting hall and bar is now open to everyone and I hope you will pop and explore the newly refurbished facilities.

I receive a lot of complaints about speeding cars within our village and so, working with Hertfordshire Police, the Parish Council are supporting a scheme called Speedwatch. Volunteers are trained by Herts Police and spend up to around half an hour per month monitoring speeding cars noting vehicles over the limit, which are reported to the police who send out warning letters. This scheme has been piloted elsewhere and seems more successful than speed cameras. If you can manage half an hour a month please let me know.

I am very keen to hear from anyone who has ideas about existing services from the Parish Council and how we can do things better!

My e-mail address is:

[chairman@londoncolney-pc.gov.uk](mailto:chairman@londoncolney-pc.gov.uk)

I look forward to hearing from you.

### NEXT ISSUE SUMMER 2012

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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](mailto: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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# Parish Council Events

## March 2012

If you would like more information, to take part or volunteer to help with any of the following events please contact: [projectmanager@londoncolney-pc.gov.uk](mailto:projectmanager@londoncolney-pc.gov.uk)

**Saturday 10th March Quiz Night 7.30pm at London Colney Community Centre, Caledon Road. in aid of TheBase Youth Project Tickets £7.50 from the Parish Office. Price includes a Fish & Chip Supper. Bar 'til 12.**

### Saturday 24th March Live Music

**Saturday 21st April St Georges Day - from 1pm at the Community Centre, live music, food and drink plus traditional entertainment such as hog roast, tug of war and St George behaving heroically!**

**Saturday 2nd June Jubilee Ball in the Community Centre  
Saturday & Sunday - The Parish Council will support local street parties**

**Monday 4th June Jubilee Beacon Celebration - starting at 2pm with live music, entertainment, fairground, food and at just after 10pm the lighting of a Beacon to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee**

### Sunday 24th June Larks in the Park

**Friday 27th July Olympics Disco  
Olympic fortnight - Festival of Films from Tuesday 31st July - Saturday 4th August  
Vote below for your favourite films**

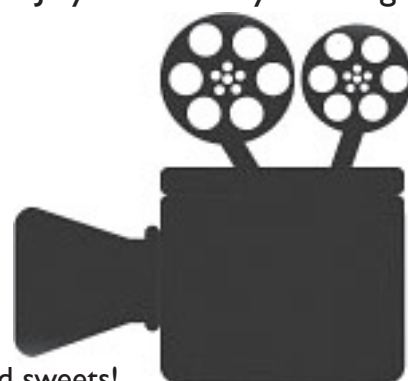
## Olympiad Film Festival

Tuesday 31st July to Saturday 4th August

What are your favourite films?

Let us know and the most popular films will be shown at the Community Centre during Olympic Week!  
Choose your favourite Children's Film, Western Film, Musical Film, Horror Film and Favourite Film of All Time!

Looking forward to seeing you  
– the films will be free but we will have to charge for the ice creams and sweets!  
Fill in the film strip below, clip and return to the Parish Council Office, Community Centre, Caledon Road or email your choices to: [info@londoncolney-pc.gov.uk](mailto:info@londoncolney-pc.gov.uk)



Children's film...	Western film...	Musical film...	Horror film...	All Time Favourite
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....

# LCPC Budget

Ian Orton, Chairman, LCPC

The Parish Council provides a wide range of services from open space and meals through to many free community events.

These services will cost £423,000 during 2011/2012 of which half the cash is raised from fees and charges and the rest from your Parish Council precept. The precept for an average property in London Colney is £59.49 per year or slightly over £1 per week.

When planning the precept for 2012/2013 the Parish Council reduced the amount we spend but also had to reduce the amount of fees and charges people were paying and this coupled with above inflation increases in areas such as energy and insurance has meant the Parish Council precept has had to be increased slightly by 5p a week.

Part of this increase will go towards additional free events such as the Jubilee and the Olympics and protecting existing services.

These are tough times for all of us but the Parish Council have ensured that the extra 5p a week will safeguard what we already do and bring in extra services during 2012/2013!

# Bowmansgreen's Great OFSTED

Jacky Potter



A justifiably good reputation for the care and guidance it provides for its pupils was highlighted by OFSTED inspectors recently when they visited Bowmansgreen Primary School.

**“...effectively led by the well regarded head teacher”**

The inspection team recognised that ‘The school is effectively led by the well regarded head teacher’ and that ‘care and guidance are strong overall and reflect the school’s recognised expertise in this area.’ It noted that children at Bowmansgreen enter into a welcoming environment in

which they quickly settle and feel safe. Bowmansgreen is a large school and parents were impressed that head teacher, Moira White, ‘is regularly at the gate and meets and greets every child by name.’

**“consistently good behaviour ...”**

The standard of behaviour at school was praised with the report highlighting the consistently good behaviour pupils show to their teachers and each other. Teachers successfully provide interesting and engaging lessons which reflect the considerable effort made to develop a creative and enriching curriculum.

**“...standards are rising...”**

The school has worked hard over the past few years to improve children’s writing and is delighted that standards in this area are rising. OFSTED recognised that ‘staff work well together to sustain the positive features of an inclusive and supportive school whilst striving to improve standards and progress. The introduction of new learning schemes has resulted in a steady improvement in writing. The new mathematics programme is beginning to have a similarly positive effect.’

Inspectors acknowledged that, ‘The school’s leaders have sustained a strong drive for school improvement through their efforts to improve attainment and progress.’ They affirmed that the school has an accurate picture of its key strengths and weaknesses and highlighted areas

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where the school can continue to build on the good progress already made. These are mainly related to making sure that all pupils have greater challenges so that they progress even further, with clearer goals for improvement related to their levels of attainment.

*“...OFSTED recognised the very positive relationship with parents.”*

The school appreciates the support of its parents and was delighted that OFSTED recognised the very positive relationship it maintains with parents.

*‘My child goes to school with a smile and comes out with a smile. What more could I want?’*

Parental response to OFSTED’s questionnaire was overwhelmingly positive with one parent commenting, ‘My child goes to school with a smile and comes out with a smile. What more could I want?’

*“...the years children spend at our school should be challenging, fulfilling and happy.”*

Mrs White, commented, ‘At Bowmansgreen, we believe that the years children spend at our school should be challenging, fulfilling and happy. I would like to thank the parents, staff, governors and other members of the community for their continued support.’

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# Fruit & Veg Stall for London Colney Families

Ian Prior



Matt Charles of St Albans Sport & Health Development Team, Gemma Richardson of Hightown, Julie Lannon of the London Colney Children's Centre and Anka Johnston of NHS Hertfordshire launch the ENERGY project are pictured here launching the new fruit and veg stall for London Colney families

Business was brisk for a new fruit and veg stall which opened for business in January 2012 - making healthy eating more affordable to residents of London Colney.

### *...cookery courses for parents...*

The new stall has been set up in response to demand from local residents and is part of a healthy living initiative called ENERGY. As well as making fruit and veg easily available, the ENERGY project includes cookery courses for parents, and sport and healthy living classes for local school children.

### *...this will definitely help both mummies and babies. I shall certainly be back...*

Local resident Sian Bull said "I think this scheme is a really great idea, especially as the stall is next to the Children's Centre. I know when my daughter was very little the last thing on my mind was to go shopping for fruit and vegetables so this will definitely help both mummies and babies. I shall certainly be back".

### *...a bowl of fruit/veg at half price - just 50p...*

Many local residents have been given vouchers so they can buy a bowl of fruit/veg at half price - just 50p. Fresh fruit and veg will be available from the Children's Centre in Alexander Road, London Colney every Tuesday (9.00 - 10.00 and 3.00 - 4.00) during term time.

ENERGY is being jointly run and funded by a partnership of local organisations including Hightown Praetorian & Churches Housing Association, St Albans City & District Council, the London Colney Children's Centre, St Albans Sport & Health Development Team, Leisure Connection and NHS Hertfordshire.

## World Wildlife

Dave Ansell

According to the RSPB and Natural England, Hen Harriers are close to extinction through illegal hunting. Only four nesting pairs raising young have been found - the lowest population since 1960 when they had to be reintroduced after becoming extinct.

Illegal persecution on grouse moorland has been blamed.

There are three British Harriers - the Hen, Marsh and Montagu's. The Marsh Harrier being the largest. They fly buoyantly and gracefully low over the ground while hunting for food.

Their habitats differ. The Hen Harrier is a moorland specialist, the Marsh Harrier visits reed beds for its prey, while Montagu's Harrier prefers lowland heaths and arable fields.



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# Adding a Little Extra Spice!

Jane Hobday

London Colney Parish Councillor

Add a little extra spice to everyone's life! I've done it! my neighbour over the road does it! And so do my neighbours who live round the corner. We're volunteering, giving our time and energy for nothing and in return we've made friends and done something valuable for our community.

Here in London Colney the Parish Council is trying to get more local people to Volunteer to help out in our community. To put a little bit back into the community we all live in. Around the country we can see the difference volunteers make to the lives of others.

Towards the end of the summer I went to visit a friend who has moved to Swanage in Dorset. They were holding a folk festival during our visit, which was organised and run by volunteers. These same volunteers organised other events which were not only enjoyed by the local community but attracted visitors from all over the world; it was estimated that their efforts brought nearly a million pounds into the local economy.

Many local people attend our Fireworks Display and Larks in the Park, these events are organised and run by the Parish Council and local volunteers. Volunteers deliver meals on wheels and serve dinners at the Luncheon Club. But we could do more for our village. If you have ideas and you want to get involved in improving village life, making new friends and having fun then maybe this is something for you. It does not have to take vast amounts of time, if you're great on ideas but short of hours you can still make a valuable contribution.

To volunteer, contact Linda Gibling, our Project Manager, on 01727 821314 between 10am and 4pm any weekday. Linda can help you find a volunteering opportunity to suit you.



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# Money Trumps Community

Colin Harte, Chair, Save All Saints Committee

Since many church spokesmen and catholic commentators have highlighted the huge inequalities in society that have resulted from the recent financial crisis, greed and short termism, and in the light of His Holiness the Pope's recent visit to the UK, I would like to draw to your attention the curious case of the sale of All Saints Pastoral Centre.

The impending sale, subject to contract, of All Saints Pastoral Centre, London Colney, Hertfordshire is an example of the Diocese of Westminster failing to practice what it preaches.

All Saints has served as a Catholic and ecumenical focus for many Christian and non-Christian groups in a building and grounds offering deep spirituality, as commented upon by almost all who have visited the place. The ornate and listed All Saints building was formerly a convent and the site includes Chantry Island, the place of arrest of St Alban prior to his martyrdom. The centre also boasts a strong and growing worshipping community in the site's Comper Chapel.

When the Centre was put up for sale by the diocese of Westminster, the All Saints Community were told that all possible alternatives had been considered but not found to be viable. This argument is clearly flawed in that when the Centre went up for sale in the summer one of the bidders, the "Pastoral Village Bid" was based on just such a viable option.

The "Pastoral Village Bid" would involve the retention of a Pastoral Centre, a local and national Mass & Retreat Centre, (used by all Religions - truly ecumenical) - retirement flats for our golden aged clergy, a sports and swimming pool complex especially for disadvantaged children, the upgrading of St Alban's Chantry Island, allotments for the clergy and locals to name just a few of the advantages for the Diocese at no cost to it and some cash. It would be something they could be proud of without any of the headaches of renovation or management.

We, the Save All Saints group, representing the varied users who are passionate about the centre, have backed this bid with letters to the Trustees and copies of our paper petition, which have amounted to around 3000 signatures. (An online version of the petition is available

at <http://www.ipetitions.com/petition/saveallsaints/>.)

The Pastoral Village bid presents a real opportunity for All Saints to act as a beacon of spirituality and ecumenism in this struggling world. This is a chance for the laity and the church to work together to spread some light in the gloom

Despite this, the Diocese of Westminster has accepted a bid, subject to contract, based on financial criteria from bidders showing little interest in contacting either the planners or us.

The lack of willingness for the Diocese to engage with interested parties to

find a solution that would maintain and extend the spirituality and community of All Saints, such as the Pastoral Village Bid, alongside its willingness to sell to the highest bidder has resulted in a very serious loss of trust in the Diocese in the community.

Clearly lecturing on short termism is good for the City, but not good for the Diocesan Trustees who have accepted a deal for short-term gain at the expense of a deal which would have long-term spiritual, practical and economic benefits far more in keeping with the aims of a Christian Catholic church.



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# Changes to A&E at Welwyn Garden City

The Public Affairs Team - East and North Hertfordshire NHS Trust

From Monday, 16 January 2012, the A&E services at the QEII hospital in Welwyn Garden City have changed:

- For adults, the current A&E service will continue to be available 8.00am and 8.00pm every day, but overnight the service will treat minor injuries only.
- For children aged between 12 months and 16 years of age, the QEII A&E service will now treat minor injuries that need urgent attention 24 hours a day, every day of the week.
- For babies 12 months who need to be taken to hospital, please go to the nearest specialist emergency department – which for most will be the 24/7 service at the Lister.

Whether an adult or child, if you are suffering from a mild illness you should still see your GP as normal, or contact the GP out-of-hours service at night or weekends by calling 03000 333 333. Alternatively you can call NHS Direct on 0845 46 47



who can provide advice on what you should do.

If your injury or condition is felt to be serious, even life-threatening, please call 999 or go to the nearest hospital with a 24/7 emergency department – which for most people will be the Lister in Stevenage, where there is also a dedicated specialist children's emergency department service.

Of course, if an adult or child is taken to the QEII and their condition deteriorates, staff will stabilise them before their

transfer to the best place to receive their on-going care – normally the Lister.

These changes are part of a programme to bring together all of the Trust's inpatient and emergency services at the Lister by 2014, when the investment of some £150 million will have transformed it into the main hospital for across east and north Hertfordshire. By the same time, NHS Hertfordshire will have created the new QEII hospital – which will provide local people with a range of outpatient, diagnostic, ante/post natal and community care services, as well as a new 'Local A&E' that will be able to treat the vast majority of people who need the current A&E service.

You can find out which NHS services are available in your area by visiting a new online resource for Hertfordshire – [www.wheredoigo.org.uk](http://www.wheredoigo.org.uk) – or by contacting NHS Direct on 0845 46 47 for more information.

## St Albans Irish Club

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# Get on your bike and make a difference!

Maureen Narramore

We all want to make a difference to our health, our lifestyle and to our individual carbon footprint but often don't know where to begin or how we can achieve this.

With the rising costs of petrol, endless traffic jams and public transport which at times can be unreliable - cycling could be your ideal solution to embrace a healthier lifestyle and environmentally friendly type of transport whether it is for leisure or to your place of work.

Before you embark on this 'greener' mode of transport you will need to ensure:

- Your bicycle is the right size - otherwise you will not be able to control it properly.
- Your handlebars and saddle are the right height for you.
- Your bicycle is fitted with a bell so you can signal to other road users.
- You have all the right clothing and accessories – light coloured or fluorescent that helps other road users see you in daylight and at night.
- You have a good quality helmet that fits correctly and meets the British Standards specifications.
- Your bicycle is fitted with compulsory lights and reflectors; there are a wide

- range of lights and reflectors available.
- Your bicycle tyres are pumped to the correct pressure and your brakes work smoothly.
- You know your Highway Code to ride with confidence!



If you want to learn how to handle busy roads and ride more confidently – why not look into cycle training. A must for all bicycle novices!

To ensure happy cycling it is also important that you maintain your bike regularly and learn how to do a basic safety check before you embark on any journey. If you're not confident that you can maintain your bicycle correctly firms exist to help you keep your bike in tip-top road safe condition.

Go on make a difference - why not take a greener approach to transport and 'get on your bike'!



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**Parish Council Meetings** are held on the first Friday of each month except in August. The next meeting will be on Friday 2nd March at 7pm in The Pavillion at Morris Way Playing Fields. Members of the public are welcome to attend.

Early in each meeting Police Community Support Officers give a report of the previous month's crime in the village followed by a Public Question time if you wish to ask questions of the PCSOs or the Councillors.

The dates for the forthcoming meetings are: 2nd March, 6th April, 4th May and 1st June

# Elected Representatives

## Parish Council

### North West Ward

Maria Aguado	369 High Street	823528	maria.aguado@dsl.pipex.com
Jane Hobday	14 Telford Road	769784	janeantonia@gmail.com
Mike Hobday	14 Telford Road	07853 292 307	mike.hobday@ntlworld.com

### South West Ward

Jacob Quagliozi	5 Morris Way	07807 096824	cllr.j.quagliozi@stalbans.gov.uk
Norman Mahony	36 St Annes Road	767348	ncmahony@ntlworld.com
Ian Orton (Chairman)	8 Jubilee Avenue	825169	ianorton@btinternet.com

### East Ward

Laurel Blyth	30A St Annes Road	769530	laurelblyth@hotmail.co.uk
Katherine Gardener	47 Thamesdale	07765137453	auxin@hotmail.co.uk
Tony Smith	2 Summers Way	821314	tony@happyliife.co.uk

## St Albans District Council

Jacob Quagliozi	5 Morris Way	07807 096824	cllr.j.quagliozi@stalbans.gov.uk
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## Member of Parliament

Anne Main	House of Commons, Westminster, London	0207 219 8270	maina@parliament.uk
	Constituency Office	01727 825100	

## Members of the European Parliament

There are 7 MEPs for the Eastern Region. Contact them at these numbers...

Conservative: 01245 345188,

Liberal: 01223 566700,

Labour: 01223 240202,

UKIP: 01245 266466



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# London Colney Primary School - 'Inspiring People'

Theresa Clements, Chair of Governors

On behalf of the pupils, parents, staff, volunteers and governors of London Colney Primary School



On the 12th December 2011, our Year 6 pupils nominated Mrs Valla for the St Albans and Harpenden Review 'Inspiring People' award. I know that Mrs Valla was delighted to have been nominated and I have spoken to various teachers, parents and volunteers who all echoed the same sentiment... 'Mrs Valla deserves it' and 'that's fantastic... she works so hard and is so committed'.

We have experienced some great successes over the last two years and have seen the school grow from strength to strength. The children at London Colney Primary take great pride in their school and I am certain that this has come about due to the enthusiasm, passion, and dedication of the staff who work at the school combined with the excellent support that parents and carers provide.

It is on this note that I am delighted to inform you on behalf of all of the staff who work at the school and on behalf of those who volunteer their time and service to the school that our head teacher, Mrs Lisa Valla, has won the 'Inspiring People' award.

The award is given by the St Albans and Harpenden Review in partnership with Debenhams Ottaway solicitors and I know that the press will be visiting soon.

This is what the staff have to say.....

Stephanie Davis – she is an inspiration to staff, parents and children.

Sue Kelly – She is amazing. She has

turned this school around to what it is now. She makes you feel you've done well and inspires you to work hard. She is approachable to everyone.

Kelly Roos – She understands people really well and is very supportive.

Emma Merry – I love working with Mrs Valla as deputy head, I see on a daily basis how she inspires both staff and children alike. She has been a huge part in getting the school to where it is today and we as members of staff are very proud of her.

Liam Donovan – I am very proud to work for the London Colney Primary School team that Mrs Valla has helped to create. She has a gift for seeing potential, allowing those who work for her to achieve maximum results. Her dedication to her job is reciprocated by staff and students, who have enjoyed the steady upturn of achievement, as she embodies the essence of our school motto, 'caring for each other – succeeding together'.

Student letters to the Review:

Dear Sir/ Madam

I am writing to you to nominate Mrs Valla – our extraordinary head teacher for your award as she is brilliant and truly reliable.

Mrs Valla is one caring lady subsequently the whole school admires her and thinks of her as a role model.

In my opinion Mrs Valla is a great head teacher and you wouldn't want anymore from anyone else, so please may you give her the award for greatness.

From Mathusa

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing to you to tell you about a

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loving, kind person. Her Name is Mrs Valla.

The reason why I said she is kind and loving is because Mrs Valla always looks after us (so that makes her caring too). Mrs Valla has made our school absolutely amazing subsequently we got a good with outstanding features in our Ofsted report.

Mrs Valla makes everyone laugh. She once put underpants on in assembly – that was really funny and everyone laughed. If you are sad she will make you happy as a result everyone is happy in our school! All of our teachers are really happy.

Our learning is fun and exciting that is why last year years 6 got the best SATs results.

So please give her the award she really deserves it.

Your Sincerely  
Sophie

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing to you to nominate Mrs Valla for your award as she is an outstanding head teacher! She is very nice and kind.

I remember when she dressed up as Clifford the Big Red Dog walked around the school. She also organises the best school fairs which means the money raised goes towards buying books of our choice. When Mr Coles left I remember she made him dress up in different costumes and answer questions about our school. As she does assemblies she has something to make everyone laugh. When things seem impossible like the PGL trip being cancelled because there were not enough pupils going she managed to persuade parents and now over 20 pupils are going. She's always happy and never sad.

Please nominate Mrs Valla she'll be overwhelmed, please, please.

From Anika

I am sure that you will want to join me in congratulating Mrs Valla. She is being quite modest about having won but events like this do not happen every day! This is quite a unique and momentous award and how lucky we are that it has been given to our head teacher.

Well done Mrs Valla!

## Red Signal Crayfish

Maria Aguado



The North American Red Signal Crayfish was introduced into this country in the late 1970s to be farmed for the seafood trade. Since then it has colonised much of the UK's freshwater, bringing with it Crayfish Plague, a fungal disease that has killed off 95% of the native White Clawed Crayfish.

Crayfish Plague is easily spread by water, fish or equipment that has been in contact with an infected crayfish. In Northern Ireland, where there are no crayfish farms, the crayfish plague is unknown. Native crayfish are also at a disadvantage compared to the Red Signal Crayfish which is larger, breeds faster and eats the native crayfish.

The native White Clawed Crayfish is now classed as 'vulnerable to extinction' and Natural England with the Environment Agency are attempting to conserve our remaining stocks by captive breeding and re-releasing in the Yorkshire Dales.

Captive breeding helps to increase the number of crayfish that survive to maturity. Like all animals with bones on the outside, crayfish have to shed their hard carapace frequently so that they can grow.

This process of moulting leaves them soft and vulnerable to predators until the new, larger carapace hardens. Crayfish moult frequently until they are fully grown at 3 - 4 years of age; after that, once a year moults are enough to keep their armour in good condition.

Environmental commentator George Monbiot will only eat fish he has caught himself and maintains that catching and eating Red Signal Crayfish will help conserve native crayfish and is therefore good for the environment. In his step by step method published in 2009, he starts by obtaining a licence and an old bicycle wheel to make a trap and goes on to cook and eat a crayfish paella. Just Google 'George Monbiot' and 'crayfish' and you're away. Alternatively, a supermarket not far from here sells crayfish tails so consider trying them first to see if they're worth all the trouble. The Environment Agency will issue you with a free licence to catch crayfish provided there are no native crayfish left in the area where you plan to fish. There are fines if you are caught crayfishing without a licence!

The monster in the photo was taken from the River Colne in London Colney by Ken Peak and staff of the Environment Agency who were moving stranded fish into deeper water last autumn. It's the red undersides of the claws which can't be seen in the picture that give the Red Signal Crayfish its name. Apparently the claws are also very sharp and quite powerful enough to nip right through the fleshy part of your fingers. You should hold a crayfish firmly by the thorax (the solid part of the body) not by the tail. The tail is flexible so the crayfish could whip round and nip you. That's the theory anyway. Happy crayfishing!

# On a Wing and a Prayer

Goronwy Parry (Reprinted with the permission of the author from the Parish Magazine of Valley, Anglesey, Spring 2011)

Generally January has been a calm month, little wind but days of fog or mist and dampness. Bearing in mind the low temperatures and the penetrating cold due to the dampness we have been dependent on electricity to provide heat as a back-up for the central heating. It has been significant that the wind turbines have scarcely turned during this period.

The birds have been busy at the feeding stations and have had to be topped up during the day. They seem to feed in waves, arriving in numbers and challenging one another for prime spots on the fat balls, peanuts and seeds. Ground feeders have enjoyed a mix of ground corn and hulled sunflower seeds.

Among the variety of birds that feed here, the dunnock, (hedge sparrow) is one of interest. It feeds off the ground and moves around like a small mouse, making occasional nervous movements of its wings. It is generally shy, unlike the house sparrows. It may be that the very cold weather has made them less shy as I have a small number that watch me from the hedge as I scatter seed and meal on the ground each morning. They have been moving to the feed even as I stand there! I am pleased that the robins have returned and they are quite bold in moving to food that they enjoy.

Last week there was a sudden call in the yard and when I looked up from my desk I looked straight into the eyes of a kestrel that had a starling in its iron grasp. I must have startled it and it lost its grip on the starling which flew away rapidly. That was a very lucky escape. In December a kestrel caught a pigeon here and there was quite a struggle and a fluttering of feathers before the pigeon managed to escape. The predators must be hungry and so they are visiting areas where birds congregate to feed.

As Jenny and I set out on our morning walk this week I noticed fox pad marks on the wooden walk ways along part of the coastal footpath. I followed the trail which took me quite a distance towards Trwyn Cwta, the bungalow at the edge of the Inland Sea, near the warren (Ynys Leurad). On my circular walk I have come across the carcasses of plovers which have been killed and eaten by foxes or the hawks. All that is left are the wings and some bones. The foxes hunt at night and catch



*Imagine this was one of your local walks. Just 2 miles from the A55 North Wales Expressway and 4 miles to the busy port of Holyhead. No need to worry about the nearby nuclear power station and aluminium smelter as they've now closed. Never far from the sea with only the sound of seabirds and wind to disturb you as you walk, Without the blistering roar of fighter aircraft taking off from RAF Valley you'd think you were in the country!*

unsuspecting birds resting on the edges of the salt marsh.

The fog that we have experienced on a number of days and nights lately are unusual for this part of the U.K. RAF Valley was regarded as a fog-free airport for diversionary purposes many years ago, and, as far as I know must still be in that category. I know that technology has developed a great deal since the war-time years, but it must be reassuring to be able to see where you are going to land! Walking in fog can be a strange adventure even on a road or lane that you know well. I used to walk to grandmother's house of an evening in the autumn or winter. A fog would have developed and be quite thick when I came out to walk home. Fog blankets sounds, but some loud sounds can be disturbing, and hunched tree outlines appear as strangers! In the distance the fog horn from the North Stack would moan in the dark. The Reverend Thomas W. Jones, Rector of this Parish in the 40's and 50's, would cycle from the Rectory at Llanfachraeth to visit parishioners

throughout the parish. One autumn night he had visited a family in Valley. As he left the house he emerged into a foggy night. He set off using the kind of radar we country folk develop from using familiar roads. As he approached the cross roads at Llanyghenedl, a white form emerged, drifting across the road. It moved on a gust of wind towards him. He cycled faster, but the white form seemed to be chasing him. The faster he pedalled the quicker the form followed him. It continued to the Rectory. He headed for the garage and pushed his bike inside, and in his haste to emerge, trod on a rake which struck him a sharp blow on the head. He was much shaken by the experience when he walked hastily into the house. The next morning he went out to the garage to fetch his bicycle, he noticed a sizeable sheet of white paper, rather tattered and torn, stuck to the rear wheel! Of course, he would have learned in a practical way to put rakes against a wall or at least tines downward! He was a well-loved and respected Rector, who served as an Army Chaplain. In his early years he had been a motor cycle enthusiast taking part in rallies on a number of occasions. He was also a keen fisherman. I have reason to be grateful to him for his kindness. When I was seriously ill he fished in the Alaw and caught two trout which he brought for my mother to cook for me.

Last summer someone lost their kite in a strong wind. It was caught on the trees on the far side of the garden with the string caught on pine trees on the other side. The kite string was too high to reach so it remained there until something unusual happened. Some three weeks ago as I was going to feed the birds I saw a herring gull suspended by one wing tip struggling to free itself from the kite string. I put a glove on one hand, fortunately, because the seagull clenched its beak firmly on my hand! Ruth was summoned to fetch scissors and together, Ruth snipping away at the tip feathers, myself holding the bird we freed it. The string had been twisted and wound around the feathers. Once released, the seagull trotted away up the lawn and to a corner of the garden slightly trailing a wing. Some days later standing above the bird table I spotted a herring gull — it was the injured one with its wing slightly lifted from its body. Perhaps it had come to say thanks!

# Every Picture Tells a Story

Ken Peak, London Colney History Society

With the ready availability of digital cameras at modest prices and low image costs, more people are recording snaps of their daily lives which will be seen by posterity along with the usual holiday scenes of faraway places. Now we can afford to take more shots at an event, because it is easy to delete the worst and keep the best to email to friends, or even to create a computer file as a record of family life.

Of course, we often have an album of old pictures in the attic, memories of long ago with aged relatives in ancient settings, portraits of those now gone. On rare occasions these old prints are retrieved and shown to younger people who often express surprise or amusement at the 'old folk' and their curious offspring or friends in their formative years. It would be a pity to lose track of events that have marked our personal lives: especially as a corporate store could prove to be so interesting to those who record and review our local history. Naturally, most of these private images have no value to others, but we may have snapped a moment in time of some significance, perhaps by chance or by intention. These are useful nuggets of information; and we are keen to find anyone who will share them with London Colney Local History Society, which covers our local village life.

In fact, modern devices enable us to take reasonable shots with mobile phones or neat little cameras, wherever we are, so we tend to fire away at every opportunity - even to submit a fascinating picture for publication by email or on Facebook. The only problem now is that some people may object to appearing 'on film' inadvertently, for reasons of guilt, shame or even neurotic fear. These days we need to ask to take human pictures, it seems, as sad paranoia inhibits honest activities like photo-journalism. We risk censure if we capture innocent scenes from afar: a view of a sunset may disturb someone; an autumn vista may include distant golfers; visions of an old building may show a



random face at a window. All these could be a cause for complaint as lawyers seek new friends for their cases. Of course, if an intrusive picture is used for gain, it is understandable that protest will follow. But what if the age of the shot shows it was of a time when it was not deemed

to be so offensive as present sensitivities now suggest? Have we lost our sense of perspective, when the ability to record real history as it occurs has increased? Is Google Earth really such a menace to society?

Judge for yourself how times have changed: join the Local History Society of London Colney, and explore the world of yesterday through our area archives. See the village as it was before Big Brother arrived here to control what we say or do. Who dares to say "History is Bunk!" when it is so relevant as evidence of the changes that affected us all, for better or for worse... Ask to see a copy of the village video at the Library and decide if we have lost too much freedom since 1995. It should not matter what will happen next, if we accept political impositions which test our former community spirit.

There is much to learn from those old pictures, compared to those of today. They could be part of our heritage, not just a hoard of pictures stuffed into a drawer.

Please tell us if you think you have something of local interest such as this shot of our very own accident blackspot on the North Orbital or the Lone Fisherman in the nearly dry River Colne taken in the Autumn of 2011.

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# Where Did The Water Go?

Debbie Loftus - Veolia Water

Veolia Water has been supplying water to the local community for more than 130 years. We provide around 825 million litres of water each day to 3.2 million customers, in parts of Bedfordshire, Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Surrey, the London Boroughs of Harrow and Hillingdon and parts of the London Boroughs of Barnet, Brent, Ealing, and Enfield.

We are committed to producing a reliable, safe supply of high quality drinking water to customers; and to ensuring a sufficient and continued supply of water both now and in the future.

Your water comes from the local environment, either surface water from rivers or stored groundwater within the aquifer (a type of natural underground reservoir). This is then abstracted, treated and supplied as drinking water to our customers. We regularly monitor the impact our abstractions might have on river flows and groundwater levels as well as local wildlife across our supply area.

The south east of England has a higher demand for water than other parts of the country but it also gets less rain. We are reliant on winter rainfall to recharge the aquifer underground, which not only provides a good source of drinking water; it also helps to maintain river flows in local chalk streams. We are currently investigating the issue of low flows in the Upper River Colne as part of our business plan. The investigation also focuses on the river ecology and the effect of manmade modifications of the river course. The purpose is to identify options for restoring the river to Good Ecological Status, as required by the Water Framework Directive.

As your drinking water provider we have a duty to plan for drought situations. Every three years we update our Drought Management Plan which looks at the likely prospects of a drought occurring. It details the actions we will take to manage the situation to ensure all customers have sufficient water during times of drought. We work with other water companies in the south east, as well as the Environment Agency to move water around the region where possible, to maintain your supply. In the longer term all water companies have 25-year water resources strategies



*The Parish Groundsmen, advised by the Environment Agency, took the opportunity while the river was dry to deepen the channel and remove rubbish and an overgrowth of vegetation. The low water level has also caused gravel to be scoured away from the feet of the bridge. The Bridges and Structures Team at Herts County Council say that this material will return with greater flow in the river and they have no major concerns regarding the site.*

in place to prepare for climate change, house building and increases in customer demand.

Due to the dry 2010/11 winter period, our water resources position is currently lower than we would usually expect for this time of year. Most of our water is taken from the underground aquifer, which relies on replenishment from winter rainfall. The dry weather has caused a significant delay in the start to the recharge period, resulting in groundwater levels and river flows declining to below normal. We need very wet weather for the rest of the winter to allow the situation to recover to normal levels by next spring. In light of the risk of drought in 2012 we are carefully monitoring the situation and our revising our Drought Management Plan.

The pollution of local waterways has a significant impact on local water quality. We monitor the water quality in rivers and groundwater, and we have invested in the removal of pollutants to ensure a safe, high quality supply of drinking water.

Alister Leggatt and Debbie Loftus, Catchment Officers at Veolia Water, are keen to work with local communities to protect precious water resources and raise awareness of the impacts of diffuse pollution by:

- Promoting good practice in the safe use, storage and disposal of potential pollutants



Alister Leggatt and Debbie Loftus, Catchment Officers at Veolia Water, sampling water quality in the R Colne

- Help our customers and local business to understand the impact their activities can have on local water quality and the environment
- Encourage local communities to be proactive in protecting our rivers, keeping them clear of debris and reporting any pollution incidents to the Environment Agency.



## Water efficiency

We actively encourage our customers to be more water efficient in the home and garden. Here are some simple tips to help reduce your water usage:

### Home

- Turn the tap off whilst cleaning your teeth or washing dishes
- Fix all leaks no matter how insignificant they may appear
- Use spray tap fittings on your taps to reduce the volume of water used
- Have a shower instead of a bath
- Install a dual flush or low flow toilet to reduce water use by 20% or install a 'Hippo' or 'Water saver' in your existing toilet

### Garden

- Choose plants that thrive in dry conditions such as lavender, marigolds or cornflowers and other flowering shrubs such herbs.
- Collect rainwater in a water butt and use a watering can instead of a hose in the garden
- Water your plants in the morning or evening to minimise evaporation

- Move containers, hanging baskets and pots into shady areas where possible

For more water saving ideas in the home and garden, and for a selection of free or discounted water saving products, visit: [www.veoliawater.co.uk/savewater](http://www.veoliawater.co.uk/savewater) or to speak to a company representative contact us on 08457823333

### Debbie Loftus also answered a couple of questions which arose from her article and from Ken Peak's conversation with Veolia and the Environment Agency.

**The other Rivers in the area such as the Ver were flowing while the Colne was dry. Why was that?**

*The Ashwell Springs, River Hiz/Oughton, River Cam and River Ver have river support systems where we pump raw groundwater into these watercourses to maintain river flow for a specific licence requirement. As you can see we have none specifically for the R. Colne. The other rivers were highlighted by the Environment Agency as being at risk to low flows through drinking water abstraction. As a result this was a*

*specific requirement of our abstraction licence agreement for these rivers. This is not standard procedure and very rare.*

*As a water company we do not directly abstract from the River Colne itself however we do have groundwater abstractions in and around this water body. As stated in our article previously we are currently investigating the issue of low flows in the Upper River Colne as part of our business plan. The investigation also focuses on the river ecology and the effect of manmade modifications of the river course. The purpose is to identify options for restoring the river to Good Ecological Status, as required by the Government's Water Framework Directive.*

**Would it be possible to top up the R. Colne from a reservoir; perhaps the one at Aldenham?**

*We do have 2 reservoirs at Aldenham, however neither of these are for the purpose of river support. One reservoir is now a nature reserve/sailing lake and the other we use as an emergency supply for one of the major groundwater treatment works which supplies 1/4 million people with drinking water.*

# Waterwise

## Ken Peak

During my recent meetings with Environment Agency and Veolia staff at the Hatfield offices, I have been urged to contact the HO of DEFRA in London to express my concern for the fate of our iconic River Colne. Although the present emphasis seems to be on drought conditions, there is also alarm on local pollution and flood risks at different seasons. We are aware of the variations in weather patterns, possibly long-term, which may be beyond human control or reasonable expense to manage: but if we ask certain questions we find that we could improve matters here, given the chance and opportunity - even as amateur environmentalists!

Last Autumn, the River Colne ceased to flow through this valley south of St Albans in Hertfordshire, and the bed was exposed and dry across our popular village Green, causing considerable public comment, as this has never happened before. We decided to take advantage of the low water in local lakes to photograph the conditions, and to remove as much litter as possible while still visible and

accessible. The Parish Council assisted in this massive task, and the EA Fisheries officers came to save stranded fish, and other creatures lurking in the mud!

So far so good: we now had a clear section, except for encroaching vegetation along the watercourse. There seems to be some dispute between various 'riparian owners' and the official policy of non-disturbance which delays or frustrates local effort to clear debris, fallen trees, and trailing branches which can contribute to flooding at a later date.

A more flexible approach by the EA would be useful where those who try to improve the flow or appearance are often advised to 'obtain permission' which may not arrive in time to enable urgent action. As it is, since NRA work was contracted out, the quality of service cannot match what we once had using volunteers, because of budget cuts and so on!

Experts are expensive, but not good value if resources are scarce, and they cannot cope with sudden changes in weather or variations in demand for water.

Could our humble observations (and conclusions) possibly be of value these days?

In practical terms, our knowledge of drainage problems, pollution points or water wastage could be historically relevant to the narrative or any debate on future trends. Is the fact that deep quarries for gravel extraction have disturbed the aquifers and altered the water-table level a primary factor? Has power-farming compacted fields and ripped out too many hedges or trees? Do modern herbicides cause more pollution than hydrocarbons or diesel oil? Are modern sewers better than former sewage works returning water locally? How many extra houses or industries can be sustained in overpopulated zones? Can we learn to use fresh water more wisely, or to re-utilise some of it?

Who decides on responsibilities for necessary actions, and who coordinates it all?

What changes are afoot, and will they bring better efficiency?

# Postnatal Support

## Herts Postnatal Illness Support

Hertfordshire Postnatal Illness Support has presented Thumbswood Mother and Baby Unit at the QEII Hospital with their first ever laptops. Mums in the unit suffering with postnatal illness find it hard not being able to speak to and see their older children on a daily basis. The innovative idea of bringing a Skype facility to Thumbswood came from Sally Tyers who is a trustee and group facilitator for the charity. Now that Hertfordshire Partnership Trust has given the go ahead, Hertfordshire Postnatal Illness Support will roll out the scheme nationwide to ensure all mother and baby units can have laptops and Skype facilities for their mothers.

Sally explained, 'Mums miss being able to read bed time stories to their older children or say good night to them and their family. The laptops will enable families to be in closer contact when sometimes geographically it may be difficult for them to regularly visit.'

Thumbswood is a six bedded specialist service, specifically designed for mums to remain with their babies during their recovery from postnatal illness. It has a beautifully equipped nursery and provides a homely atmosphere for the mums and babies. It also offers supportive therapies, social events and a dad's support group. The unit works proactively with the charity Hertfordshire Postnatal Illness Support who run a monthly group there for the mums to help provide them with



support, information and advice during their recovery. The group also helps mums with their transition back home as they can access the monthly community group and telephone support service if they choose.

Ward Manager, Elizabeth Evans said of the charity 'The women who come to see us from Herts Postnatal Illness Support give our ill mums hope for their recovery and for their future, as they know they can use the charity's services for as long as they wish.'

The ethos of both the charity and Thumbswood is that Hertfordshire

women deserve Hertfordshire services.

The charity is aware that the future of this vital, local service is in jeopardy. They hope sincerely that mums and their babies will not be separated during their psychiatric treatment as research shows the bonding process can be severely disrupted.

Charlotte Wilmer-Barbrook Chair of the charity said, 'Without the specialist support of Thumbswood when I had postnatal illness, I would not have survived to be here today or have been able to create our charity which helps families across Hertfordshire. Thumbswood must not be allowed to close.'

## Macmillan - Future Events

Avril Foster

**WE ARE  
MACMILLAN.  
CANCER SUPPORT**

Saturday 10 March

Fundraising quiz night in St Stephen's Church Hall, Watling Street, St Albans. Prompt start @ 7 30pm. Tickets £12 to include a fish and chip supper. Tables of 6 or 8. Bring your own drinks. Carparking available. Raffle.

Thursday 17 May

Charity evening for Macmillan Cancer Support & Help for Heroes at the Abbey Theatre, Holywell Hill, St Albans to see "Dead Guilty" a black comedy. Welcome drink @ 7 30pm; performance 8pm. Tickets @ £12. Very good raffle prizes.

Saturday 7 July

Jazz evening and supper at Greenwood Park Community Centre, Tippendell Lane, Chiswell Green. Come and enjoy the music of our local BVS Band. Details to be confirmed.

All our fundraising is to help the many people who are diagnosed and living with cancer. There are over 2 million of us with cancer and 822 new cases are being diagnosed daily within the United Kingdom. So your support is greatly appreciated and very much needed. THANK YOU.

Further enquiries: Avril Foster: 01727 862079; Email: [avril.foster@ntlworld.com](mailto:avril.foster@ntlworld.com)

# St Peter's Church

Rev'd. Lynne Fawns

Easter is a wonderful time of year! As we celebrate the joy of God's love for us it seems that nature itself joins with us in praise as all the beauty of spring bursts forth into wonderful new life.

The link between the new life of Easter and spring is one that is often made by churches. It's a helpful reminder each year of how Jesus death on the cross (winter) is miraculously transformed into new life (spring). This new life is one we are all invited to share in. I'm sure we all agree it's a great picture, but for it to mean anything to us it first has to mean something for us personally, as individuals, and that requires a step of faith.

Faith is a strange thing, if you have it you can't imagine living without it, if you don't have it, it seems like nonsense. The Bible says faith is being sure of what we hope

for and certain of what we do not see.

Reason goes a long way in helping to discover faith and is vital in the process but there comes a point when you just need to step out and trust.

We all need to grow in faith and so can I urge you this Eastertide to do just that ... step out and discover (or rediscover) a new and wonderful faith in Jesus. What have you got to lose?

A good first step might be to come along to church for one of our services, you will be made very welcome ....or ring the vicarage and make an appointment for me to come and see you and talk about what a new life, new faith might mean for you.

Go on, step out, start a new life today!

## Easter Services

### April 6th Good Friday

**Service in High Street 10am**

**Family Service 12noon**

**Communion Service 1pm**

### April 7th Saturday

**Communion Service followed by celebration cake & drink 11.30pm**

### Easter Sunday

**Holy Communion 8am**

**Holy Communion followed by refreshments 10am**

# You Don't Have To Be A Farmer!

Kate Thirgood, Herts Young Farmers



Hertfordshire Young Farmers has 7 clubs around the county for 10-26 year olds and despite our name you don't have to be a farmer! If there is something that everyone who has ever been a Young Farmer will tell you - its how much YFC has done for them. Whether it's new experiences, skills, confidence or friends - everyone who enjoys the outdoors has something to gain.

If you fancy trying something different, be it, scuba diving, skiing or visiting places not usually open to the public, we have a go at anything. Maybe you would just like to drive a tractor or even show off the skills you already have?

There is something for everyone in young farmers, if you want to have fun, make new friends, or just enjoy parties and BBQs we are looking for you. YFC also gives you the opportunity to travel abroad to places such as Switzerland, America, Canada, Australia, Kenya, New Zealand the list is endless. Members have access to subsidised training courses, competitions, fundraising opportunities and even our



*Part of an assault course at our annual rally day last year which is usually held in Sandridge, St Albans sometime in May and is open to the public, our members from all over the county compete in various fun events.*

infamous party weekend with around 5000 national members.

Our younger members meet separately and enjoy craft evenings, outdoor visits and activities, camping, informative talks, various sports as well as competing against (and usually beating) our older members at our yearly rally day. Most of our clubs have weekly meetings which are

run by our members, meaning you get to do the things you want to do.

If you'd like more information please contact the county office on 01920 823525 or 07825 525573. Alternatively you can email us at [hertsyfc@btinternet.com](mailto:hertsyfc@btinternet.com) or check out our website [www.hertsyfc.com](http://www.hertsyfc.com)

# Baptist Church

Adrian Wood



This last Saturday was a special day in the life of London Colney Baptist Church. Some of the residents in Kings Road may have caught a glimpse of something unusual, but very lovely. Dressed in white the bride looked stunning as she walked down the road accompanied by her son who was riding the magnificent Snowy the Pony. It has only been 4 months since I arrived here in the village and I am guessing that this sort of thing isn't a common occurrence.

The bride arrived at the church on time and it was completely full with family and friends, some who had travelled quite

a distance to celebrate with the Bride and Groom. As with all other weddings, this day was special. Some weddings are big glamorous occasions, others small and intimate but all mark a time in a couple's life that is to be remembered and cherished.

The day itself was fantastic and the party continued late into the night. Our church does not often have the opportunity to host a wedding and so we very much enjoyed sharing this day with the newly weds.

As I am writing this I am also thinking about this coming weekend where we will be baptising a husband and wife from our church family. They have both made the choice to follow Jesus and want to be baptised. They will each have an opportunity to speak briefly about how they came to faith, their stories just as important as anyone else in the congregation. This weekend will be as special to the whole church as the last.

My observation of the community of believers here at LCBC is that they are good at celebrating. We are a small church, but so many are happy to help out and get on with all the small jobs that are required in order to make these days go well.

During the last year various individuals in the church have also gone through difficult times and have been shown love and support to help them in the situations they have faced.


We would like to think we are a church for all seasons. We have fun and laugh together but also stand with each other when someone is struggling.

Whatever season you are in at the time of reading this, whether you have something to celebrate or perhaps you could do with someone to talk to in a time of difficulty, we offer you a warm welcome and would love to see you. Maybe even at one of our Sunday Services!

Sunday Services every week at 10.30am

[www.londoncolneybaptistchurch.co.uk](http://www.londoncolneybaptistchurch.co.uk)

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# Reading Frenzy at London Colney Primary

Lisa Valla

Pupils at London Colney Primary School have been in a reading frenzy this term. All classes have chosen one of their favourite books to be the main stimulus for their learning.

As part of their reading project, Reception Class have chosen 'The hungry caterpillar'. Favourite lessons have included making up rhymes about themselves, using objects that may give them tummy ache, just like the hungry caterpillar. They have also been using the book to develop their maths skills, by making symmetrical butterfly paintings.

Year 2 have been using the book, 'Where the wild things are' in all sorts of ways in their curriculum. They have a jungle to play in that helps them with ideas for writing. Year 2 particularly enjoyed making wild thing puppets.

Years 3 and 4 have been studying books by Roald Dahl and as part of this topic they will be visiting the Roald Dahl Museum. Year 3 have been reading 'The enormous crocodile,' and Miss Roos, their teacher, says that her children particularly enjoyed performing the song 'Never smile at a crocodile' to their parents, during their class assembly.

The project was initiated by the school Council, who reported that the children were bored with the books in the school's library. The school pulled together to raise money for new books in the Autumn Term. The money was mainly collected from the Christmas Fair and also kindly donated by the Parish Council, after we helped to collect money for local charities at the Village Fireworks event in November.

The school managed to raise just under £1,000 for new books! This gave us enough money to give each class £100 to choose some new books. The children have had a ball choosing these new additions to the class libraries and have made some excellent choices, from 'Horrid Henry' to 'Harry Potter'.



*It's all smiles, even at the crocodile, during London Colney Primary's Reading Frenzy. Relaxing and learning with a good book will be even more fun with £1,000 worth of extra books throughout the school*

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# St Albans Health Walks

Michelle Roberts



### Get more active the easy way. Join the St Albans Health Walks.

Enjoy the countryside on your doorstep with these popular short, sociable walks. Led by trained volunteers the walks take place whatever the weather, cater to all ages and abilities and are a really easy way to get more active, feel fitter and improve general wellbeing. Best of all they are completely free!

Join us:

Sunday 18th March at 10.30am at Bricket Wood. Meet at Moor Mill pub car park off Smug Oak Lane, Bricket Wood, AL2 3TX

Saturday 25th February & 31st March at 2pm at Verulamium Park. Meet outside Westminster Lodge Leisure Centre on Holywell Hill, St Albans, AL1 2DJ

Wednesday 4th, 11th, 18th & 25th April at 7pm at Verulamium Park. Meet outside Westminster Lodge Leisure Centre on Holywell Hill, St Albans, AL1 2DJ

Fridays at 2pm at Greenwood Park. Meet outside the community centre, Tippendell Lane, Chiswell Green, AL2 3HW

Mondays at 9.30am & Tuesdays at 1.30pm at Highfield Park. Meet at Charters Health Club car park, Hill End Lane, opposite Spar, St Albans, AL4 0DB

For more information visit [www.hertslink.org/cms/healthwalks](http://www.hertslink.org/cms/healthwalks) email [healthwalks.cms@hertsc.gov.uk](mailto:healthwalks.cms@hertsc.gov.uk) or call The Countryside Management Service on 01462 459395.

## St Albans Irish Club

Cotlandswick Sports Grounds, A414 London Colney



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# Visit a Superhome

Gordon Glass, Superhomes



SuperHome Open Days set to inspire your eco makeover

Interested in making your home one of the most environmentally friendly in your area? This is your chance to talk to someone who has already done it!

Pioneering owners of some of the UK's most energy efficient SuperHomes will be hosting free open days between Saturday 17th March and Sunday 25th March 2012.

SuperHomes are older homes that have been refurbished to the highest standards of energy efficiency – resulting in greater comfort, significantly lower running costs and a reduction in carbon emissions of at least 60%.

SuperHomes showcase a range of home improvements likely to become popular following the launch of the Green Deal in October 2012. The majority of SuperHomes are super-insulated so visitors with draughty old solid wall properties will discover some clever ways to make their home more comfortable in winter. In many cases renewable energy heats water, provides electricity or contributes to space heating.

Attending an open day provides the opportunity to speak to a homeowner who has already done the thinking and undertaken and lived with some major improvements. Who could be better qualified to help you make the right choices?

The SuperHomes website makes it easy to find properties with features you may have on your wish list. SuperHomes open to the public in March, September and at other times by appointment. For more information, or to book to attend an open day, visit [www.superhomes.org.uk](http://www.superhomes.org.uk)

Would you like to know more about the village in which you live?



Then why not become a member of **The London Colney History Society?**

**Annual Exhibition & Quiz Nights  
Social Evenings**

**For more information contact  
Heather Todd (Membership Secretary) on  
01727 826374**



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Linda Bainbridge



The London Colney Women's Institute meet monthly on a Tuesday evening in the Baptist Church Hall, Kings Road.

This lively group welcomes new members to its meetings. Speakers and competitions are the order of the day. Join them! You'll never look back!

## Programme of meetings March - July 2012

- 13 March 2012 Graphology K Erickson  
Competition Make an Easter Card
- 10 April 2012 Grandma's London John Neal  
Competition Best Piece of Advice Your Grandmother Gave You
- 8 May 2012 Resolutions and Books to Cherish S Skinner  
Competition Design a Book Cover
- 12 June 2012 The Story of Grasse - Centre of the Perfume Industry Mark Davis  
Competition Pretty Perfume Bottle
- 10 July 2012 A Taste of Beryl (Beryl Cook, Artist) Jean Dennis  
Competition A Flower Picture by You



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