

Parish Council Report

Chris Flynn

Over the past year the parish staff have maintained the land owned or run by the Parish Council. This includes the village greens, play grounds the lakes and river the paddling pool, football pitches and our buildings.

Thanks

This year saw John Copley our head grounds man retired and a new Head Groundsman appointed, Leigh Casling. Leigh who formerly was with John O'Connors has a huge amount of experience and has already proved a great asset to our team with no job being a problem. A big thanks also to our other grounds staff Mick and Steve for their hard work throughout the year.

Also on behalf of the Parish Council I'd like to thank Linda and Gill who provide the admin that supports the work of the Council and who run around doing many jobs beyond the call of duty.

Environmental action

Councillor Ken Bowes has chaired a group of local residents and councillors to prepare and publish a Parish Environmental Action Plan (PEAP). This is an excellent, informative document and action has happened with the clearing of the pond down by the Colney Fox. Thanks to all involved.

Caledon Club

This year the Parish Council took



Swan and cygnets on the River Colne at London Colney in May, photo by Ian Hider.

over the running of the Caledon Club after the Club lost their licence when the police took a review of the licence to the District Council. We have also moved our Parish offices there. Can I take this opportunity to thank Nobby the caretaker at the Caledon Centre for his reliability and co-operation.

The club had been shut until the beginning of December when we reopened with a new licence and myself as the DPS. The club is now open 3 nights a week and I open it on a voluntary basis Sunday lunch times and some weekends. From next season we have the men's darts team back and hopefully the ladies, there is also a pool team coming to the club on a Tuesday night and a new football team called the Caledon Club has asked to play for the Centre on a Sunday.

Work has been carried out on the centre including a new kitchen; new offices for the Parish Council and other works are planned for the future including new toilets.

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1 >> Meals on Wheels

A very successful lunch club was started mid March, with over 50 attending one week. A big thanks to all who have helped with this on a voluntary basis. From the 5th of May, London Colney meals on wheels will be provided from the centre, replacing the airline type meals, which the County Council were providing.

Napsbury

Napsbury drags on, the conditions being placed on the usage of the facility are unworkable. The Parish Council is not willing to take over the facilities until the snagging, which

was to be done last year gets done and the conditions of use changed. If we had been consulted in the first instance we would not be in this situation and would probably have had the facilities up and running.

Events

The council is organising a summer Ball, with Elvis flying in to take centre stage. This will be on the 20th of June. Money raised will go towards modernising the centre. It is hoped that more fund raising events can be organised, hopefully monthly, but we'll see!

A tea dance was organised at the

Centre by the District Council, further dances are planned for May and June and will be funded by both Councils. The Events Working Party supported by Projects Manager, Linda organised the Firework Display, a Halloween activities event for children, the Christmas Ball, Carol singing, larks in the parks, annual litter pick and the St. Albans Day Walk

Exciting times for London Colney with the Parish Council determined to make this the place to live! Thank you to all the residents of London Colney who help to make this a reality with their support for our efforts.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

The Parish Council's Events Working Group are busy all year round organising a variety of events for all age groups in London Colney. Dates for your diary over the summer months are:

Saturday 20th June Cabaret/disco and buffet starring 'Elvis Presley' at The Caledon Community Centre
 Monday 22nd June St. Albans Walk Children from local schools have been involved in the design of a banner honouring St. Alban and the City named after him. Come and find out about his connections to London Colney on our annual walk starting out from the Green Dragon at 7 p.m. and walking via the lakes to Chantry Island finishing at the Caledon Centre for light refreshments.
 Sunday 28th June Larks in the Park – Family Fun Day at Morris Way. Stalls, amusements, entertainers. Come along between 12-5 p.m.

All events will be publicised through the Parish Council. For further details ring the Parish Office on 821314.



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Nature Watch

Robin Cooper

Many of you have travelled on coastal steamers, and watched the gulls as they swoop around the boat. Flying, further away and often on a parallel track you see small dark grey birds, with bullet shaped bodies, and fast



flapping wings. What you are seeing are guillemots.

Guillemots spend most of their lives far out at sea, often in rafts with hundreds of other guillemots, diving now and then for fish.

Guillemots keep well away from people - you'll never see them in town! They only come to land to breed. They seek sea stacks, or small steep

islands, where they are safe from meat eating mammals. They lay a single green egg on a narrow ledge, shared with other guillemots. The egg is pear shaped, so that it rolls in a small circle, and is less likely to fall over the edge.

Even on their remote resting sites guillemots have enemies. Ideally one parent remains at the nest to guard the egg or chick, while the other looks for fish, but because of falling fish stock, often both parents have to leave the chick to seek food. And that is when gulls and fulmars take chicks.



Because of their vulnerability, baby guillemots leave their nests before they are able to fly. They leap from their ledge, with wings flapping, and legs spread wide - to land in the water

and join the thousands of other baby guillemots and their parents as they swim to the nearest fishing ground.

...behaviour changed

Recently, ornithologists have noted a change in guillemot behaviour. Once, when a baby guillemot was alone, neighbouring birds would succour it. Nowadays the neighbours are more likely to kill the lone chick, and either eat it, or push its body off the ledge. Scientists ask - is this a response to falling fish stock, or the adult birds seeing other chicks as competitors with their own chicks?

Guillemots resemble penguins but are rather smaller. They have dark grey heads and backs, and their under body parts are white, which makes it harder for fish to see them. Guillemots have large legs, which help them swim fast.

...not related to penguins

Guillemots and penguins are not related. Penguins are birds of the southern hemisphere. The most northerly penguin colonies are in the Galapagos Islands. The similarity of penguins and guillemots is due to divergent evolution - where animals with similar lifestyles develop similar appearances.

Guillemots are members of the auk family. The most famous member of the auk family is the puffin. All auks are under threat. Global warming means the fish they pursue are moving northwards, and auks are having to seek new nesting sites, which are not necessarily available.

...over fishing threat

Again, over fishing is reducing fish stocks. Already one member of the auk family, the flightless Great Auk has become extinct through hunting. It would be a shame if other members of the auk family were to succumb through man's activity - but it is a possibility.

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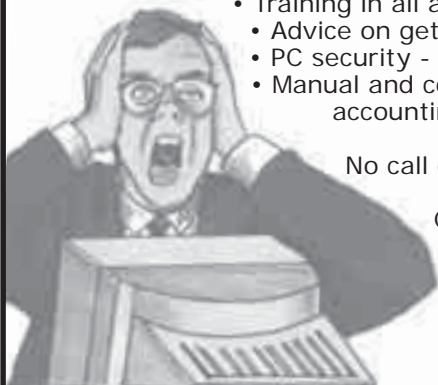
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Call me, without obligation, to discuss how I may be of help.

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



Womens Institute

Sue Oakley



The London Colney WI meets each month in the Baptist Church Hall in Kings Road. They are always glad to welcome new members and have an interesting and varied programme of events.

14th July Earlies, Lates and Nights
Speaker: Keith Baldwin

8th September Modelling Feet First
Speaker : Julia Hunt

13th October Seduced by Tulips
Speaker: Isobel Leek

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Calling all Clubs

Maria Aguado

Local people are longing to know about your sports and social activities. Use this magazine to promote your club.

Tell everyone what you've been doing. Tell them when you meet and how to join, what you've won, lost and drawn. Add a good quality photo of your members having a great time.

New members will flock to join - yes really they will!

NCT Support

Wendy Powell



Do you have children or babies under 5? Did you know that the NCT (National Childbirth Trust) in St Albans is one of the largest branches in the country with over 1,000 members?

Coffee Mornings

The NCT provides support through pregnancy, childbirth and early parenthood (up to age 5). Throughout St Albans we have 14 individual areas and run local coffee mornings – including informal groups in London Colney, Napsbury Park and Highfield – where everyone is welcome, members and non-members alike.

Now the summer is approaching we are also getting groups together to take advantage of the longer evenings and walk with bumps and babies. If you're interested in coffee mornings in the London Colney / Napsbury area, please contact me wendy.powell@gmail.com

Bumps and Babies

There is a bumps and babies group on Friday afternoons at the Children's Centre on Church Crescent (from birth to around 12 months), and we also run Speed bumps and a variety of social evenings. Our main fundraising events are our two Nearly New Sales (the next one is on 27th Sept 2009), where you can furnish a nursery, clothe your babies and children and stock up on toys, all at credit-crunch busting prices! Profit goes to the NCT towards funding ante and post natal teaching, as well as breastfeeding counselling.

Courses, events and more...

Other events include a First Mother's Day celebration, Cheeky Monkeys Tea Parties, a Strawberry Tea and seasonal events which are open to both members and nonmembers. Our antenatal and postnatal Early Days courses continue to be fully booked despite the credit-crunch which shows that the services we offer are depended on by many new parents. One of our most popular groups at

the moment is our yahoo e-group at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/nctstalbans/>. You can post comments and ask questions about anything – pregnancy, childbirth, bringing up children, child-friendly pubs, holidays etc, and it provides valuable social support as well.

Every year the NCT...

- Provides antenatal classes for 65,000 expectant parents
- Provides Early Days courses (postnatal) and drop-ins to 3,500 parents
- Answers 80,000 telephone enquiries including 54,000 to the breastfeeding line
- Reaches up to 1.5 million pregnant women with bumps & babies magazine
- Provides breastfeeding advice to over 64,000 parents in their local area
- Links up more than 1,000 parents with special experiences
- Relies on the help of over 4,600 volunteers
- Supports 4,000 health professionals

National action...

On a national level, the NCT aims to offer information and support in pregnancy, childbirth and early parenthood. The NCT campaigns to improve maternity care and ensure better services and facilities for new parents, aiming to give every parent the chance to make informed choices.

Membership

Our services, activities and membership are open to all. Anyone can go along to groups or events organized by the NCT, even if they are not a member. However, membership allows the NCT to continue its pioneering work to support parents at this special time in their lives so membership is greatly appreciated. To join, call 08442 437 000 (Head Office) or go online at www.nct.org.uk. For further information about the St Albans and District Branch see www.nct.org.uk/stalbans



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In the Name of God?

Peter Laws



Okay, so imagine you and I are walking down London Colney High Street and we decide to call into the 'little' Tesco to buy some Pringles. (We're hungry). As we stand in the queue, looking at the magazines to pass the time, I turn to the bloke behind us and raise my fist.

"In the name of my friend, I punch thee!" I yell and smack him hard in the face.

The guy drops to the ground holding his dripping nose. You yelp out in bewildered shock. The woman on the till starts jabbing 999 into her mobile, staring at me nervously, backing up against the cigarette rack. Pretty soon the police arrive.

"Well, Reverend Laws," the policewoman asks, "What have you got to say for yourself?"

I jerk my thumb in your direction. "It was my mate. I did it in his name. Yeah I punched that guy, but really, he's to blame. Arrest him!"

Now I'm no Columbo, but that sort of argument will never hold up in court. There are a bunch of witnesses to the crime. Clearly, I'm the one at fault. You, my friend, did nothing wrong. Nowt. Yet, funnily enough, this situation happens every day, when it comes to God. Let me explain. I meet people who tell me that they have no interest in God or Christianity. Fair enough. It is, of course, our individual choice. Yet when I ask the reason why, sometimes

I get the following response. "I know a Christian and they're not a very nice person"; "I went to church once and the people were really unfriendly"; "I was brought up in church and didn't like the minister."

That's a shame, of course. Churches and Christians ought to be friendly and welcoming, and it's true that sometimes us Christians can give off the wrong impression, (we're only human after all). Yet since when does a bad experience of a Christian mean that God is to blame for that? I mean sometimes people say to me, the problem with religion is that it causes so much war. Hang on a minute. Just because someone goes to war in the name of God doesn't mean that God approves of it. That would be like me blaming you for punching that man in the queue, just 'cause I did it in your name.

If you've had a bad experience with religion before, you might have decided it's not for you. I can understand that. Many people have a less than rosy memory of what church is like. Yet, can I encourage you to not write God off, just on the experiences you've had of the people who follow him? Most of us are pretty normal

with the same sorts of challenges as you. We've just discovered perhaps the best kept secret of any generation. That God is loving, patient, powerful and real.

If you want to find out a little about God and the claims of the Christian Faith, we'd love to welcome you at our services. Or if that's a step too far for you at the moment, then feel free to get in contact by phone or email with any questions you might have, or check out our website. Oh, and by the way. I promise not to punch anyone in your name, if you come.

If you'd like to find out more then why not join us for our morning services Sundays 10:30-11:30am in the Baptist Church, Kings Road. Visit our website... www.lcbc.ik.com for more info and for audio sermons via our podcast. Email: jplaws@ntlworld.com or phone (01727) 825450

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Village Person

Ann Solanki

Ann Solanki



I have lived in the village for the last 17 years but I was born and grew up in Leicestershire. My parents are originally from Kenya. I am the eldest of five children; two of them have lived and worked with me here in London Colney.

When I left school in 1984 I studied business and book keeping and then hairdressing. To fund this I worked part time as chief cashier in a casino and part time as a barmaid. Initially I worked for Steiners, a large hair and beauty salon in Leicester. I left Leicester and moved to Hatfield where I managed a hairdressing salon for three years. I always knew that I wanted to be a hairdresser and run my own business.

Through a number of clients I was made aware of a hairdressing salon for sale in London Colney. The salon was called Flicks and was owned by an older couple who were retiring to America. I bought it and later changed the name to Mirror Image. I now own and manage Mirror Image Hair Salon and Body Image Beauty Salon: both are on the High Street in London Colney. The most enjoyable part of my work is working with members of the public as I get great job satisfaction doing what I love. I

am also really fortunate as I have a great team and we all get on really well.

When I am not at work I enjoy food, cooking and eating it! My mother was an excellent cook and taught us all of her traditional recipes and how to mix all of the fresh herbs and spices.

In my spare time I have recently completed a Masters Colour Award at Wella Studio's London. This included a presentation of my work on a model in a catwalk show where I had to give a speech in front of an audience on what had inspired the hair style I had created.

I also in my spare time sit on the management committee at the Base Youth Project in London Colney. I became involved because I have always appreciated the important role The Base plays in the community. It runs activities for young people aged 11-19yrs who can also access

advice, support and information on a wide range of issues. I was pleased when asked to sit on the committee and grateful for the opportunity. I also have links to local schools as many of their pupils come to Mirror Image for work experience.

I never gave up on finding true love and happiness and have recently found it in my first love Nick. We met at college in Leicester and got engaged. Due to circumstances outside of our control we were parted, 23yrs later after completely losing contact we accidentally met last year, and are now engaged to be married this summer.

I have clients who have been using the salon since I first owned it, and over the years I have made some beautiful friends. I would therefore like to take this opportunity to thank all of my clients and team, as without you it would not be possible.

Counselling / Psychotherapy

Stephanie Cass PG Dip. Counselling M.B.A.C.P

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Freecycling

Maria Aguado

"You can't give them away, might as well take it to the tip!" Really annoying isn't it! "You won't sell that on eBay, everyone wants digital and widescreen." Makes you fume doesn't it? You know they're right but it's a wrench to leave it at the tip by the skip in the drizzle...

Not any more. Register with Freecycle St Albans and you can advertise your unwanted but still useful possessions to over 6,000 freecyclers. The adverts are seen by local people who can collect and in return you have the satisfaction of knowing your TV has a good home. Of course, there's also the opportunity to obtain useful items yourself from other freecyclers. The only danger is that the space recently vacated by the old TV will soon be overflowing with useful free things you never knew you wanted.

Go to <http://www.freecycle.org/group/UK/East/St.%20Albans> and register. All you need to join is access to the internet and an email address. Other than that, it's free, good for the environment and fun.

Parish Council Conference

Chris Flynn

London Colney Parish Councillors Ken Bowes, Mary Crouch and 'Dreda Gordon attended the one day Parish Conference held at Rothamstead Manor in Harpenden. This is the second conference hosted by St. Albans District Council where Parish Councillors throughout the District meet to discuss a range of topics of mutual interest with Councillors and Officers from the District Council.

Sustainable Strategy

One of the issues delegates discussed

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was developing a Sustainable Community Strategy in the light of existing pressures on our local infrastructure in terms of housing, transport, education, the environment and all the services we need to make our communities a pleasant place to live. It was very interesting listening to the concerns raised by other Parish Councillors, some of which are common to all and some specific to their particular community. Parish delegates from Wheathampstead and Harpenden were concerned about the effect the recession is having on local businesses and are seeing shops close or remain empty. Fortunately in London

Colney our local shops seem to be weathering the storm so keep on supporting them!

Planning Enforcement Seminar

Parish Councillors 'Dreda Gordon and Norman Mahony have attended a seminar on Planning Enforcement organised by the John Young, Head of Planning and Building Control at St. Albans City and District Council. Mr Young explained the legislation covering planning enforcement and how and when the Council is able to take action against a developer. We found particularly interesting

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the measures available for dealing with untidy sites. Evidently the law is flexible enough to be used on large vacant industrial sites, street frontages, rural sites, derelict buildings, semi-completed developments, rundown residential properties and overgrown gardens.

In answer to a Councillor's question Mr Young explained that the area his department receives the most complaints from is London Colney! Keep up the vigilance and if you have any concerns over any of these issues either contact one of your local Councillors or the Planning Enforcement section at St. Albans District Council on 01727 819341

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LCN WEBSITE - LOCAL INFO &
ARTICLES

To the woods...

Ken Peak

For those who love our countryside, there is no time like the spring. This year we have had a wonderful display of wildflowers everywhere, with a shimmering carpet of bluebells in Coppice Wood near Whitehorse Lane during April. Delicate beech leaves (both new green and old brown) vie in colour with vivid blues in sunshine or dappled shade, while all around small birds sing and newly arrived migrant warblers seek places to build their nests.



Butterflies scamper among the trees, bumble bees seem intoxicated with heady nectar as they drone along at low level. Fern fronds unravel into their classic shuttlecock shapes, and the whole wood has a dreamy, peaceful air, full of the scent of the ephemeral flowers of springtime. London Colney is not well known for its natural beauty by drivers on the way to somewhere more famous. Perhaps we should keep our little secret?

Beauty At Home

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Fire Escape Plan

Herts Fire & Rescue Service

Did you know... a smoke alarm is the easiest way to alert you to the danger of fire, giving you precious time to escape?

If a fire broke out in your home, could you and your family get out in time?

...Do you know how many appliances you can use on one plug socket, before it becomes a fire risk? ...Are you certain your children know what to do in the event of a fire?



Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue Service want to make sure you and your family are doing as much as you can to stay safe from fire in your home. Paying attention to fire risks in your home now could save your lives.

Did you know... a smoke alarm is the easiest way to alert you to the danger of fire, giving you precious time to escape?

- Fit a smoke alarm on each level of the property and test weekly – In the UK 90 people die each year because the battery in their smoke alarm was flat or missing.

- Don't overload electrical sockets. Only have one plug in each socket. If you need more plugs than there are sockets, use a 'bar type' fuse adaptor

and keep the total amps of all plugs in the adaptor to 13 amps or less. Faulty electrics (appliances, wiring and overloaded sockets) cause around 7,000 house fires across the country every year.

Who's got the keys?

- Know your escape route – make sure you and everyone who lives in your house know the quickest route out of the property in the event of a fire, and consider an alternative in case your usual one is blocked. Make sure everyone knows where you keep all the door and window keys.

Bedtime check

- Make a bedtime fire safety check – You are more at risk from a fire

when asleep. So it's a good idea to check your home before you go to bed.

- Don't leave cooking unattended - Over half of home fires are caused by cooking accidents.



- Never leave candles unattended – keep them away from flammable surfaces or textiles such as curtains, TV sets or baths - More than five fires

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a day are started by candles.

- If you smoke, take extra care when smoking inside - Every three days someone dies from a fire caused by a cigarette.

- If a fire starts, Get out, Stay out and Call 999

Free advice and Home Safety Checks

Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue Service does not charge for any advice it gives on fire safety issues. You can obtain advice by either telephoning your local fire station or headquarters, calling into your local station. You can also arrange a home fire safety check, during which firefighters provide invaluable fire safety advice tailored to the property and smoke alarms can be fitted on request.

Anyone who would like a home safety check can call Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue Service's freephone number on 0800 5873347 and arrange an appointment. Or for fire safety advice call 01438 737399 or log onto www.hertsdirect.org/fire.

All safety checks are carried out by uniformed personnel who will show an official ID card and always use an agreed password.

New Layout

Maria Aguado

Tell the Parish Council what you think of the new magazine. Is it an improvement? What do you miss about the old magazine? What about the separate directory published once a year - do you approve? Not many people send items for the Diary section - is it useful?

'phone Linda Gibling or Gill Patschinsky on 821314 or leave a written message at the Parish Office in the Caledon Centre.

London Colney Children's Centre

What is a Children's Centre?

A Children's Centre aims to offer the best start in life for every child. A Children's Centre provides a place for children under 5 and their parents or carers where they can take part in a range of play and learning activities.

Parents, grandparents and carers can benefit from accessing family support and outreach services, health services, training and employment advice and childcare information.

Activities at London Colney Children's Centre

Alexander Road, London Colney, St Albans, Herts AL2 1JG

Telephone: 01727 822196

e-mail: admin2@lcnursery.herts.sch.uk

Day	Time	Activity / Group
Monday	9:30-10:30	Parent & Toddler Group followed by... 
Monday	10:30-11:20	Caterpillar Music 
Tuesday	9:00-12:00	Health Visitors (by appointment) 
Wednesday	9:15-11:15	Parent and Toddler Group 
Thursday	9:15-11:15	Child Minders' support group 
Thursday	14:00-16:00	Well Child Clinic 
Friday	9:15-11:15	Under 2's Playtime 
Friday	13:15-14:45	Toy Library 

For more information about the Children's Centre, the activities or to let us know what other services might be of interest please phone Julie or Elaine on 01727 822196 or 07772 083019

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Mighty Lions Success

Chris Snow

Midland Opens

On Sunday 5th April, 11 members of the London Colney and St.Albans Tae Kwon Do Schools took part in the I.T.F. Midland Opens. Chris Snow, 5th Degree, and Hemel Hempstead coach Stuart Smith, 4th Degree, were on hand to coach. Despite 3 members of the original 14 having to pull out the day before, the eleven returned home with an amazing 16 medals - 6 gold, 5 silver and 5 bronze.

The journey to the I.T.F. Midlands took a few hours as the event was held in Derby. The gang showed real unity and supported each other throughout the day.

Assistant coaches of the London Colney School Elliott Moulster, 2nd Degree, and Stephen Townshend, 2nd Degree, also competed - both are flying out to Croatia on May 25th to represent the U.K. at the 2009 Europeans.

Medals

Stephen picked up a silver in sparring and a gold in special technique, whilst Elliott won a very close bronze in the same sparring division. The clubs are currently working very hard, as they had six members chosen to represent the U.K. at the I.T.F. Europeans back in February – unfortunately, two of the chosen six are not able to attend due to politics.

When our students attend any U.K. events, they are trained hard and pushed to get the results, so you can guess the clubs are working hard to help the four going International.

As a community club, we are noted by many for the high standards we help our members achieve and we seldom get complaints. When we do, it is normally because some



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think the sessions are too hard as we use a lot of the American Kick Boxing music drills. We pride ourselves on being hard working family orientated clubs. We are the only group in the U.K. that holds bi-annual charity events that have helped raised over £10,000 for worthwhile charities to date. You can contact me on 01727 822612 or visit our website at www.ukltsi.com for info on the L.T.S.I. and all their events. The group are affiliated members of the B.T.C. and the I.T.F.



£1,113.06 for Local Charities

Dreda Gordon

Margaret Carr of the Elderly Day Centre in London Colney and Dreda Gordon Chair of the 'BASE' Management Committee were each presented with cheques for £556.53 at a recent Parish Council meeting. The monies were raised from the Christmas Ball and carol singing at Colney Fields. These events were organised through the Parish Council's Event Working Group. Thanks to all of you who helped in any way .

London Colney Village Concern

Ken Peak

London Colney Village Concern will be holding its Annual Open Meeting on Thursday, 9th July 2009, at St Peter's Church Hall, Riverside, London Colney.

There will be a guest speaker on 'Local Road Traffic', followed by public debate on issues of general interest with photos and LCVC correspondence from the past year or two on display. Starting at 7.30pm and finishing by 9:30pm, there will be a short mid-break for refreshments and a social chat. Please advise attendance as capacity is limited in the hall. For mor information or to discuss topics, please 'phone 01727 769406. Posters and proposed agenda will appear nearer the time.

DISTRIBUTION

This magazine is distributed by the members of the Scout and Guide movements in London Colney to raise funds for equipment and activities.

If you know of someone who is not receiving their copy, please phone Ken Peak on 769404.



Cllr Flynn presents Margaret Carr with a donation to the Elderly Day Care Centre.

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Mosquito Gets Wings

Philip Birtles

The fuselage of Hatfield built Mosquito FB.VI TA122 was delivered to Salisbury Hall from The Netherlands on 26 February 1978, followed on 27 July 1980 by the wing of TR.33 TW233 from Israel. While the spruce structure of the wing was still sound, apart from a missing wing tip, all the ply-wood required replacement. Over the 30 years since the assemblies arrived, a dedicated team has worked to replace all the ply-wood wing rib sections in turn, the spar webs and the wing skins, and replace the missing wing tip.

Meanwhile restoration of the fuselage has been achieved, repairing where sections had been removed for training purposes, and refurbishing both the interior systems and exterior markings to represent its

former service with 605 Squadron in Germany, the only WW2 combat veteran Mosquito to survive in Europe. Rewiring of both the fuselage and wing has been completed to ensure full electrical integrity, the cockpit instrument panel has been restored and machine guns with armament feeds have been fitted in the nose. Restoration of the cockpit continues and replica 20mm cannons will be fitted under the floor.

As a celebration of the de Havilland Aircraft Heritage Collection's 50th Anniversary year, the fuselage has been lowered on to the wing utilising the same techniques and tooling used by de Havilland on the production lines. Because the wing and fuselage came from different aircraft, it was essential to be certain that they would fit together, as the only adjustment is fore and aft on the front fuselage mounted brackets. Plowman Craven with their advanced digital technology was able to scan the interfaces and confirm that they would fit.

Work will now continue on fitting the undercarriage to allow the aircraft to be removed from its jacks and trestles, and work will continue on the wing leading and trailing edges, as well as the other many detailed parts in this Fighter Bomber example of the Mosquito, the only example of the FB.VI to be preserved in the UK.

For further information, please contact Philip Birtles on philip@alliedstrategies.com or 01438 725221

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 Sunday of October
 Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays
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 (last entry to museum 16:30)
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 Adults £5.00
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 dren) £13:00



From St Peter's

Revd. Lynne Fawns

May I begin by thanking everyone who responded to our Open Day and Gift Day, these last weeks. It is good to know that so many of you are willing to support your village Parish Church. As you know the world wide Church, including St Peter's has just come through the most important and joyous time of the year namely, Easter. We are still bathing in the glory and joy of the Resurrection and over this summer we aim to keep the joyous mood going.

Whilst we will be especially pulling out all the stops to celebrate our patron saints festival (St Peter) on Sunday July 5th at which you will all be very welcome.....we will also be holding some large and upbeat social events throughout the summer.

All the fun of the... Summer Fayre

Our Summer Fayre will be held on Saturday 6th June on the green along Riverside and in St Peters Church and the Parish Centre. There will be a selection of the usual games, children's games, face painting along with the nearly new and new clothes stall, which will include many items from well known labels.

Live Music

There will be the usual hot and cold refreshments whilst "Lou's Sextet" will be entertaining us with their wonderful music throughout the afternoon. This year we will also be holding a small display in the church, which will look at the life of St Peter's in the history of this village, and also, new this year is the "Silent Auction".

Silent Auction

For those who haven't taken part in a Silent Auction this is where you

come and see what is pledged (the lots) and then if you are interested in bidding for a particular lot, you take the form provided and place it in matching envelope and hand it in. Your bid will remain private and after a couple of weeks the bids will be opened and the highest will win the lot.

We already have a number of great lots: a holiday abroad, a set of computer lessons, a day out and a painting by a local artist amongst many other things. If you would like to donate something or an experience then do please contact me (the vicar) on 01727 769797. We would be very grateful for your support. So, do come along and enjoy yourself and indeed come and have a chat with us. We really do look forward to meeting, chatting and welcoming you.

Katwalk

"Katwalk" is going to be our other big event this summer and will be held on Thursday 18th June at 7.30pm. This event proved to be a big success last year and those who came thoroughly enjoyed themselves. "Katwalk" is a professional company who sells new clothes from the big well known stores as well as big brand names at a discount price. The evening begins in the church with a free glass of wine or juice as we watch a professional fashion show of some of the clothes available for sale. The models are all from St Peter's.

There is then the opportunity to go

into the Parish Centre where racks and racks of new big store brand names are available to buy in all sizes. There will also be the opportunity to try on the clothes before buying. This event was a so enjoyable last year and indeed a huge success so we are really looking forward to welcoming you to this year's event. Tickets cost £6 on the door but if you want to buy before they will cost £5 and can be obtained by contacting Lorna on 07808957854 or Jane on 01727 821148.

Summer Blessing

We really are looking forward to a joyous and eventful summer and I hope you will come and join us at our services as well as our events. May God bless you with a peaceful and joyous summer.

Blessings from Lynne and the family of St Peter's Parish Church



Would you like to invite an international student at a UK university to spend a day or a weekend with you? Students are keen to learn about life here and to share their own culture. HOST is a voluntary scheme promoting international understanding and goodwill. Please call the local organiser on 01070 642091
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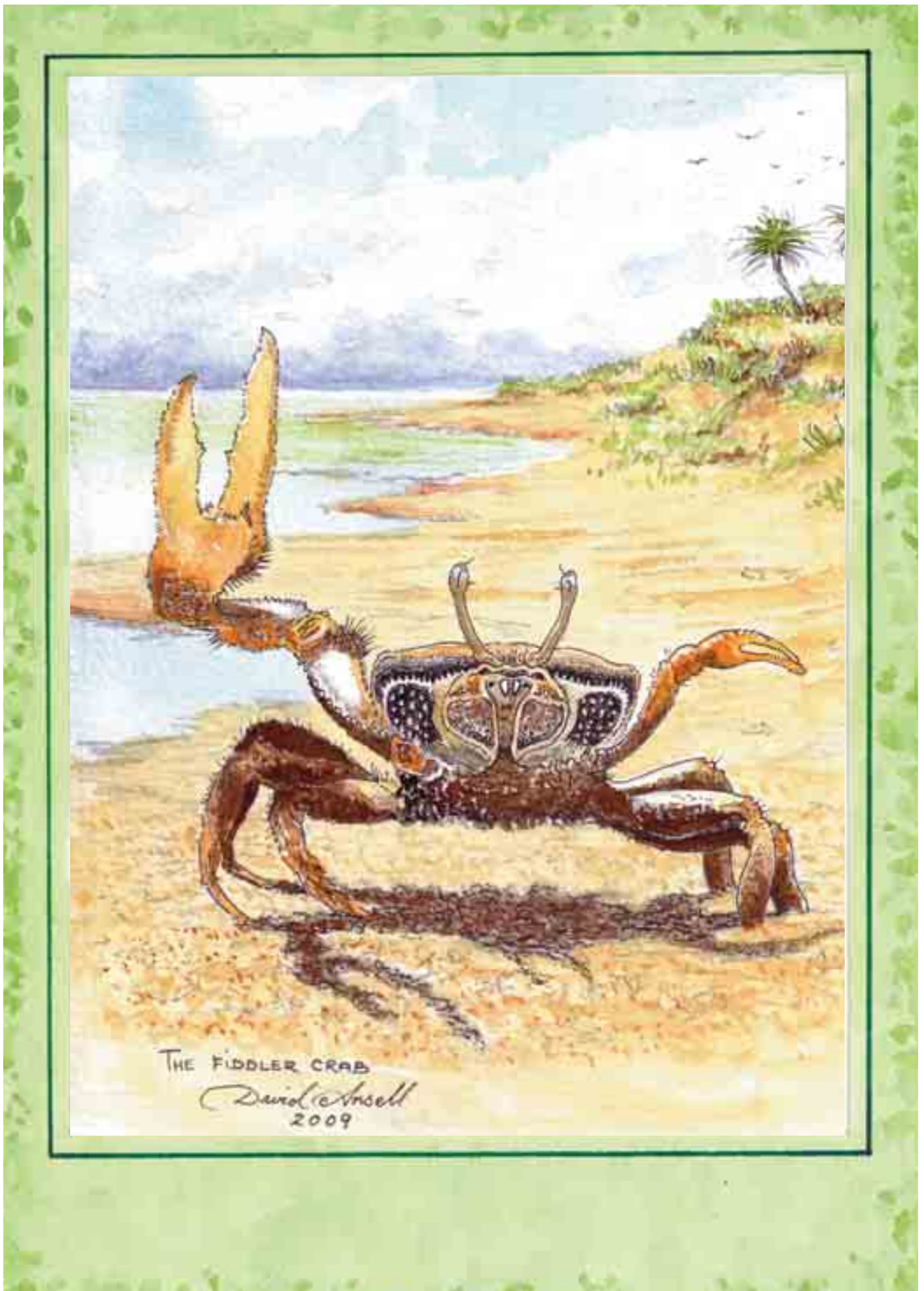
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THE FIDDLER CRAB
David Ansell
2009

World Wildlife

Dave Ansell

The fiddler crab is small, about the size of a walnut and brightly coloured. Its name comes from the male's distinctive larger right claw, which makes him look as if he's carrying a fiddle and a bow.

This crab seems to dislike living under water, and spends most of its time feeding on the shore when the tide is out, scraping organic particles from grains of sand or mud. When the tide comes in the sea washes over the burrow entrances, the fiddler remains deep inside, safely enclosed in a pocket of trapped air.

They fall easy prey to a wide variety of sea birds such as tern which swoop and snap up the crabs. They are found throughout the warmer areas of the world – the shores of the Pacific Ocean, the South Atlantic, the Indian and Mediterranean Oceans.

Crab-like creatures have existed on earth for around 650 million years. The main danger to their survival is the ever increasing level of marine pollution worldwide.

NEXT ISSUE AUTUMN 2009

Distribution date - 1st week September 2009 Copy deadline - 1st August 2009 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: london.colney@dsl.pipex.com If you know of anyone who is not receiving the magazine please contact Ken Peak on 769406.

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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Gardening

Anne Kitchener

Among the many plants in my garden, perennials, shrubs, spring bulbs, there are those that regularly – or perhaps sometimes more annoyingly – seed themselves around the garden. These can be annuals, biennials or perennials and I can never be quite sure where they are going to appear or whether they will appear at all.

The plants that subsequently develop

keep it but change its position I have found that the best way to do this is whilst it is still quite small. I use a trowel to scoop up the seedling along with a clump of surrounding earth so as not to disturb the delicate roots and stems. The clump can then be easily transported to the new chosen space in the trowel.

The first self-sown plants of the year in my garden are primroses which appear in winter, often before the snowdrops, and last for many weeks as a background to the succession

carpet amongst tulips and other growing plants, covering the ground which later on will be filled by summer flowering perennials. Forget-me-nots will seed themselves in roughly the same places each year. Honesty spreads its seeds further and gradually moves around the garden from year to year so are more unpredictable but nevertheless are always welcome. Honesty's season of interest is then extended over the summer by the formation of attractive seed heads which can be left in place all winter. As this plant is a biennial it will not return the following spring, but the seeds set will form a plant which will flower the spring after that.

There are many summer plants that seed themselves, among them sisyrynchum, lavender, lady's mantle, ox eyed daisy, Mexican daisy and aquilegia. Sisyrynchum and lavender seed most readily in gravel which means they can quite easily be lifted and moved to fill an empty space. Lady's mantle and Mexican daisies seed themselves especially well in crevasses between wall and paving, the mixture of pink and white daisies amongst acid green flowers of lady's mantle I find particularly attractive. Ox eyed daisies seed themselves rather too readily all around their immediate area and to prevent over production I have found it is best to dead-head them before they have a chance to spread too many seeds.

There are many other flowers which will seed themselves around. The new plants formed can be left to grow where they are, weeded out and discarded or used to fill empty spaces around the garden. Self-seeding can be easily prevented by dead-heading after flowering and before there has been a chance to set seed. I have found that these flowers are invaluable and I enjoy waiting for where they will next appear and using them to fill up the garden.



can be useful and used to fill up an otherwise blank space, produce unexpected and surprisingly effective combinations with their neighbours or be in entirely the wrong place. The trick is to recognise the seedlings and not to just dismiss them as an unwanted weed.

Once I have, hopefully correctly, identified a seedling and decided to

of spring bulbs giving a welcome splash of pale yellow against their bright green leaves. Next to appear is pulmonaria with their mixture of pink and blue flowers and occasional pure white flowered clumps. As the season moves into spring and the primroses and pulmonaria start to fade, self-seeded forget-me-nots and honesty put in their appearance. Forget-me-nots form a pretty blue

Cheerleading

Jacky Potter

From small beginnings in Spring 2008, Bowmansgreen Primary School's cheerleaders, the Bowmansgreen Belles, have been crowned Hertfordshire's best Primary school cheerleaders.

The squad of 22 girls were coached by Miss Temple and Miss Smith, two teachers from Bowmansgreen, as one of Bowmansgreen's after-school clubs. They performed at local events, such as Larks in the Park, and the school's Summer fayre.

In January, Amy Elms, the Saracens' community dance coach, visited Bowmansgreen to teach each class a dance routine as part of the Saracens' community outreach scheme. Amy was so impressed that she invited them to compete in the Hertfordshire championships, starting with the semi finals for the St Albans region, at the end of February giving the girls less than six weeks to put together a routine of dance, cheerleading chants and stunts, and gymnastics. They came second in the semi-finals at Marlborough School and qualified for the Hertfordshire finals, and the opportunity to dance on the pitch during a Saracens rugby match. One month later, on Sunday March 29th, with the routine perfected and a new and dramatic finalé, Woodside Leisure Centre in Watford was packed with parents and supporters, who watched the girls sail effortlessly into the lead of the Primary league, with Hertford's Sele school taking the Secondary title. With the winners' trophy collected, the Belles were taken to Vicarage Road to perform on the pitch at half time with Amy's Saracens' Sensations cheerleaders. With Summer approaching, the girls are looking forward to performing across the county, and getting other children interested taking part in cheerleading. With the title of Hertfordshire champions under their belts, there's always the possibility of national championships, too!



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Lunch Club

Chris Flynn

Mid March saw the opening of our very successful Lunch Club now held every week at the Caledon Community Centre. Our aim was to provide a good quality, freshly cooked meal for a reasonable price.



Thanks to the efforts of staff and volunteers we have been able to achieve those aims, offering a 3 course lunch at £3.20*
We have had between 30 –50 people coming along to the Club and all have commented on the good food and friendly atmosphere. Why not come along and try it out for yourself!

** Price correct at time of going to print*

Environmental Action

Ken Bowes

The Parish Environmental Action group has planned a number of small projects for the summer of 2009 following on from the work on the pond at Colne Gardens. These include the replanting of the "troughs" on the west side of the High Street between Kings Road and Wellington Road with flowering plants. Some funding for this has been obtained from the District

Council under the improving street scene initiative. The maintenance of these beds will be taken over by the Parish Council from St. Albans District Council and Herts. Highways.

It is also intended to plant additional silver birches, donated by the District Council, in the High Street and adjoining areas in the late summer. The work will be carried out by the Parish grounds staff. A third project is the replacement of stiles with "kissing gates" on footpaths 23 and 24 to the west of Shenley Lane. This has been funded by Herts County Council through the Parish Paths Partnership in

conjunction with the Countryside Management Services. These should be in place by the summer of 2009.

Parish Environmental Action Plan steering group members and CMS staff will be on hand to discuss the work of the group and environmental concerns at the Larks in the Park in Morris Way playing fields on the 28th June. Please come along and talk to us about the plan and future work. We would welcome any ideas for projects which would help improve the environment and appearance of the village.

Springing up at Walsingham Way

Linda Gibling
Parish Council Projects Manager

Things are springing up on Walsingham Recreation Ground

The Parish Council has been working with Groundwork Trust to secure funds from Lafarge Aggregates and Marks & Spencer to install new play equipment at Walsingham Way and this April/May the contractors have been installing an embankment rope ramp, a pendulum swing, a wooden bridge, a new hill slide, leapfrog posts, wooden snake and a tree trunk bench. There will also be new trees and shrubs planted and bird boxes are being installed. It is hoped that the schools and local children's groups will be helping with the new planting.





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Extended Schools

Nikki Howes

What can we do for you?

The More 4 U @ St Albans South Extended Schools Consortium is part of a pilot scheme that has been given Government backing to ensure that children and young people from the most disadvantaged backgrounds and those in care can participate in extra out-of-hours tuition and after school clubs.

First in the area...

Over the next few years all Schools in Hertfordshire and across England will have a share of this funding and The St Albans South Consortium will be the initial beneficiary from the Government grant in this area. The main objective of the pilot project is to ensure that children take part in activities and that their parents are also fully involved. It also aims to offer attractive and relevant activities to encourage increased and sustained participation.

Do you qualify?

This funding will help Schools to commission a range of exciting activities, outside of School hours which will enrich our Communities and give all youngsters a chance to become involved in activities which they normally would not be able to pay for. There is a criteria for application and if you would like more details on whether you are eligible for support you can contact Nikki Howes ESCo 07912 792215 nhowes@mountpleasant.herts.sch.uk All enquiries will be treated confidentially. More 4 U @ St Albans South Extended Schools Consortium

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What's Happening!

Once again we have a busy term ahead – Parenting courses, Family Music sessions and lots more...check out the website for up to date details at www.hertsexextendedschools.org.uk/stalbanssouth/our_consortium.html

We held our annual Consortium Quiz in March which was extremely well attended as always, and enjoyed by all. This years winners were Killigrew Primary, with Bowmansgreen Primary a very close second! Congratulations to all those who took part.

Parent and Family Support

Hilary Blake is our Parent and Family Support worker based in the Consortium — she is on hand to support you with any concerns you may be facing with your child/ children at home or at school or any personal worries. Issues may be varied, including: changing schools, communicating with your child, managing challenging behaviour, general routines including bedtime, internet safety, smoking, drugs, bullying. She can work one-to-one with you to understand your concerns and provide support and information, put you in contact with local support groups, and help with applications to Primary and Secondary Schools.

Easter Fun

The Easter holiday break had many exciting activities. We had Rock School which is becoming a vey popular choice, Sports Acrobatics and Circus skills, as well as all the favourites—Gymnastics, Basketball, Cheerleading and Dance.

Nikki Howes is your local ESCO for St Albans South and is contactable by email, on her mobile or through the website. You may see Nikki at various events throughout the area – please approach her and have a chat!



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Mayor's Charity Swim

'Dreda Gordon

Local schoolboy Ronan Gordon Flynn, a year 6 pupil at St. Bernadette's has raised over £600.00 for St. Alban's Mayor Councillor Bert Pawle's chosen charities, Grove House, Keech Cottage and the A-T Society.



Ronan joined the Mayor and other volunteers for the Sponsored swim at Westminster Lodge and he completed 30 lengths of the pool. Ronan was sponsored by a lot of people in London Colney and he says thanks to you all. He said 'I could have swam 50 lengths but my goggles started to hurt me!'

Positive attitude

The Mayor added "What a fine example of a positive attitude to help others, by one so young.

My sincere congratulations to Ronan for all his efforts, not just on the night, but by obtaining all that fantastic sponsorship. I say well done, on behalf of myself, and my mayoral charities who stand to benefit".

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