

London Colney News



June - September 2013 - EVENTS AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE, CALEDON ROAD

DISCO

Family Discos 7 till 10pm

**Saturday 8 June, 6 July,
3 August & 8 September**

Admission free



**Sunday 9 June & 8 September
Car Boot Sale**

STILL ONLY £5 a pitch, sorry no traders, setup 10am, buyers 11 - 1pm
Refreshments t: 01727 821314/769530 for details
Caledon Community Centre Car Park, Caledon Road, L/C



Sunday 16 June

Fathers' Day Family Roast

1 till 3 inc childrens entertainer 3.30 till 4.30..

Adults £6.00 Children £3.00 Phone 821314 to book.



Wednesday 19 June

St Albans Day Walk

Meet outside Green Dragon PH at 6.30pm for a walk through broad Colney nature Reserve to Chantry Island. Returning to Caledon Community Centre for refreshments.



Saturday 22 June

Co-jones in the bar

Live music, free entrance - beat that!



Open mic nights...

Weds 26 June, 24 July, 28 Aug & 25 Sept

8.30 till 10.30 Admission free.



Sunday 30 June

Larks in the Park

**Community Centre, Caledon Road, 12 midday start
Face Dainting, Fun Fair, Bar, Food, Stalls etc**

Stalls available for local organisations/groups.t:821314



Friday 26 July

The Faith Stealers in the bar

Live music, free entrance - beat that!

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On the Cover

Morris Dancers footing it featly at the St George's Day celebrations in the Community Centre this April.

top left

All downhill to the fun of the Family Disco at the Community Centre.

centre left

This is a twin in a million. See article on page 22

bottom left

Just look at that old crooner! Seen at the Open Mic Night in the bar.

bottom right

He's a dear defenceless creature - but please don't rescue him. His parents are looking after him on the ground because he just won't fit in the nest any more. **centre right**

Meet David, Alan and Steve. Regular diners at the Luncheon Club each Tuesday and Thursday. **top right**



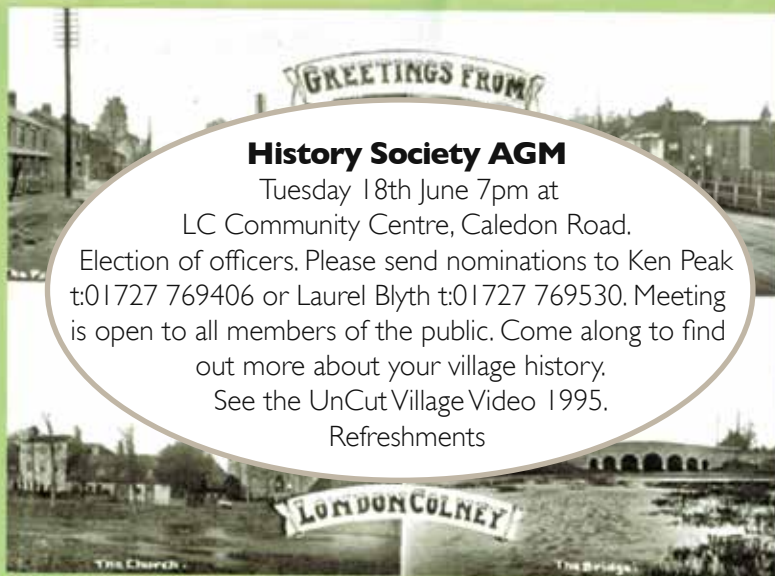
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History Society AGM

Tuesday 18th June 7pm at

LC Community Centre, Caledon Road.

Election of officers. Please send nominations to Ken Peak t:01727 769406 or Laurel Blyth t:01727 769530. Meeting is open to all members of the public. Come along to find out more about your village history.

See the UnCut Village Video 1995.

Refreshments

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Larks in the Parks - Sunday 30 June 2013

Laurel Blyth, London Colney Parish Council

This year we hope that Larks in the Parks will be held around the Community Centre in Caledon Road.

We plan to take over the whole site including the car park so visitors will have to park in the Haseldine Road car park behind the Co-Op.

There is just a chance that our application to St Albans District Council to vary our licence will not be approved in time so the final decision over where to hold Larks will have to wait until after this magazine has been published. It might have to be at Morris Playing Fields after all.



As always, we have acts provided by St Albans Larks Organisers - remember the stilt walking mermaid and the walking rowing boat? This year we have even more live music from local bands including The Push, all organised by our Community Manager, Tom Bagge.

You can look forward to an afternoon of fun for all the family right here where you live!

There will be stalls representing local groups, a funfair, face painting, beer tent, refreshments of all sorts, games for the children and craft activities based around this year's theme of 'flight'.

Larks is just one of the great events

being organised by the Parish Council.

We also hold monthly Family Discos. From 7 - 9pm in the Community Centre bar on 8 June, 6 July, 3 August and 8 September. The last two discos were a great success - all ages danced the evening away, with a children's entertainer to get everyone in the mood. What a chance to relax with your children! There's a bar for the grownups and no need to drive.

Don't forget the Sunday Lunches. As well as the delicious 3 course lunch we lay on a children's entertainer all for £6 adults, £4 for children. Book in advance for the next lunch on Fathers' Day, Sunday 16 June - t:821314.

The St Albans Day Walk this year will be on Wednesday 19 June. It's a mini-pilgrimage to Chantry Island in the grounds of the Pastoral Centre. Starting at the village green at 6.30, we walk through broad Colney Nature Reserve and across Shenley Lane to Chantry Island where St Alban was arrested prior to his martyrdom. The walk continues back to the Community Centre in Caledon Road where refreshments will be served.

There's a free to enter Live Band in the bar every month with two great bands booked for June and July.

Co-Jones on Saturday 22 June and The Faith Stealers on Friday 26 July. Live music and free entry!

If you like live entertainers of all sorts why not try one of our Open Mic Nights in the bar of the Community Centre on Weds 26 June, 24 July, 28 Aug & 25 Sept 8.30 till 10.30. Of course, if you are a live entertainer, then you're doubly welcome to come and wow the audience with your talent!

It can be hard to establish something new so we're going to keep trying with the Car Boot Sales. The next one will be on Sunday 9 June. Starting a little later this time, at 10am for stall holders and 11 'til 1 for buyers. The bacon sandwiches will be delicious and the sausages to die for! Phone to book a pitch t:821314.

Our Charity Quiz nights quickly became established. The next one is on Saturday 5 October so keep that night free.

Look forward to seeing you at some or all of our events during 2013.

Sandra Gray RMN MCFHP MAFHP

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Christmas Biscuits 2013

Laurel Blyth, London Colney Parish Council

After our difficulties with delivery last Christmas we have decided to start afresh. In the next issue of this magazine there will be a 'tear off' slip for residents to fill in. You must be 75 years of age or over and live in the village to receive the biscuits. The form can be filled in by you or by someone in your family or a neighbour. Return it to the Parish Council Office in Caledon Road.

Any queries? Ring Councillor Laurel Blyth on 01727 769530.



NEXT ISSUE AUTUMN 2013

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1EA Tel: 823528 (phone manned
evenings and weekends only) or
e-mail:
editor@londoncolney.com

The editors of this magazine rely on contributors for the accuracy of their articles. We regret that we cannot check all the facts, but we are happy to consider printing corrections if errors are brought to our attention.

Whilst the editors endeavour to include all items submitted by the deadline given, pressure on space may sometimes mean that items will be held over for consideration in future issues and may not therefore appear in the current issue. Articles may be edited for length or clarity.

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World Wildlife

Dave Ansell



The griffon Vulture is found in Asia and Africa as well as in many parts of Europe such as Greece, Turkey, The Alps, Spain, the Pyrenees and both sides of the Straits of Gibraltar.

Vultures feed on carrion and have a part to play in the cleaning up of nature's debris. They also attack weak or sick animals.

When the griffon vulture discovers a plentiful source of food it will continue feeding until gorged if undisturbed. While eagles, falcons and hawks carry food to their young in their talons; Griffon Vultures disgorge food they have eaten to feed their young.

It is an extremely high flyer and nests on the highest, most inaccessible rocks. Two to three eggs are laid and the chicks hatch at the beginning of April. The wingspan of an adult Griffon is eight feet.

Community First Responders

Peter Yexley

I hope to launch a new scheme of volunteers to support the ambulance service in London Colney. I am delighted and honoured to be asked to lead the First Responder group in London Colney. The benefit of having a local group is that our volunteers should only be four minutes away from a call, be it that they live or work locally. This way a patient can be assessed, and treatment started, during those vital first minutes of an emergency, while an ambulance response is on its way.

First Responders are activated by the Ambulance Service to attend 999 emergency calls where time can make the difference between life and death.

The emergency operations centre sends them to the scene of immediately life threatening 999 calls.

First Responders are dispatched at the same time as the ambulance crew, but often arrive beforehand because they are based so locally. The responder then provides care until the ambulance arrives, usually only a few minutes later.

As with any voluntary group, the more members we can recruit, the more cover we can give. Responders can be on call for as little or as much time as they're able; what's important is that they want to contribute something worthwhile to London Colney in a positive way.

Clearly it isn't practical to recruit people and give them expensive medical equipment and kit without adequate background checks and comprehensive training by the Ambulance Service.

Prospective members will need to complete an application form and provide specific proof of identity, then:

- Undertake an enhanced criminal records bureau disclosure (CRB)
- Agree to the policies and procedures of Community Response
- Be declared fit for the role

The course not only aims to provide you with the knowledge and skills to be able to attend life threatening medical emergencies.

Having completed the training you will undertake a written exam followed by practical scenarios.

To receive an application or request further information call Peter Yexley on 01727 825 999 or see

www.community-first-responders.co.uk

Join The Team?

Maria Aguado, London Colney Parish Council

The Parish Council could not run the successful Luncheon Club and Sunday Lunches without Steve, our talented Chef (temporary) and Kitchen Assistant Carrieanne.

We also rely on volunteers to serve dinners and clear tables. Laurel, Mary and Barbara serve and clear for around 40 diners each Tuesday and Thursday.

They need help! Mostly so that they can take a day off occasionally.

Would you like to join this friendly team? You would be needed between 12 and 2.30 after which you can settle down to a complimentary three course lunch as served to the Luncheon Clubbers.

It's a great opportunity to meet other London Colney folk and do some good at the same time.

Contact the Parish Council Office to volunteer on 821314.



From left to right, meet Carrieanne, Laurel, Steve, Barbara and Mary.

British Legion - Women's Section

Beverley Crofts, Honorary Secretary

The London Colney branch of the Women's Section has been held for over eighty years and although most of the members live in the village some have moved away but still support the branch in every way they can.

The last year has been successful and this enabled us to send £600 to the Benevolent Fund, which is held at the head quarters of The Royal British Legion Women's Section in London. In recognition of our success we have been awarded a National Certificate for efficiency and progress at the recently held National Conference.

Money raised goes to support the families of armed forces, giving support to partners and children. We also continue to support our forces by donating items to be included in shoe boxes sent to Afghanistan.

We raise the money in various ways amongst ourselves but also hold open meetings inviting members of the public to hear speakers or see demonstrations on a variety of topics. We recently held a quiz night with

supper which proved very popular and have been requested to hold another later in the year. We raised £200 on the night and were able to hold a raffle with a first prize voucher kindly donated by Marks and Spencer of London Colney.

In the past we have had a stall at Larks in the Park and hope to do so again where information about the Women's Section will be available.

Our meetings are held fortnightly on a Thursday in the Pavilion at Morris Playing Fields, Whitehorse Lane.

DIARY DATES

13th June	Group Meeting Host – North Mymms Branch
27th June	Bingo Competition – 4 strawberry tarts
11th July	Open Meeting - Talk by local Magistrates Competition – Pretty cup & saucer
25th July	Quiz Competition – Soft Toy
8th Aug	Open Meeting – Beetle Competition – Longest runner bean
22nd Aug	Scattergories Competition – Animal ornament
5th Sept	Group Meeting Hosts – Kimpton & Hatfield Branches
19th Sept	Open Meeting – Harvest supper and produce auction Competition – Unusual shaped vegetable
3rd Oct	Witchle Competition – Apple turnover
17th Oct	Open Meeting – Talk on St Pauls Cathedral Competition – Photo/picture of a Church
31st Oct	Annual General Meeting Competition – Autumn leaves

Baptist Church News

Adrian Wood

All through the year, our television channels seem to battle over ratings for prime time Saturday nights. More often than not it is one 'talent show' pitted against another.

As a nation, we love it when someone has an amazing gift and gets to share it live on TV. But we also take some enjoyment out of those individuals who can't sing or dance, but believe they are going to be entertainment's next big thing. I am quite honest about my singing ability. I don't have any!

Every so often someone is presented to the TV audience where first impressions are very misleading. Anyone remember when Susan Boyle first walked onto the stage and many

of us had written her off before she sang? How foolish did she make us look? We learnt our first impression of her was incorrect very quickly.

People who come to church are ordinary folk and we welcome anyone who would like to visit us one Sunday morning. There's Sunday school for Children and then after the service we have refreshments and quite often this includes cake.

Sunday Services every week at 10.30am

We also offer the following to anyone in the community:

Toddlers group every Friday in Term Time – 10 until 11.30am

Free Solicitor's Surgery (1st Wednesday in the month)

Open Doors Bible and Fellowship Group for those who are retired Thursdays – 2.15 until 3.15pm

If you would like to find out more about the above then please either use the website address, email or telephone number below:

www.londoncolneybaptistchurch.co.uk

londoncolneybc@gmail.com
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Mrs White's farewell gift

If you would like to send a message and/or make a contribution to a leaving gift for Mrs White, please forward donations and messages to the school office, in an envelope clearly marked 'Mrs White leaving message/contribution'.

Thank you.
Jacky Potter

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Goodbye to Bowmansgreen

Moira White, Head Teacher, Bowmansgreen School



Moira at the Opening Ceremony of the Bowmansgreen Olympics 2012 (left) and, (above) on the school's sponsored walk.

The time has come for me to say goodbye to Bowmansgreen and the community of London Colney, as I step down from my post as Headteacher at the end of August.

When I first visited Bowmansgreen in 2004, I stood outside the school office looking across the field and knew it was the place I wanted to work.

Every day since, through moments of pride and elation through challenges and struggles, I have known that I was 'in the right place'.

I have happily committed my efforts and energies to the school and have relished the opportunity to work with such a dedicated staff team, determined to make this school the best it can be.

My joy has always come from the children, getting to know each of them as individuals and watching them grow and learn; I am proud of their achievements and the contribution they make to our school on their journey to adulthood. I have received tremendous support from the whole Bowmansgreen community in my

vision to create a very special school at the heart of the village; I believe we have achieved this together. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to our success.

I have exciting times ahead as I am in the process of relocating to Winchester, and will be busy doing some DIY prior to looking at the Hampshire school vacancy bulletin with the intention of finding my next headship.

The Governors are preparing for the recruitment of a new Headteacher and I know they are doing their best to secure an enthusiastic replacement to build on our current successes.

I am enjoying the summer term's activities and looking forward to marking the end of my time at Bowmansgreen. It is a wonderful place to work and learn and I know it will continue to grow in strength and capacity.

Thank you once again.

My best wishes to all the families in London Colney in the coming years.



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Hospice of St Francis Seeks New Trustees

Judeth Neville, Company Secretary



The Hospice of St Francis in Berkhamsted is a highly respected hospice, providing palliative and end of life care and education across West Hertfordshire and the Chiltern area of Bucks. The Hospice is looking to recruit two new trustees to join the Board.

The Board of Trustees currently consists of 14 members from a variety of backgrounds who develop the Hospice's strategy and work with the Hospice management to meet agreed objectives. The charity needs to raise over £3 million a year through its own fundraising activities, and with only around 20% of its costs being met by the NHS, it is vital that the Board finds candidates with specific expertise to help in these challenging economic times.

One of the new trustees will have a senior clinical background, probably as a hospital consultant or medical director, with a good knowledge of healthcare structures and funding. The other new trustee will have held a senior position in a charity and will have fundraising knowledge and expertise.

The Board of Trustees meets seven times a year, usually on a Monday evening, with an annual conference on a Saturday to review strategy and performance. In addition, trustees are asked to serve on Board Committees which involves attending additional meetings throughout the year. The posts are voluntary but expenses are paid.

Interested candidates should contact Judeth Neville, Company Secretary, for further information or to register their interest. Suitable candidates will be invited for a confidential, no-obligation discussion about the role. 01442 869556/Judeth.neville@stfrancis.org.uk

Stephanie Cass Counsellor and Life Advocate

PgdipConsMBACP (Accred)

Have you lost your direction in life or maybe feeling a bit low? Would you like to talk to someone in confidence who will help you find your new path?

Talking to someone professional can help you gain a deeper insight and understanding into your problems. Counselling can assist in gaining new perspectives and finding ways to make changes in your life to feel more fulfilled and at peace with yourself.

I am a qualified and experienced counsellor and provide a confidential and professional service, taking care to provide a sensitive and non-judgmental environment. I will support you while you explore feelings that can at times feel difficult to manage, always remaining respectful and tuning into your pace.

To enquire further or discuss how counselling can help you, please contact me.

t: 01727 825 060 e: londoncolneycounselling@hotmail.co.uk



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This entry was left out of the Directory in the last issue.
Dawn to Dusk Carer Support Group meeting at The Charles Morris Hall Tyttenhanger 9th May 2013
dawntodusk@wordpress.com ring Jo
t: 568552 or Rosemary t: 873385

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 Quaglioizzi	11 Hardwick Place	07807 096824	cllr.j.quaglioizzi@stalbans.gov.uk
Norman Mahony	36 St Annes Road	767348	ncmahony@ntlworld.com
Helen Pakenham	1 Summers Way	821469	helenpakenham@live.co.uk

East Ward

Laurel Blyth	30A St Annes Road	769530	laurelblyth@hotmail.co.uk
Katherine Gardener	47 Thamesdale	07765137453	auxin@hotmail.co.uk
Malcolm MacMillan (Chairman)	57 Whitehorse Lane	769567	malcolmmacmillan@ntlworld.com

St Albans District Council

Simon Calder	28 Norris Close	07949 479370	cllrs.calder@stalbans.gov.uk
'Dreda Gordon	29 Collyer Road	07968 224901	cllr.d.gordon@stalbans.gov.uk
Jacob Quaglioizzi	11 Hardwicke Place	07972 197909	cllr.j.quaglioizzi@stalbans.gov.uk

Hertfordshire County Council

'Dreda Gordon	29 Collyer Road	826233	cllr.d.gordon@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,	Labour:	01223 240202,
Liberal:	01223 566700,	UKIP:	01245 266466

Parish Council Meetings

Parish Council meetings are held on the first Friday of each month except in August. The next meeting will be on Friday 7th June at 7pm in The Pavillion at Morris Way Playing Fields. Members of the public are welcome to attend. Police Community Support Officers give a report of the previous month's crime in the village. This is followed by a Public Question time during which members of the public may ask questions of the Councillors.

Forthcoming meetings are:

5th July, no meeting in August and 6th September

Parish Council Changes

Earlier in 2013 the Parish Council was sorry to lose both Chairman, Ian Orton, who has moved to Yorkshire and Vice-Chairman, Tony Smith.

The post of Chairman has been filled by Malcolm MacMillan who was elected to serve in East Ward in May. Councillor MacMillan was also elected Chairman of the Parish Council at the May Parish Council meeting.

The other vacancy on the council was filled by Helen Pakenham who was formally co-opted onto the Council at the April meeting to serve in South West Ward.

Councillor Katherine Gardener was elected to the post of Vice-Chairman at the May Parish Council meeting.

Harperbury Bowls Club

Debbie Trollope

Could it all be a load of old bowls? Bowls clubs are often associated with having an average membership age of 70 years young. But times are changing with some much needed sponsorship. Fred Olson Cruise Lines sponsored the recent indoor bowls competition – World Bowls at Potters. PLUS it was covered on TV and not at midnight! Televising bowls at a prime time means more people, young and not so young, are becoming interested in the game. Although we did not see Bowls in the Olympics last year we will see it in the 2014 Commonwealth Games in Scotland, the official home of bowls.

Harperbury Bowls Club has a wonderful mix of members. Our youngest is 17 years old and I am not sure how old our oldest member is! For those looking for a gentle yet competitive sport, bowls could be the answer. It can be as competitive as you want it to be. You can enter competitions at a local level, district level or national level or just get involved in the friendly club games.

The game of bowls goes back to the 13th century; a drawing in the Royal Library at Windsor shows two players aiming at a small cone instead of the jack that is used today. So Great Britain has very strong roots in the traditional game of bowls. Most people associate Sir Francis Drake who was playing bowls when news came of the Spanish Armada. Drake never moved from his place on the bowling green or stop his game. "There is plenty of time," he said, as he aimed his bowl, "to win the game and beat the Spaniards too!" True British grit!

A 1541 Act of Parliament stated that labourers, apprentices, servants and



the like, were forbidden to play bowls at any time except Christmas and then only in their master's house and presence. Plus anyone found playing bowls in their garden or orchard was liable to a penalty of 6s.8d. The King and Parliament did not want bowls to become popular. It was thought it could jeopardize the practice of archery as that was so important in battles. The act was not repealed until 1845. However if anyone possessed lands of the yearly value of £100 they could obtain a licence to play on their own private green. This made bowls a pastime for the wealthy. It also saw the "birth" of the bowls club.

Thankfully nowadays bowls is available to all; we are a completely mixed club with just one management committee. Although we field mixed teams in all our friendly matches we also compete in the mens & ladies National, County & District competitions. We welcome new bowlers of all abilities.

Bowls does have a lot of tradition surrounding it and for some that can

be off putting, for others that is the attraction. The quickest way to pick up the etiquette is to play in the club friendly games. The dress code is inching towards the 21st century. Most clubs now permit their ladies and gentlemen bowlers to wear tailored shorts in the summer and ladies also wear trousers or ¾ trousers either white or grey depending on the game. Polo shirts are now favoured over the traditional white shirt and tie. Whatever else members wear, good quality waterproofs are a must! Keen bowlers own their own bowls, called 'woods' even though they are now made of plastic composite. Harperbury have several sets of woods for new members to try to see which size and weight are most suitable.

TO ENCOURAGE ANYONE NEW TO BOWLING WE OFFER THEM FREE SUBSCRIPTION FOR THE FIRST YEAR.

Our green is available to members every day throughout the outdoor season, mid-April to the end of

September, subject to bookings for matches and competitions. The best night to pay us a first visit is Tuesday Club Night - or ring to make another arrangement. We have Whist Drives on Thursdays during the winter months, plus other social events in our club house.

There is a real family feel to the Harperbury Bowls Club and in 2012 three generations played for the St Albans and District Ladies District Bowls Team. Sheila Roberts was the St Albans and District Ladies Bowls President this year and she was joined by her daughter, Debbie Trollope, (me) and her granddaughter - Emma Trollope.

(photo left)

If you would like to come and meet the members and have a go, please contact Peter Noden or Sue Allen. You will be made to feel very welcome.

Harperbury Bowls Club run an "Active St Albans" sponsored "Get back Into (Sport) Bowls" group on Tuesday afternoons from the end of May onwards, 3pm to 5pm.

These sessions are free of charge, and all you need is a pair of flat soled shoes/trainers. Bowls and coaching are supplied.

Harperbury Bowls Club is situated at Kingsey Green Hospital, (formerly Harperbury Hospital), Harper Lane, Radlett

President: Peter Noden t: 01727 867732 e: peternoden@ntlworld.com

Secretary: Sue Allen t: 01727 766259 e: john.allen60@ntlworld.com



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Harperbury Memories

Tony Mifsud

It was Friday 7th April 1967 when I arrived in England for the first time. I still remember that day vividly, as it was something which I never ever dreamt of doing.

In those days we still lived a very sheltered life in Malta, I was 18 at the time and could hardly imagine setting foot in England in the days of flower power, when the Beatles and Rolling Stones were driving the young generation crazy with their music.

I was met by a friend of mine at Heathrow Airport and slowly we made our way to Kings' Cross, then from St. Pancras to St. Albans, where we got the bus to London Colney and to Harperbury Hospital. Although I thought I could understand and speak English, I must have broken the Guinness Book of Records on that first day with the number of times I said "I beg your pardon"; I think I repeated the phrase a million times. Anyway I was introduced around and met the Hospital's management and the other two Maltese working at Harperbury Hospital. Then I was shown the nurses' residence which was in the hospital grounds and I tried to get my bearings and settle in my room. When my friends finished the day's shift we went to the hospital's social club to celebrate my first day.

The next day I was taken round the various wards and departments. There must have been close to a thousand patients at the time at Harperbury and although I had tried to mentally prepare myself for the "shock" of meeting so many people with all sorts of mental and physical disabilities, it was still a bolt from the blue to face all those problems. It is definitely not through disrespect for the persons living there, but it is only those persons who have worked in such environments who can understand my feelings. In the evening I had made up my mind to pack it all up and get the next plane home. It is only through

the support of my friend that I didn't leave and today forty years after that first day, I still thank God that I did stay on.



In May 1967 I started my nursing course and from that day on I never looked back. I settled down in my new environment and because the course consisted of a number of weeks in the nursing school alternating with some weeks on the various wards, I found that I was enjoying my work and was also making new friends, both nurses and patients. Anyway to cut a long story short, after three years I was successful in the final examinations and became a staff nurse. I stayed on at Harperbury for another year working as a staff nurse, and then in 1971 I returned to Malta.

Back home I stayed in the profession and was employed at the only Psychiatric Hospital on the island. The care of persons with learning difficulties was still in the embryonic stage in Malta.

I stayed in the field of nursing, continuing my studies in the Institute of Health Care and the University of Malta. My career progressed and eventually I finished as the Manager of Nursing Services of the hospital. In 2011 I retired at the age of 61 years, but after a couple of months at home I had to return to nursing because after working for nearly thirty eight

years it was very difficult for me to cope with all the free time.

This coming October I will be 65 years old and it is now time to move on and make space for the younger generation. Today, persons with learning difficulties are not locked up in the psychiatric hospital, but are being shifted into sheltered living in various homes in the community, attending main stream schools and living a "normal" life.

As for myself, if it wasn't for Harperbury Hospital I would have never entered this specialised field of nursing and I will be eternally grateful for the chance I was given.



Lately as I was surfing the internet I came across this particular site* and I was sorry to see that my old hospital is now in such a state. I knew that the place had closed down but comparing it to my days I felt very sorry, but at least I still remember the good days spent in London Colney and the beautiful summer evenings I enjoyed there.

Shenley Horticultural Society

Sid Blake



Do you remember Tony or any of the other people in these photos?

If you do, please let me know. The History Society would be interested in putting names to faces.

Tony would be delighted to hear from anyone who worked at the hospital at the end of the 60s. Send me your email address and I'll pass it on to him.

Editor

editor@londoncolney.com

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to share this with your readers and God bless you.

**Think Tony means a website like this... www.forever-changes.com/harperbury ...where 'urban explorers', people who break into unused buildings, document the decay and leave photos and comments.*

The society would like to re-introduce itself to everyone in London Colney who may not know that our membership extends from Ridge to Borehamwood, St Albans and, not least, London Colney.

We have a busy and varied programme planned for the remainder of 2013. Our next event on the 21st June at 8pm will be a talk to be given by Mr David Empson, an RHS Show Judge, on "How to Show". Members will be keen to attend given that our 71st Annual Show will be held in the Shenley Village Hall on Saturday 14th September. However, all will be welcome, non-members especially.

Our members enjoy the financial benefits and the convenience of buying gardening products from our Trading Shed, situated in front of the allotments in Woodhall Lane, Shenley. This is open every Sunday morning between 9:30 and 11:00 am from the beginning of February to the end of October. We look forward to welcoming villagers who may be missing the garden centre in Shenley village, which is being redeveloped. We are a non-profit Society and our prices are therefore extremely competitive, especially bird seed and nuts, composts and fertilisers.

We hold two Quiz Suppers a year; which will be held in the Village Hall. If you love Quiz Evenings the details are published in our regular Newsletter which all members will receive. We bring our own cutlery, if preferred, and our own drinks, glasses, nibbles and chocolates.

Each year we have a long weekend holiday by coach. This is very popular; costs are kept to a minimum and it is always arranged in the lighter spring/summer off peak months. Visits to lovely gardens are always



Situated by the village pond in Shenley is the Cage or 'lock-up', a domed-shaped building bearing the inscription 'Do well. Fear Not. Be sober. Be Vigilant'. The building served as a temporary prison for those accused of offences, until the local constable took them to be charged before the magistrates at Barnet Court.

included. This year we visited Hayling Island, staying in the Warners Hotel, from where we were able to visit Portsmouth, with its famous Historical Dockyard, Chichester, with its ancient cathedral. (and Peregrine Falcons) and then the gardens at RHS Wisley. The orchids in the Greenhouse are absolutely fantastic.

We always welcome new members and if you are a beginner we have members who are knowledgeable gardeners and who will always gladly help you to enjoy success with your garden.

Membership fees for 2013 are now due and are as follows:

Member: £6.00, Joint Membership: (partner or spouse) £8.00

Members over 60 yrs: £4.00 Joint membership: £5. (only one of the joint members needs to be over 60 for this concession)

For any enquiries regards the Society please contact

Jean Archer t: 01727 823163 or
Laurel Blyth t: 01727769530

Grants for Older People

Kate Newton, St Albans CVS

Grants and help for older people in need, hardship and distress.

St Albans Old People's Trust is a local registered charity whose aims are to relieve need, hardship and distress amongst older people.

The Trust was set up over 30 years ago and has helped many older local residents to remain independent and stay in their own home.

To be eligible you need to be over 60, in financial need, hardship or distress, living in St Albans District.

Grants usually range from £50 - £1000. If you apply for support at home or help with shopping, this is usually available for 2 hours a week .

You can apply to the Trust on your own behalf, on behalf of your partner or a friend. However the majority of referrals to the Trust come from Social Workers, the Citizens Advice Bureau, Doctors or Occupational Therapists.

Grants are available for a wide range of items and services. A few examples of what may be funded:

Grants of Money: special payments to relieve sickness travelling expenses, small home adaptations/repairs, utility bills.

The provision of items: wheelchair adaptations, rise and recline chairs, mobility and household aids, a replacement cooker, washing machine or fridge, warm clothing, supportive shoes.

The provision of services: shopping, help in the home, cleaning, gardening, foot care, sitting-in (for carers). We use a regular and reliable company to provide cleaning and shopping services.

How Do I Apply?

In the first instance please call us on 07541 659442 for an initial confidential discussion. We will ask some information about your financial circumstances and pensions and can often give you an indication of the likelihood of success of your application.


We will then send you a simple application form by post or email.

If we are unavailable please leave a message with your name and phone number and we will aim to call you back within 3 working days.

The Trust is also open to receiving applications for grants from small, local, constituted community groups or charities which support older local people in need, distress or hardship.

Please call 07541 659442 for more information.

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Village Green to Shenley Park

From the Village Green to Shenley Park

Set aside half a day, especially if you plan to stop at the Tea Room in Shenley Park.

Start at the Green Dragon Public House (1) and walk across the concrete footbridge over the river and straight on to a plank bridge and a gate. Go through the kissing gate beside it and continue keeping the overgrown hedge on your left.

This path (London Colney 005) continues behind Sainsbury's Superstore to the embankment of the M25.

Climb the embankment, there are steps, and cross the motorway on the footbridge. Downhill from the motorway you will come to Bell Lane. Cross at the pegasus crossing (for horse riders) and enter the drive to the Arsenal practice ground. At the end of the drive, carry on between high hedges to a crossroads in the path (2). Turn right here along a broad, hedged track which curves to the left until it meets another path at a gate on the left (3). Follow the main track (Bridleway 013) as it turns right and continues straight to the rear of Clore Shalom School (4).



Make your way around the school and through the houses to the bottom of Black Lion Hill (5). Here the bridleway continues on the other side of the road on a broad track between open fields. Turn left at the corner of a small wood (6) and walk along the edge to the waymark at the next corner (7).

This directs you up across a sloping and very wet, muddy field to Cow Banks Wood (8).



Once through the wood, also very wet underfoot, you emerge onto a footpath leading behind Porters Park (9). There are lovely open views from this path across farmland to the North and West. The path opens onto Porters Park Drive. Enter the green area to the right of the road signposted to Shenley Park (10).

Once inside the park, follow signs for the Tea Rooms (11).



Turn left at the tea rooms and enter the Orchard and Meadow. Here a path runs parallel with Radlett Lane at the edge of the park with the orchard and then the wild flower meadow on the left. Leave the park through an exit onto the road (12) and walk uphill along the pavement until you see the shops opposite. Cross to the shops and turn left in front of them until you reach a grassed area (13). A well marked path leads across the grass and into the houses. Here it loses its way a bit but you can pick it up if you carry on downhill on King Charles Road past the entrance to Cox Close where it reappears on the right, crosses another cul-de-sac and

eventually emerges onto Porters Park Drive next to a bus stop. Turn right, cross Black Lion Hill at the junction (14) and carry on left and downhill on a footpath that runs parallel with the road until you reach a waymark post for Footpath 29. Follow this as it cuts diagonally across the field to some scrubby woodland on the far side (15).

Walk through this and you will see a larger wood called Dell Grove on the other side of the field, make for the right hand corner of the wood (16).



Cross the track and over a stile to continue walking on Footpath 30 over fields past the corner of a stand of trees and a ruined house on the left (17).

Here you should aim for a stile in the hedge ahead to the left of the track. Cross the stile, turn left and walk along the edge of the field to another stile in the hedge (18).

Turn left here, over the stile and walk across the field to the wood where a waymark shows footpath 21. Through the wood and the next waymark points directly downhill across the field. Unless it has been very well trodden, you may prefer the path of least resistance around the left hand edge of the field as far as the cluster of buildings in the hollow where MicroLite aircraft are kept. Cross the grassy runway with care and continue downhill to the crossroads in the paths (19) at the edge of the football pitches. Once across the football pitches you are at point 2 of your outward journey and need only retrace your steps to the Village Green at the river.

Village Green to Shenley Park - From the Village Green to Shenley Park. Allow half a day. This map is allowed to be reproduced under the Public Sector Mapping Agreement. Licence no. 100051310

Porters Park

Maria Aguado

The house and land of Porters Park estate were sold to Middlesex County Council in 1924 for the purpose of building a Mental Hospital. Several years later, two psychiatric hospitals were built on the land incorporating as many of the existing buildings as possible, including the mansion, the walled garden, stables and coach houses.

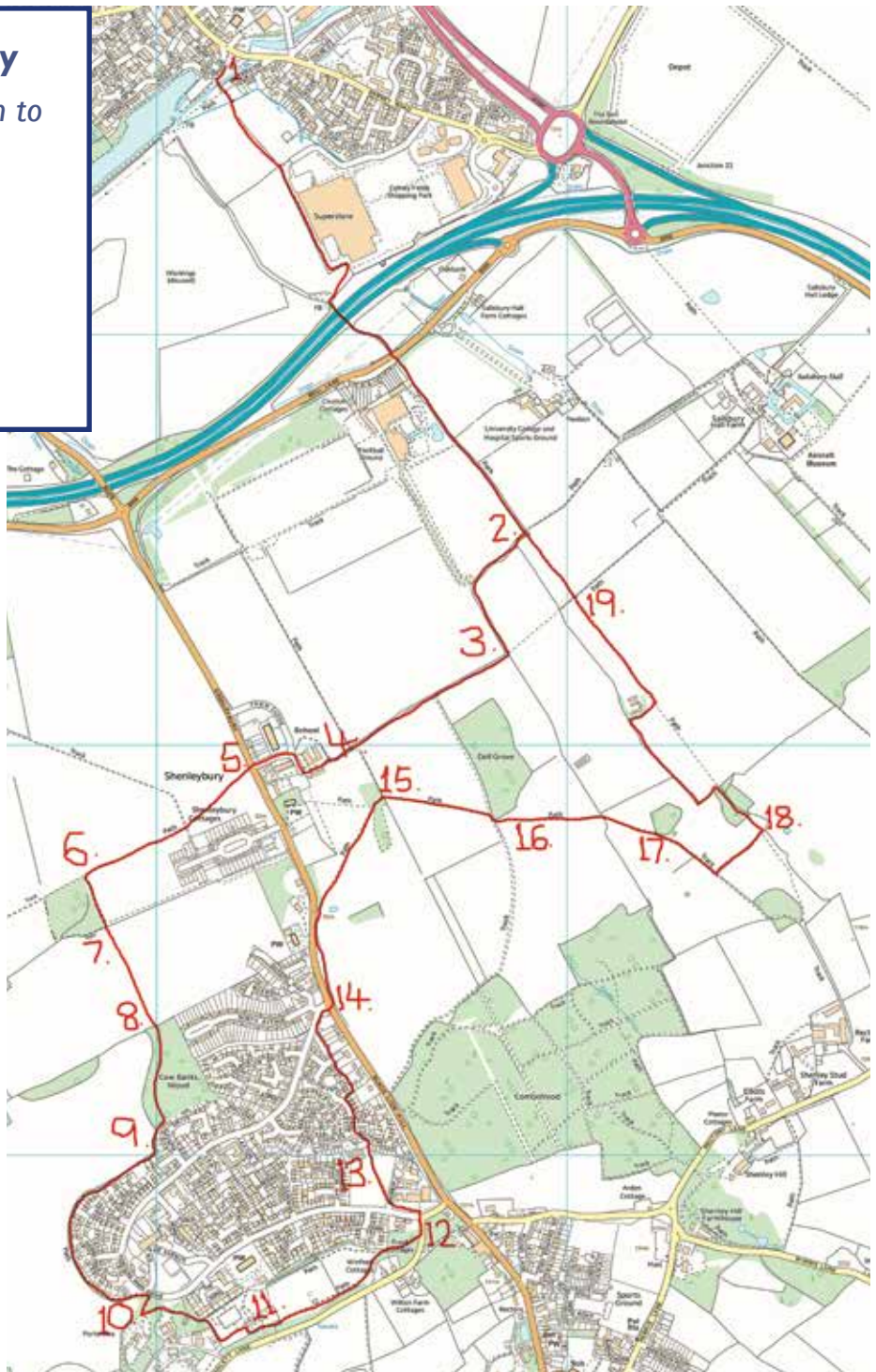
Shenley Hospital was built at a time of a fundamental change in attitude to the treatment of the mentally ill. Despite this, the male and female sides were kept separate with high iron railings surrounding the wards and a "policing system" in place.

However in the 1950's nursing attitudes changed again with the nurses themselves encouraged to hold conversations with the patients together with teaching them simple tasks. The railings were removed and the doors unlocked.

Shenley was one of the first hospitals in the country to hold mixed dances for staff and patients and coach trips to places of interest were also introduced.

On the site of the former staff social club there is now the Orchard Tea Room which was built in 2000.

In 1953 at its prime Shenley Hospital housed 2,300 patients, however after this period there was a shift away from Institutionalised care and the number of patients began to fall.



The policy of "care in the community" was further developed in the 1980's with the belief that patients would benefit from being cared for in smaller hostels or sheltered accommodation closer to their own communities. By the end of 1998 the last of the patients were moved out and the Hospital finally closed after 60 years of service.

It was then sold off to property developers for housing. As a gift to the people of the village of Shenley and its neighbouring parishes land was set

aside for a Park to be created.

If you have time, visit the cricket ground at the South West corner of the site. It was designed by WG Grace to the dimensions of The Oval and has a beautiful tea room, The Walled garden is also lovely. Both are let for weddings and functions but you can be lucky and find them open to visitors.

Between points 11 and 12 on the map you will pass the orchard and the flower meadow - full of flower in spring and early summer.

Gardening

Anne Kitchener



It has been a very frustrating year in the garden so far; it is still too cold to get out there and there is a lot that needs doing. Spring has been delayed by the cold and gardening is limited to indoor based activities. Pots are washed, seeds are sorted and plans have been made, and revised, but there is only so much gardening that can be done without actually getting out there. There have been very few days where it has been possible to start on these plans, or to just generally tidy up the borders, and I have been trying my best to make the most of these.

We are off to sunnier climes for 2 weeks at the end of April, and I was hoping to have the garden sorted out before our departure, those hopes are fading. One quandary with an April holiday even when the weather has been kinder is what to do before going and what to leave until returning. This seems even more complicated than usual this year. Should I sow some seeds before going, and hope they don't outgrow their pots before our return, or should I wait until we are back and then risk that they will be rather too late in growing? I think I

will do some before and some after. I will definitely sow tomato seeds, but in slightly bigger pots than usual, so hopefully they will have germinated before we go but will not be ready to pot on until after our return. I think I will wait until we are back before sowing runner beans and french beans as these can quickly become an unmanageable tangled mess once germinated and need to be kept under control until the end of May when they can be planted out in the garden.



Perhaps I will get potting compost into root trainers etc before going which is half the job done, and then all I have to do is sow the seeds when we get back, at least this is an indoor activity and doesn't depend on the weather.

However, there have been a few little triumphs in the garden. There has been a particularly good, and prolonged, show of snowdrops and primroses. Those daffodils that have so far made it into bloom, seem to have been flowering for much longer than usual. A clump of early daffodils, the petite 'tete-a-tete', which I planted in the autumn in a newly cleared space in the front garden, look particularly good and as they are in a sheltered spot avoided being flattened by the late March fall of snow. They have been there to cheer up any visitor who came by the side pathway. Due to the frosty weather I am leaving it until later than usual to prune the colourful stems of dogwoods in the front garden, and so I will be able to enjoy their splash of colour for longer. In the back garden winter jasmine seems to have been in flower for longer than usual, and as with the dogwoods, I am leaving the yellow stems of willow until a little bit later than usual before I cut them back, so their enjoyment, too, is prolonged.

But surely it must warm up soon, mustn't it? It can't stay wintery for ever can it? Perhaps I will manage to get the garden into some sort of order before we go away, maybe even see a hint of spring. Perhaps I will return to see tomato plants growing, tulips, forget-me-nots and honesty in flower with bluebells and irises on the way, and perhaps sometime, very soon, spring will finally decide to arrive.

Has it warmed up? As of mid May - a little bit but I'm not planting anything tender just yet!

Ed.

View From The Colne

Brett Ellis



Brett Ellis: View from the Colne
It is currently T-5 days as I approach my 40th birthday (hard to fathom looking at my youthful picture I know). At present I feel apprehensive, crisis ridden and slightly saddened as I move firmly, kicking and grumbling, into mid-middle age. Inevitably I have begun complaining some, aching more and feeling lethargic over the last few years and, although far from the knackers yard, I feel as if I have moved from my prime into a no mans land between youthfulness and old age.

The changes are subtle but evident. In the last year I have begun wearing a scarf, have bought a pair of Clarks shoes and, to my shame, attempted to be a bike riding MAMIL (Middle aged man in lycra). Although the MAMIL stage did not last long after my wife nearly wet herself laughing at my lycra lunacy, the warning signs are there and becoming more frequent month on month. My current mid life mini-quandary however is thus: How many will attend my 40th birthday party? Having a young family I find you see friends less and less, people ship off to far flung outposts and have families of their own, and social media is the friendship glue of choice for many. I will either end up as 'Bretty no mates' or 'Ever popular Ellis'. Time will tell.

My take on a number of issues have altered over the years. As a child, living

in Hastings, I was exposed regularly to the countryside and villages. Although great for a kid, with an abundance of outside space in which to kick a ball and mess about with local kids, I retain the vision of village dwellers as being generally old, smelling of lentils and driving Volvo Estate cars thickly matted with Alsatian Hair and eau de dog pee.

The well bred urchins who frequented these villages were to me, clad with my 'street' Reebok pump trainers, strange creatures. Not obsessed with fashion, they would all be well spoken, yet have an air of grubbiness from eating mud and being outdoors all day that was rarely encountered by us townies.

I had this vision of moving to a village and encountering kids from my youth playing pooh sticks, riding their not quite street cred bikes and smelling of stale bonfire smoke. To say I misjudged this when I moved to Colney is an understatement.

What slowly dawns is a realisation that there is a huge age range. Instead of the elderly and 'odd' kids with aged and serious parents, I have seen an enormous cross section of people since I arrived. The sense of ease with which all age groups seem to trundle along is evident as is the availability of things to do. For kids there are a number of fields, parks and a (smelly) soft play. For adults, walks and pubs, a bookies and a carbuncle of a shopping complex in which to wander around in a droid like fashion.

No doubt the objection will be the well trodden line that 'there is nothing for the kids to do'. I agreed with that until about a week ago when I read the following letter (which has now gone viral) penned by Judge Phillip B Gilliam of Denver, Colorado, in a letter published on December 17, 1959.

In response to a moan by teenagers that they have 'nothing to do':

His answer was:

'Go home, mow the lawn, wash the windows, learn to cook, build a raft, get a job, visit the sick, study your lessons, and after you've finished, read a book.

Your town does not owe you recreational facilities and your parents do not owe you fun.

The world does not owe you a living, you owe the world something.

You owe it your time, energy and talent so that no one will be at war, in poverty or sick and lonely again.

In other words, grow up, stop being a cry baby, get out of your dream world and develop a backbone, not a wishbone.

Start behaving like a responsible person.

You are important and you are needed.

It's too late to sit around and wait for somebody to do something someday.

Someday is now and that somebody is you.'

As stated, I have changed my views. A few years ago I would have opposed the viewpoint of the Judge. Now however, as a more refined (late) 30 something, I find myself saying 'right on brother!', as I crank the fire up a notch, reach for my slippers and settle down to watch Question Time.....

brettellis99@yahoo.co.uk



Private Children's Day Nursery

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We are a small "home-from-home" 40 place nursery in a 200 year old cottage situated in the conservation area of London Colney.

Limited spaces now available for 15 free hours per week of Pre-school care to children aged 3 years and over.

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Neighbourhood Watch Reborn

Derek Sweeney



Neighbourhood Watch is one of the biggest and most successful crime prevention initiatives ever.

Behind it lies a simple idea, and a central value shared by millions of people around the country.

Getting together with your neighbours to take action can cut local crime.

Everyone knows that the police are there to fight crime, but they need your help to do an effective job.

Neighbourhood Watch is all about an active partnership with the police.

Neighbourhood Watch schemes can:

- Cut Crime and the opportunities for crime.
- Help and reassure those who live in fear of Crime.

• Encourage neighbourliness and closer communities

Neighbourhood Watch is not just about reducing Burglary figures, it's about creating communities who CARE, it brings local people together and can make a real contribution to improving their lives.

The activity of Watch Members can foster a new "Community Spirit" and a belief in the community's ability to tackle problems in partnership with the Police, Local Council, and Businesses.

Other benefits include, becoming familiar with Crime Prevention ideas, which will help keep your home and belongings safe, and the extra security which belonging to a Neighbourhood Watch scheme offers, it might even mean that you can get a Premium discount from your insurance company.

For information on how to set up a Neighbourhood Watch in your road, contact the telephone number below or send an Email.

t: 01707 355841

Contact: Derrick Sweeney (Watch Liaison Officer)

e: derrick.sweeney@herts.pnn.police.uk

Derek Sweeney addressed the Parish Council at the April Meeting. He explained that, while Neighbourhood Watch groups had once been very active in this area, the groups had dwindled. If you rely on NHW membership to get cheaper house insurance you can be asked for evidence when you claim to show that the NHW group is active in your road and that you have been receiving regular updates from your group organiser. If you can't show membership of an active group your insurance cover could be jeopardised.

Go to: <http://www.owl.co.uk/herts/> to find out whether there is an active group in your area and get in contact with the group organiser. Once you are known to your local group (if there is one) you will be given a password allowing you to look at crime and security warnings for your area. Ed.

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Two In A Million

Editor

Twin palomino arab foals born near here on the 2nd May are still beating the considerable odds against survival. Twin pregnancies in horses are very rare indeed and ones where both foals are born alive even more unusual. Even then, only one in ten lives past 14 days. Foals like these two, whose birth was uncomplicated, have the best chance of survival. Twin foals have a low birth weight which, coupled with muscle weakness, wobbly joints and a whole list of other ailments, makes it difficult for them to suckle and can lead to their mother rejecting them.



The first born of these twins, the filly, is in good condition, feeding well and tearing around kicking and bucking. She's just been bought a proper 'foal's blanket' - there is some growing room but she's clearly not drowning in it.



She's out during the day with her mother who is also recovering from the stress of producing twins.

The colt, born second, much weaker and smaller, could not stand to feed and after a few days 'on the bottle' has been firmly rejected by his mother.



This leaves the owners coping with a punishing feeding schedule. The colt now weighs about 30Kg and needs hourly feeds of special horse formula right round the clock. He still wears a medium sized dog's jacket and sleeps under a crocheted blanket with a pillow to stop him sucking straw in his sleep. Aaah! He also loves company and is seen here tucked up with Oliver.



The foal is allowed out after every feed for a supervised walk. He needs exercise to strengthen his muscles but not too much in case it damages his wobbly joints.



What does everyone want to know about a baby? Yes - who does he look like - mum or dad?



Here's mum, having a bit of well earned R & R. Well they don't have her colouring at any rate - she's a chestnut.



This is dad. His coat colour is 'cremello' and they do get their colouring from him. He's indulging in his favourite habit, having his tongue squeezed. Let's hope that's not an inherited trait!

Horse glossary...

colt = male foal

filly = female foal

palomino = a horse coat colour caused by having one 'cream' gene. Palominos have brown eyes, a white or very light cream mane and tail and a body colour from pale cream to gold.

cremello = a horse coat colour caused by having two 'cream' genes. Cremellos have a pale cream coat, pink skin and blue eyes. Cremellos, having two copies of the cream gene, reliably produce palomino foals when crossed with a chestnut horse.

chestnut = a reddish brown horse coat colour with no black.

St Peter's Church News

Jane Tompsett, Church Administrator



One thing that's very important to us at St Peter's is that we welcome everyone who comes through our doors – for worship as well as to the many events and meetings that fill our diary as well. It is equally important to us that what happens at St Peter's involves the whole village and it is not unusual for a number of events throughout the year to be run in conjunction with the other churches in London Colney.

This is the hallmark of what we hope to achieve in 2013 and beyond.

Of course, everyone is assured of a relaxed and warm welcome to our regular, 10am Sunday service and we are definitely family friendly. There is a crèche for the under 5s and a quiet area at the back of the church where parents can sit and play with their very young children whilst still being part of the service. Sunday Storykeepers is offered as a fun and engaging way for 5 – 10 year olds to learn and worship during the 1st part of the main service.

We also run regular Messy Church events, where the whole family can come and spend a Saturday or Sunday afternoon trying their hand at crafts, games, puzzles and many other activities. It's a lot of fun and the event ends with a short time of very informal worship and a hot meal being served to everyone. There's no charge for Messy Church afternoons – it's St Peter's gift to all who come along.

If that sounds a little too energetic for you, then we can offer our Crosskeys Fellowship group, who meet on the second Thursday of each month. This

group has a full schedule of guest speakers and activities and has become one of our most popular gatherings. It may have something to do with the tea and biscuits that are always on hand but whatever its appeal, if you have time to spare, it is certainly worth spending a few hours enjoying good company, stimulating conversation and interesting presentations.

And then there is our Village Summer Fayre. This year, it will take place on Saturday the 8th June, starting at 11am and running right through until the last burger has been eaten and the last tombola prize won.

Each year we strive to make it bigger and better and this year is no different. You can't miss it as it takes place on the green in front of the Vicarage in Riverside and the annual Village Duck Race is planned to start at 1pm. This is almost an event in itself, as 400 bright yellow, plastic ducks are launched along a dedicated race lane in the river.



You can sponsor as many ducks as you like and the first one to reach the bridge wins a great prize - champagne for the adults and the biggest fluffiest duck you've ever seen for the younger sponsors!

For the chance to win more prizes,

watch out for our fayre leaflets coming through your door in early June as we are holding a 'leaflets only' prize draw for those who bring theirs along on the day. There will be a special post box by the tombola stall and adults have the chance of winning a luxury hamper, whilst the younger entrants can win a great 'experience' voucher. There's no cost – just come along and drop off your leaflet for a chance to win!

As usual there will be live music all day, bigger and better stalls, an all-day-BBQ serving bacon butties from 11am onwards as well as the more traditional BBQ fayre of burgers and hot dogs from lunchtime, games galore and lots of new ways to test your skill in a really traditional Village Fayre setting.

New for 2013 will be the Crosskeys Café where you can sit in the sun and enjoy our waitress service, bringing you your choice of teas, coffee, soft drinks and cakes as you listen to the great music from St Peter's own 'Summer Punch' trio.

If the weather is wet - as it was last year – everything will be held inside. One of the great advantages of having refurbished our church recently, is that we now have a really flexible space to use whenever the need arises.

If you wish to find more details on what's going on at St Peter's over the summer, you can call Jane Tompsett on 01727 821148. If it's children's activities you are interested in, Rosie Rawlinson can answer your questions on 01707 655305 and Pat Hedley is the lady to contact if you want to know more about the Crosskeys Fellowship. You can contact Pat on 01727 822374. Please don't be shy about calling – we'd love to hear from you.

You can also visit our website at www.StPetersLondonColney.co.uk where you can send a message via the Contact Us page. Alternatively, you can use the following email address and we'll respond to any enquiries as quickly as we can.

e:contact@stpeterslondoncolney.co.uk

WI

Anne Kebley

This lively group meets on the second Tuesday of each month in the Baptist Church Hall, Kings Road.

New members are welcome to join, please phone the Secretary, Anne Kebley on 01727 823428 if you would like to know more.

Speakers are invited to each meeting and there are interesting activities and competitions to enter each month.

11 June 2013

Victorian Shopping Ian Waller

Comp: Something Victorian

9 July 2013

National Parks of England and Wales

Philip Nalpanis

Comp: Posy of Flowers for a Doll

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